

codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS



WORLD
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Agenda Item 2

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**JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME
CODEX COMMITTEE ON FATS AND OILS
Nineteenth Session
London, United Kingdom, 21– 25 February 2005**

**Request for FAO/WHO scientific advice on the criteria for establishing the List of
Acceptable Previous Cargoes**

Paper prepared by FAO Secretariat

Following the request of the 18th Session of the CCFO and the 26th and 27th Sessions of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, FAO and WHO are considering different ways and means to address this request.

The scope of the advice to be provided will be:

- To establish criteria for substances to be included in the Codex List of Acceptable Previous Cargoes as referenced in Appendix 2 of the Recommended International Code of Practice for the Storage and Transport of Edible Fats and Oils in Bulk [CAC/RCP 36 – 1987 (Rev. 1-1999)]

Further work on the evaluation of substances in the Draft Proposed List of Acceptable Cargoes at Step 4, could only be achieved if additional resources are identified, as they are not currently available in FAO or WHO.

Background to this Request for FAO/WHO Scientific Advice

The 18th Session of CCFO (ALINORM 03/17), 3 – 7 February 2003

78 The Committee agreed to propose to the Commission that it invite JECFA to develop evaluation criteria for acceptable previous cargoes. The Committee further suggested that the following considerations be taken into account in the development of criteria:

- Toxicological properties, including genotoxic and carcinogenic potential
- Efficacy of cleaning procedures between cargoes
- Dilution factor in relation to the potential amount of residue of the previous cargo and any impurity which the previous cargo might have contained, and the volume of oil or fat transported
- Solubility of possible contaminating residues
- Subsequent refining/processing of the oil or fat
- Availability of analytical methods for the detection of trace amounts of residues or for verifying the absence of contamination
- Reactivity of oils/fats with contaminating residues, where appropriate
- Allergenicity

79 The Committee agreed to propose that the Commission invite JECFA, on the basis of the above-mentioned criteria, to evaluate the substances on the Draft list of Acceptable Previous Cargoes currently at Step 3.

The 26th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (ALINORM 03/41), 30 June – 7 July 2003

Committee on Fats and Oils

212. The Commission considered the request from the Committee on Fats and Oils to elaborate evaluation criteria for substances to be included in the List of Acceptable Previous Cargoes as well as to evaluate the substances proposed in the current List at Step 4. The Commission was of the opinion that the elaboration of criteria was a risk management procedure that should be conducted by the Committee rather than as a risk assessment procedure by JECFA. The Delegations of the United States and Canada objected to this opinion since, according to these delegations, the Committee had insufficient competence to manage the list due to lack of clear procedure for amending the list, and that the list could not be revised in a timely manner. The Commission **requested** FAO and WHO to convene an expert consultation in order to assist the Committee to develop risk management principles which would include evaluation criteria for inclusion of the substances in lists of acceptable cargoes. The Secretariat of JECFA expressed the view that JECFA could provide technical advice to the Committee on risk assessment and evaluation of substances.

The 27th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (ALINORM 04/27/41), 28 June – 3 July 2004

206. In relation to the request regarding the evaluation of the safety of acceptable previous cargoes, the Commission confirmed its earlier request to FAO and WHO to convene an expert consultation, preferably before the next Session of the Committee on Fats and Oils. The Delegation of the United States stated that future work by the Committee on Fats and Oils should concentrate on criteria but not on the list.