



JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEx COMMITTEE ON GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Twenty-seventh Session

Paris, France, 2 – 6 April 2012

Definition of the term “Hazard”

1. Background¹

At CCGP26, the Observer from CRN pointed out that the definition of hazard in the Procedural Manual, referring to an “agent” was different from the definitions used in authoritative scientific documents relating to nutrient risk assessment, which referred to “effect” and therefore proposed to insert the following footnote to the definition of “hazard” in the Procedural Manual: *“This definition of hazard as an agent differs from the definition as an effect in many of the authoritative scientific references cited by several Codex committees in their documents on risk analysis. This difference should not be interpreted as producing any conflict in the interpretation or application of the Working Principles of Risk Analysis.”*

Some delegations expressed the view that the current definition of “hazard” was consistent with the definition of nutrient-related hazard and that there was no need to revise it or to include an additional footnote. Another delegation proposed an amendment to the present definition, and it was also suggested to refer this proposal to the Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU) as it was mainly related to nutritional risk assessment.

The Committee could not reach a conclusion on this proposal at this stage and in view of the general relevance of the “hazard” definition, agreed to forward the above proposal to the committees concerned for advice and to consider this question further at its next session.

2. Information provided by CCNFSDU, CCFH, CCFA, CCCF, CCPR and CCRVDF

CCNFSDU²

The Committee agreed that it was not necessary to revise the definition.

CCFH³

Noting that the proposal was in relation to nutrient risk assessment and the decision of CCNFSDU32 not to amend the definition, the Committee agreed that further discussion on this matter was no longer necessary.

CCFA⁴

The Committee agreed that there was no need to revise the current definition.

¹ ALINORM 10/33/33, paras 56 - 58

² REP11/NFSDU, para 13

³ REP11/FH, para 7

⁴ REP11/FA, para 16

CCCF⁵

Noting that the proposal was in relation to nutrient risk assessment and the decision of CCNFSDU32 not to amend the definition, the Committee agreed that further discussion on this matter was no longer necessary.

CCPR⁶

The Committee noted that this proposal was related to nutrient risk assessment and that CCNFSDU32 had already decided not to amend the definition. The Committee agreed that further discussion on this matter was no longer necessary.

CCRVDF⁷

Several delegations expressed the view that the current definition was adequate in the context of risk analysis for residues of veterinary drugs and noted that the question put forward by the CCGP was rather specific to nutrition and would be more adequately addressed in the context of risk analysis applied to nutrition issues. The Committee, therefore, agreed that the current definition of “hazard” should not be revised.

⁵ REP11/CF, para 10

⁶ REP11/PR, para 9

⁷ REP11/RVDF, para 16