

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
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CX 4/35.2 CL 2015/32-CF

TO: Codex Contact Points
Interested International Organizations

FROM: Secretariat, Codex Alimentarius Commission
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, Italy
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SUBJECT: Request for comments at Step 6 on the draft maximum level for
inorganic arsenic in husked rice (REP15/CF, Appendix V)

DEADLINE: 15 March 2016

COMMENTS: **To:** Mrs Tanja Akesson
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With a copy to: Secretariat,
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BACKGROUND

1. The 9th Session of the Committee (March 2015) agreed to forward the proposed draft ML of 0.35 mg/kg of inorganic arsenic in husked rice with a note for total arsenic as screening method to the 38th Session of the Commission for adoption at Step 5.
2. Following this decision, the Committee had also agreed to re-establish the Electronic Working Group to further consider new/additional data provided by countries especially main rice-producing countries and countries where husked rice was a major staple food in view of the opinions expressed in relation to the need for more geographically representative data. The Committee should then consider the outcome of the analysis performed by the EWG based on the current and new/additional data to confirm or change the ML of 0.35 mg/kg at its next session.
3. In view of the proposal for an ML of 0.35 mg/kg, the Committee discussed whether the Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling should be asked to consider whether available methods of analysis for inorganic arsenic in rice were of sufficient precision to support the implementation of an ML with two significant figures. The Committee agreed that this question should be considered by the EWG.¹
4. The 38th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (July 2015) adopted the proposed draft ML at Step 5 as proposed by the Committee and advanced the draft ML to Step 6 for comments.²
5. The draft ML of 0.35 mg/kg as considered by the Committee and adopted by the Commission is submitted for comments at Step 6. Comments submitted at Step 6 in reply to this Circular Letter will be compiled in working document CX/CF 16/10/6.
6. The outcome of the analysis performed by the EWG based on the current and new/additional data to confirm or change the ML of 0.35 mg/kg is presented for consideration by the Committee in working document CX/CF 16/10/5.

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

7. Codex Members and Observers wishing to submit comments on the draft ML of 0.35 mg/kg for inorganic arsenic in husked rice should do so in reply to this CL while taking into account the outcome of the analysis presented in CX/CF 16/10/5 and the discussion held and conclusions made at the 9th Session of the Committee.

¹ REP15/CF, paras 56 – 69 and Appendix V

² REP15/CAC, paras 71 – 73 Appendix IV