

# codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE  
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**Agenda Item 8 (c)**

**CX/PR 01/13**

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## **JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME**

### **CODEX COMMITTEE ON PESTICIDE RESIDUES**

**Thirty-third Session**

**The Hague, The Netherlands, 2-7 April 2001**

## **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR METHODS OF ANALYSIS**

### **REVISION OF THE LIST OF RECOMMENDED METHODS OF ANALYSIS FOR PESTICIDE RESIDUES**

*(Prepared by the Netherlands)*

The Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues in its Thirty-first session discussed the criteria for the selection of methods of analysis suitable for testing compliance with MRLs. The Committee agreed to the following process:

1. The development of a set of performance criteria serving as a base for the assessment of the suitability of a certain analytical method for Codex purposes.
2. The preparation of a "List of Methods in Use" which are known to meet the established performance criteria. The detailed description of the methods together with the results of tests demonstrating their performance would not be published in Volume 2 of the *Codex Alimentarius* but in a Database provided by the FAO/IAEA Training and Reference Centre for Food and Pesticide Control (TRC) that would be accessible through the Home Page of the TRC. The "List of Methods in Use" would be reconsidered at regular intervals so that older methods can be deleted unless there is evidence of their continued use.
3. Until appropriate validation criteria are developed, the current list will remain in place.

Through a Circular Letter issued in 1998 information became available on methodology presently in use. The information compiled in CX/PR 99/10 pointed out that for the majority of pesticides to which Codex MRLs apply only a limited number of multi-residue methods is presently in use. Extraction efficiency and stability of residues were identified as critical factors in method validation.

The Committee is invited to consider whether enough progress is made on the development of performance criteria that a new list can be drafted. The compiled information (see CX/PR 99/10) could serve as a starting point. At a later stage the Committee should decide on the procedures for up-dating and publication of the list within the framework of the *Codex Alimentarius*.