

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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TO Codex Contact Points
Contact Points of international organizations having observer status with Codex

FROM Secretariat,
Codex Alimentarius Commission,
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme

SUBJECT **Request for comments and information to facilitate the submission of data on national registration of pesticides to further develop the Codex database on registration of pesticides**

DEADLINE **31 October 2018**

BACKGROUND

1. The Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR) is the subsidiary body of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) having competence on the establishment of maximum residue limits (MRLs) for pesticides in food and feed moving in international trade. The terms of reference also includes the preparation of schedules and priority lists of pesticides for evaluation by the Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPR).¹
2. The *Risk analysis principles applied by the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues* provide the framework for the establishment of Codex MRLs for pesticides. The Principles address the roles of CCPR as risk management body and JMPR as risk assessment body and describe the process by which, each year, CCPR in cooperation with the JMPR Secretariat, agrees on a schedule of JMPR evaluations for the following year and considers prioritization of pesticides for future scheduling. This process is known as the *CCPR schedules and priority lists of pesticides for evaluation by JMPR* and constitutes the first step in the establishment of Codex MRLs (CXLs) for pesticides by CCPR.²
3. The Codex schedules and priority lists are composed of new compounds evaluations, new uses and other evaluations, and periodic reviews for compounds that have not been reviewed toxicologically for more than 15 years and/or not having a significant review of the CXL for 15 years (the so-called “old” compounds).
4. Table 2 in the schedules and priority lists relate to the periodic review process. Table 2A lists compounds for periodic review by JMPR. Table 2B lists compounds that have been last evaluated 15 years ago or more but not yet scheduled for period review. Pesticides listed in Table 2B should be considered for scheduling for periodic review when concerns, including public health concerns, are identified and nominated for inclusion in Table 2A. Compounds listed in Tables 2A and 2B are the so-called “old compounds” or “compounds subject to periodic review”.
5. The nomination requirements for scheduling of compounds in the schedules and priority lists require, amongst other relevant data, the status of national registrations for the pesticide. The schedules and priority lists seek to provide a balance of new compounds, new uses, other evaluations and periodic reviews.
6. The “old” compounds subject to periodic review add a considerable workload to the schedules and priority lists for evaluation by JMPR vis-à-vis the growing demand for evaluation of new compounds, new uses, other evaluations and the need to keep the balance between these evaluations (i.e. evaluations of “new” versus “old” compounds).

¹ [Codex Procedural Manual](#), 26th Edition, Section V: Subsidiary Bodies, Terms of Reference of CCPR

² [Codex Procedural Manual](#), 26th Edition, Section IV: Risk Analysis, Risk Analysis applied by CCPR

7. CCPR has long debated how to balance the evaluation of “new” and “old” compounds vis-à-vis public health concerns related to “old” compounds and the growing request for evaluation of “new” compounds and their related additional uses and other evaluations. For the unsupported pesticides subject to periodic review, CCPR has emphasized the need for all Codex members to review the compounds in Tables 2A and 2B for which support was either unknown or not provided by the manufacturer. In addition, a new table on “current national registrations for compounds listed in Tables 2A and 2B” currently lists the “orphan” compounds for which support has been withdrawn or was not known with a view to seeking Codex member input on whether or not a national registration is in place.
8. CCPR has made lots of progress in the past years to improve the administration and management of the schedules and priority lists to prevent situations where the evaluation workload exceeds available JMPR resources while keeping the balance between new compounds, new uses, other evaluations, and periodic reviews.
9. As part of these efforts, CCPR agreed to seek documented evidence of national registrations and approved uses for compounds subject to periodic review. In view of the magnitude of this task, CCPR supported the development of a database of national registrations for compounds listed in Tables 2A and 2B to aggregate the information on national registration provided by Codex members. Such information will be expanded and updated as necessary to inform the prioritization process of CCPR for nomination of compounds for the establishment of the schedules and priority lists and will provide a useful reference to Codex members interested in supporting compounds subject to periodic reviews.
10. The identification of compounds for which Codex members reported no registered use pattern will greatly assist CCPR in decreasing the list of compounds awaiting scheduling for evaluation by JMPR (in particular periodic reviews) and will therefore allow better management of the schedules and priority lists while keeping the balance between the different evaluations.
11. In order to facilitate the aggregation of information into a single database of those compounds subject to periodic review being hosted by the Codex Secretariat, it is essential that Codex members submit information in a standard format by using a standard excel spreadsheet / worksheet³. In this regard, the last CCPR (2018) noted comments that the information in the excel worksheet should be simplified in order not to create unnecessary burden on Codex members. In addition, the excel spreadsheet should fit the purposes of the database i.e. to provide Codex members with a data source to facilitate support of commodities no longer supported in a periodic review and to determine the global registration status of unsupported compounds.
12. The database should be updated as additional compounds are listed for periodic review and/or there are changes to national registration. The frequency of updates; the appropriate number of compounds to be added to the database; the criteria for selecting / prioritizing compounds for inclusion in the database; and the further broadening of the database to include all compounds listed on the CCPR pesticide list should be determined. These points should take into account that this exercise could be resource-intensive for Codex members, the country leading the work as well as the Codex Secretariat as host of the database and could face the challenge that changes in the registration status may occur during the interval year(s).⁴

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

13. Codex members and observers are kindly invited to provide comments on the following:
 - (i) proposals to simplify and improve the excel worksheet including other data / information relevant to the further development of the database (e.g. mixtures of active compounds);
 - (ii) the range of active substances that should be added to the database and the time interval to submit updated information.
14. In addition, Codex members and observers are kindly invited to provide comments as follows:
 - (i) the need to indicate registration of compounds for non-food uses considering the purpose of the database and the mandate of CCPR (see paragraphs 1 and 11)

³ The excel spreadsheet used to submit information for consideration by CCPR50 can be downloaded from: http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/codexalimentarius/committee/docs/CCPR50/20171211_National_Registration_and_Uses_v2.xlsx

⁴ [REP15/PR](#), paras. 158-176, [REP16/PR](#), paras. 164-180, [REP17/PR](#), paras. 174-177, [REP18/PR](#), paras. 154-157

- (ii) to limit the exercise⁵ to compounds subject to periodic review as opposed to all compounds on the Codex pesticide list as this exercise could be resource-intensive and changes in the registration status may occur during the interval year(s);
 - (iii) to broaden the exercise⁵ to all compounds listed on the Codex pesticide list but using a stepwise approach by which the initial / priority focus will be on compounds subject to periodic review listed in Tables 2A and 2B and will incrementally incorporate other compounds from the Codex pesticide list;
 - (iv) the need for criteria for selecting / prioritizing active substances for inclusion in the database
 - (v) to provide additional comments as may be relevant.
15. Comments submitted should take into account the ongoing work on the establishment of CCPR schedules and priority lists of pesticides for evaluation by JMPR and the discussion on unsupported compounds.⁶ In addition, comments submitted should take into account resource availability for Codex members, the Chair(s) of the electronic working group (EWG) and the Codex Secretariat to carry out the exercise⁵ effectively and sustainably (see paragraph 14 points (ii)-(iii)).
16. Comments submitted will be considered by the EWG on national registration of pesticides established by CCPR50, chaired by Germany and co-chaired by Australia. As the EWG will be working in English only, it would be preferable that comments in reply to this CL be submitted in English to facilitate their analysis by the EWG. This will in turn allow the EWG to make concrete proposals for consideration by CCPR51 (2019) that will facilitate progress on this project at subsequent sessions of CCPR.
17. Codex members and observers are invited to submit comments on the points raised in paragraphs 13 and 14, which is uploaded to the Online Commenting System: <https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org/>, as per the guidance below.

GUIDANCE ON THE PROVISION OF COMMENTS

18. Comments should be submitted through the Codex Contact Points of Codex members and observers using the OCS.
19. Contact Points of Codex members and observers may login to the OCS and access the document open for comments by selecting “Enter” in the “My reviews” page, available after login to the system.
20. Contact Points of Codex members and observers organizations are requested to provide general comments of substantive nature. Additional guidance on the OCS comment categories and types can be found in the OCS [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#).
21. Other OCS resources, including the user manual and short guide, can be found at the following link: <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/ocs/en/>.
22. For questions on the OCS, please contact Codex-OCS@fao.org.

⁵ The “exercise” comprises the (i) request for information on national registration of pesticides and (ii) the development and update of the database on national registration of pesticides

⁶ [REP18/PR](#), para. 153