



**JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME
CODEX COMMITTEE ON RESIDUES OF VETERINARY DRUGS IN FOOD**

Nineteenth Session

Burlington, Vermont, United States of America, 30 August - 3 September 2010

**DISCUSSION PAPER ON SAMPLING PLAN FOR RESIDUE CONTROL FOR AQUATIC
ANIMAL PRODUCTS AND DERIVED EDIBLE PRODUCTS OF AQUATIC ORIGIN**

(Report of the electronic Working Group on Sampling of Aquatic Animal Products)

**(Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, El Salvador, Poland, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Mexico, Republic
of Korea, United States of America, Vietnam and IFAH)**

Background

1. At the 18th session of the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods (CCRVDF – Natal, Brazil, 11-15 May 2009), the Committee recognized that sampling plans for aquatic animal products and derived edible products of aquatic origin included in Appendix B of the *Draft Guidelines for the Design and Implementation of National Regulatory Food Safety Assurance Programmes Associated with the Use of Veterinary Drugs in Food Producing Animals* (CRD 5) required comprehensive debate. In order to have sampling plans for these products widely acceptable, it was agreed to remove these products from Table B of Appendix B.

2. The Committee further agreed to establish an electronic Working Group, led by the United States, open to all interested members and observers, and working in English only. The Committee agreed that the electronic Working Group would prepare a revised table for these products, including the minimum quantity required for laboratory sample and instruction for collection, for future inclusion in the Guidelines.

Proceedings of the electronic Working Group

3. The table below was developed based on the original table (Table B from Appendix B of the *Draft Guidelines for the Design and Implementation of National Regulatory Food Safety Assurance Programmes Associated with the Use of Veterinary Drugs in Food Producing Animals* (CRD 5)) and comments from Brazil and the United States. Additional information was provided by the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department of the FAO.

4. Additional development is needed on this table on sampling of aquatic animal products because it currently only reflects the comments submitted from two countries. The comments received varied greatly in terms of the proposed number of subsamples and the minimum quantity required for laboratory sample. The proposed number of subsamples ranged from 3 to 12. The proposed minimum quantity required for laboratory sample ranged from 500g to 1000g.

5. The electronic Working Group is aware of pending research in at least one member country on aquaculture sampling. The results of this research could be very valuable to the creation of sampling plans on aquatic animal products within the CCRVDF.

6. Continued development of the table on sampling of aquatic animal products would allow further discussions and additional contribution by other member countries. Additional discussion and contribution would ensure that the final table reflects the views and input of a greater number of member countries.

Draft Proposed Table

Table C: Aquatic animal products

Commodity	Instructions for collection	Minimum quantity required for laboratory sample
VII. Class B – Type 08 (Aquatic Animal Products)		
A. Packaged fish – fresh, frozen, smoked, cured, or shellfish (except oysters)	Collect 12 sub samples randomly, minimum sub sample size 225 g	500 g
B. Bulk fish 0.5 – 1.5 kg	Collect 12 sub samples randomly, minimum sub sample size 225 g	500 g
C. Bulk fish 1.5 – 2.5 kg	Collect 6 sub samples, minimum sub sample size 225 g	500 g
D. Bulk fish > 2.5 kg	Collect 3 sub samples, minimum sub sample size 225 g	500 g
E. Bulk Shellfish*	Collect 12 sub samples randomly	500 g
F. Other fish and shellfish Products (including oysters)	Collect 12 sub samples	500 g
VII. Class E – Type 17 (Derived Edible Products of Aquatic Animal Origin)		
A. Canned fish and shellfish products (except oysters)	Collect 12 sub samples, minimum sample size 225g	500 g
B. Other fish and shellfish products – fish flour and meal	Use sample schedule. Collect 1 kg per sub sample	500 g

*The term shellfish is intended to include crustaceans.

Recommendations

7. The electronic Working Group makes the following recommendations to the CCRVDF:
 - A. A proposal for new work on a table on sampling of aquatic animal products should be sent to the Codex Alimentarius Commission.
 - B. An electronic Working Group should be formed to encourage further international contribution to continue development of the table on sampling of aquatic animal products. In addition, this electronic working group may take advantage of research performed by member countries.
 - C. Following completion of the work on sampling of aquatic animal products, the table should be inserted in the *Guidelines for the Design and Implementation of National Regulatory Food Safety Assurance Programmes Associated with the Use of Veterinary Drugs in Food Producing Animals* (CAC/GL 71-2009) as table C in Appendix B.