



**JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME
CODEX COMMITTEE ON CONTAMINANTS IN FOODS**

**14th Session
Utrecht, The Netherlands, 20 – 24 April 2020**

**MATTERS REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE BY THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION
AND/OR ITS SUBSIDIARY BODIES**

A. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

Standards and related texts adopted at Steps 8, 5/8 (with omission of Steps 6/7) and 5 of the Procedure including consequential amendments¹

1. CAC42 (2019) adopted the following maximum levels (MLs) and related texts:
 - MLs for lead in selected commodities; for wines (from grapes harvested after the adoption of the ML by CAC); fortified / liqueur wines (from grapes harvested after the adoption of the ML by CAC); edible offal (cattle, pig and poultry) in the *General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed* (GSCTFF) (CXS 193-1995) – adopted at Step 5/8
 - Code of practice for the reduction of 3- MCPDEs and GEs in refined oils and food products made with refined oils – adopted at Step 8;
 - Guidelines for rapid risk analysis following instances of detection of contaminants in food where there is no regulatory level – adopted at Step 8; and
 - ML for cadmium for chocolates containing or declaring <30% total cocoa solids on a dry matter basis – adopted at Step 5²
- Revocation of standards and related texts³**
2. CAC42 revoked MLs for lead in selected commodities in the GSCTFF following the adoption of revised MLs.
- New Work⁴**
3. CAC42 approved new work:
 - Establishment of MLs for lead in certain food categories;
 - Revision of the *Code of practice for the prevention and reduction of lead contamination in foods* (CXC 56-2004);
 - Development of a Code of practice for the prevention and reduction of cadmium contamination in cocoa beans; and
 - Establishment of MLs for aflatoxins in certain cereals and cereal-based products including foods for infants and young children.
4. CCCF14 is invited to note the information in paragraphs 1-3.

¹ REP19/CAC, paras. 51,65, 68 and 72 and Appendices III and IV

² See REP19/CAC, paras 52 – 67 for full discussion and decision

³ REP19/CAC, para. 95 and Appendix IV

⁴ REP19/CAC, para. 96 and Appendix V

B. MATTERS ARISING FROM SUBSIDIARY BODIES AS RELATED TO THE WORK OF CCCF

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

51st Session of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene Guidelines for the Safe Use and Reuse of Water in Food Production⁵

5. CCFH51 (2019) agreed to start work to develop Guidelines for the Safe Use and Reuse of Water in Food Production and agreed that the Guideline would only cover biological hazards, but acknowledged the importance of chemicals in the context of safe use and reuse of water in food production. In light of this, CCFH agreed to inform CCCF of this new work.

15th Session of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for North America and South West Pacific Ciguatera food poisoning⁶

6. It was recognized that ciguatera food poisoning was one of the most important foodborne diseases in Small Island Developing States (SIDS). CCNASWP15 (2019) agreed to inform CCCF of the importance of addressing this important public health problem following the release of the report of the *Ad-hoc* FAO/WHO Expert Meeting on Ciguatera Food Poisoning and agreed to request CCCF to prioritize work on ciguatera.

78th Session of the Executive Committee Implementation of CAC42: Feedback on Changes and Proposals for Further Improvements⁷

7. CCEXEC78 (2020) requested that its discussions on changes and proposals for further improvements on the implementation of CAC be brought to the attention of all subsidiary bodies.⁸ In addition, CCEXEC78 requested that Chairpersons of subsidiary bodies and CAC together with the Secretariat:
 - a. develop strategies to prevent or mitigate technical discussions at CAC on topics for which there was no consensus and communicate these strategies to Members. Such strategies may include short adjournments of the session for informal discussions or suspension of discussions on items that overrun the planned time limit; and
 - b. ensure that, at meetings of CAC, written comments received were given due consideration and the technical basis of reservations were included in meeting reports.

Regular Review of Codex Work Management 2018-2019: Critical Review Process⁹

8. CCEXEC78 recognized that CCEXEC could provide guidance and advice to subsidiary bodies and that subsidiary bodies could also seek advice from CCEXEC and that such exchange could take place outside of the Critical Review process.

Follow-Up to Regular Review of Codex Work Management 2017-2018: Periodic Review of Codex Standards¹⁰

9. CCEXEC78 concluded that the current approaches to standards review were working for active subsidiary bodies, and encouraged these bodies to continuously enhance their work management processes to consider the need for reviewing existing Codex standards;

Follow-up to Regular Review of Codex Work Management 2017-2018: Use of References in Codex Texts¹¹

10. CCEXEC78 emphasized that while there may on occasion be merit in including references to standards of another standard setting organization, these should be kept to a minimum since they become an integral part of a Codex text and require life-long monitoring.

⁵ REP20/FH, para. 115

⁶ REP20/NASWP, paras. 50(v) -51

⁷ REP20/EXEC1, paras. 25-30

⁸ REP20/EXEC1, paras. 25-30

⁹ REP20/EXEC1, paras. 42, 46

¹⁰ REP 20/EXEC1, paras. 54-56

¹¹ REP20/EXEC1, para. 64

Including Delegate Contact Information in Codex Reports¹²

11. The Codex Secretariat confirmed that the change removing such data had been introduced initially at CAC42 in Geneva in line with current WHO practice. The Secretariat agreed to seek a solution to make personal information available. Possible options to be explored included an opt-in preference for sharing contact details to be expressed by individual delegates during meeting registration or a solution where such data would be available behind a login.
12. CCCF is **invited to note** the information in paragraphs 5-11.

MATTERS FOR ACTION

78th Session of the Executive Committee Timeliness of Codex working documents¹³

13. CCEXEC78 requested that the Codex Secretariat bring the information¹⁴ on the timeliness of Codex working documents, reports and the availability of adopted standards to the attention of subsidiary bodies for their review and suggestions.

40th Session of the Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS40) CCMAS as a nodal committee for methods of analysis¹⁵

14. CCMAS40 (2019) recalled its earlier decision that the *Recommended Methods of Analysis and Sampling* (CXS 234-1999) would be the single reference for methods under its remit and that methods from the *General Methods of Analysis for Contaminants* (CXS 228–2001), *General Methods for the Detection of Irradiated Foods* (CXS 231–2001) and the *General Methods of Analysis for Food Additives* (CXS 239–2003) should be transferred to CXS 234. It was further noted that some of the methods for heavy metals were outdated and that it would be appropriate for CCCF to consider the development of method performance criteria for these contaminants for compliance with the MLs in the GSCTFF.
15. CCMAS40 agreed to:
 - Inform all Codex committees of the current work of CCMAS regarding the review and update of CXS 234 and the development of a database for methods of analysis and sampling endorsed by CCMAS and adopted by CAC; and
 - Remind CCCF of the decision that CXS 234¹⁶ is the single reference for methods of analysis and request CCCF to consider the appropriateness of the methods identified in CXS 228 so that the methods could be transferred to CXS 234; or to identify more updated methods or methods performance criteria for endorsement by CCMAS and inclusion in CXS 234 in order to revoke CXS 228.

15th Session of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for North America and South West Pacific Standard for Fermented Noni Fruit Juice¹⁷

16. CCNASWP15 agreed to request CCCF to retain scopoletin on the priority list and to call upon Codex members to generate and submit data to support the conduct of the safety evaluation by the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA).
17. CCCF is **invited to consider** the requests in paragraphs 13, 15 and 16.

¹² REP20/EXEC1, para. 125

¹³ REP20/EXEC1, para. 111

¹⁴ CX/EXEC 20/78/8

¹⁵ REP19/MAS paras. 86-92

¹⁶ CXS 234, CX 228 are available on the Codex website:

<http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/committees/committee/related-standards/en/?committee=CCMAS>

¹⁷ REP20/NASWP, paras. 74, 83