

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, Italy - Tel: (+39) 06 57051 - E-mail: codex@fao.org - www.codexalimentarius.org

Agenda Items 5, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 13

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ORIGINAL LANGUAGE ONLY

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX COMMITTEE ON CONTAMINANTS IN FOODS

16th Session

18-21 April 2023 (physical plenary meeting)

26 April 2023 (virtual report adoption)

Comments submitted by the Russian Federation

Agenda Item 5: Maximum levels for lead in certain food categories (at Steps 4 and 7)

For ready-to-eat meals for infants and young children:

Technical regulation of the Eurasian Economic Union TR TS 021/2011 On Safety of Foods sets maximum level (ML) for lead of 0.02 mg/kg in . foods for infants and young children. Therefore, we support the proposal to establish MLs of 0.02 mg/kg for ready-to-eat meals for infants and young children. A single lower MRL of 0.02 mg/kg would ensure a higher level of product safety for children's food.

Agenda Item 7: Sampling plans for total aflatoxins in certain cereals and cereal-based products including foods for infants and young children (At Step 4)

We consider it important to approve sampling plans for aflatoxins in in certain cereals and cereal-based products, in connection with the approval by the 45CAC of the MRLs of amount of aflatoxins.

Given the opinion of the EWG that for corn intended for further processing, it is preferable to adopt the performance criteria of the method developed for the scenario in which the ratio of AFB1 to the of AFB2+AFG1+AFG2 is 50:50. We consider it possible to agree with this proposal.

However, we do not agree with the opinion of the electronic working group and do not support the proposal that it is possible to harmonize sampling plans for aflatoxins in sorghum, husked rice and polished rice with the proposed sampling plan for aflatoxins in corn grain.

For samples of rice and infants and young children food products, in which AFB1 is predominantly found, the scenario in which the ratio of AFB1 to AFB2+AFG1+AFG2 of 80:20 is more preferable.

Agenda Item 8: Maximum level for total aflatoxins in ready-to-eat peanuts and associated sampling plan (at Step 4):

Russia appreciates the work done by chair and co-chair of the Electronic Working Group on this issue (maximum level for total aflatoxins in ready to-eat peanuts and associated sampling plan). We consider it important to continue the work of the electronic working group and prepare a document for the next of Committee meeting. The Working Group may request data from Members on the distribution of aflatoxins in peanuts by country and geographic region for better analysis, if possible. We will try to take part in its work.

Agenda Item 9: Maximum levels for total aflatoxins and ochratoxin A in nutmeg, dried chilli and paprika, ginger, pepper and turmeric and associated sampling plans (at Step 4):

We consider it possible to support the proposed MRL amounts of AF and Ochratoxin A in chili pepper, nutmeg – 20 mg/kg.

Regarding the sampling plan for AF and OTA in spices, we support the comments received from some Members about the possibility of simplifying the sampling procedure for powdered spices and reducing the mass of the laboratory sample.

Agenda Item 10: Discussion paper on the prevention or reduction of ciguatera poisoning

The new work and development of a document to reduce the incidence of ciguatera is relevant as the incidence of the disease increases worldwide.

The methods proposed for development will contribute to the preservation of the environment through the control of human activities, reduce the frequency of ciguatera poisoning by monitoring algal blooms that accumulate ciguatoxins; reduce the burden of toxins on the population.

Agenda Item 13: Forward work-plan for CCCF: Review of staple food-contaminant combinations for future work of CCCF

We are grateful to the host country for the work that has been done in preparing the discussion paper. We believe that any further work should be carried out within the electronic working group. Russia support the option 1. It is also worth considering the overall workload of the Committee before starting a new work.