



JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX COMMITTEE ON GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Twenty-eighth Session

Paris, France, 7–11 April 2014

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND OTHER CODEX COMMITTEES

I. MATTERS ARISING/REFERRED FROM THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION (CAC)

CAC35¹

1. The Commission adopted:
 - Provisions on the Use of Proprietary Methods in Codex Standards
 - Risk Analysis Principles and Procedures Applied by the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene
 - Risk Analysis Principles Applied by the Codex Committee on Food Additives
 - Risk Analysis Principles Applied by the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods
2. The Commission also adopted the revised definition of “Contaminant” and requested the CCCF to look into the relevant sections of the General Standard e.g. Section 1.1 (Scope) and 1.2.2 (List of substances that meet the definition of contaminants) to fix any possible discrepancy in relation to the revised definition and the issue of feed additives / feed additive residues.
3. The Commission adopted the revision of the *Risk Analysis Principles Applied by the CCRVDF* and of the *Risk Assessment Policy for Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods* which had not been reviewed by the CCGP and noted that the CCGP could review the document for consistency at its next session. This matter will be discussed under Agenda Item 3 (CX/GP 14/28/3).

CAC36

Amendments to the Procedural Manual²

4. The Commission adopted:
 - Amendment to the *Guidelines for Establishing Numeric Values for Method Criteria and/or Assessing Methods for Compliance Thereof in the Procedural Manual (LOD and LOQ)*
 - *Principles and Guidance for the Application of the Proportionality Concept to Estimation of MRLs for Pesticides*
 - Revision of the *Procedure for the Inclusion of Additional Species in Standards for Fish and Fishery Products*

Matter referred to CCGP³

5. The Commission requested the CCGP to consider the role of the Chair and Vice-chairs of the Codex Alimentarius Commission for the purpose of Rule V.1 of the Rules of Procedure. The Commission noted that the Legal Counsels of FAO and WHO would prepare a document for the discussion at the forthcoming Committee on General Principles. This matter will be discussed under Agenda Item 12 (CX/GP 14/28/11).

¹ REP12/CAC, para 17 - 27

² REP13/CAC, para 30 - 31

³ REP13/CAC, para 230 - 234

II. MATTERS REFERRED BY OTHER COMMITTEES

Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH)⁴

Definitions in the *Principles and Guidelines for the Conduct of Microbiological Risk Assessment* (CAC/GL 30-1999)

6. CCFH45 noted the proposal of the Codex Secretariat to align several definitions, i.e. hazard characterization, risk communication, risk estimate and risk management, in the *Principles and Guidelines for the Conduct of Microbiological Risk Assessment*, with the definitions included in the Procedural Manual.

7. CCFH45 agreed to the proposal and in addition amended the definitions of *hazard characterization* and *risk estimate* and forwarded the proposed amendments to CAC37 for approval as follows:

Hazard Characterization – The qualitative and/or quantitative evaluation of the nature of the adverse health effects associated with biological, chemical and physical agents, which may be present in food. ~~For chemical agents, a dose-response assessment should be performed. For biological or physical agents, a dose-response assessment should be performed if the data are obtainable.~~

Risk Communication – The interactive exchange of information and opinions throughout the risk analysis process concerning risk, risk-related factors and risk perceptions, among risk assessors, risk managers, consumers, industry, the academic community and other interested parties, including the explanation of risk assessment findings and the basis of risk management decisions.

Risk Estimate – The qualitative and/or quantitative estimation of risk resulting from risk characterization.

Risk Management – The process, distinct from risk assessment of weighing policy alternatives, in consultation with all interested parties, considering risk assessment and other factors relevant for the health protection of consumers and for the promotion of fair trade practices, and, if needed, selecting appropriate prevention and control options.

9. CCFH45 further agreed to request the CCGP to consider the need to also amend the definitions of *hazard characterization* and *risk estimate* in the Procedural Manual.

10. The Committee is invited to consider the above request of CCFH45.

Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods (CCRVD)

11. CCRVDF21 forwarded the amendments to the *Risk Analysis Principles applied by the Committee on Veterinary Drugs in Food* related to extrapolation and the use of a Concern Form to CAC37 for adoption through the CCGP.

12. For ease of discussion, the amendments agreed by CCRVDF20 (see para 3 above) and by CCRVDF21 have been included in a consolidated document for consideration under Agenda Item 3 (CX/GP 14/28/3).

⁴ REP14/FH, para 8-10 and appendix II