



JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX COMMITTEE ON RESIDUES OF VETERINARY DRUGS IN FOODS

Twentieth Session

San Juan, Puerto Rico, 7-11 May 2012

MATTERS REFERRED BY THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND OTHER CODEX COMMITTEES AND TASK FORCES

MATTERS ARISING FROM OTHER COMMITTEES AND TASK FORCES

Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF) – 6th Session, Maastricht (the Netherlands), 26-30 March 2012

Codex responsibility for feed additives¹

1. The 6th CCCF considered the question on whether it should be the responsibility of the CCCF to deal with the issues related to feed additives/feed additive residues. In this regard, the Committee considered a revised definition of contaminant, as proposed by a working group, which includes a reference to feed to make more clear that the definition of contaminant applies to food and feed for consistency with the terms of reference and the scope of the GSCTFF (*General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Foods and Feed*).

2. In this regard, the 6th CCCF noted that the terms of reference of the Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods covered feed additives when establishing maximum residue limits for veterinary drugs in food of animal origin arising from the addition of veterinary drugs to feed (i.e. medicated feed) and that the same applied when establishing maximum residue limits for pesticides as a result of phytosanitary treatments. In addition, the Committee noted the view of several delegations that any feed additive/feed additive residues that may result in its unavoidable / unintentional presence in food due to the carryover of the substance from the feed into food being relevant to food safety was already covered by the definition of contaminant. Based on these considerations, the Committee agreed with the following revised definition of contaminant as proposed by the working group:

PROPOSED REVISED DEFINITION FOR CONTAMINANT

“Contaminant means any substance not intentionally added to food or feed for food producing animals, which is present in such food or feed as a result of the production (including operations carried out in crop husbandry, animal husbandry and veterinary medicine), manufacture, processing, preparation, treatment, packing, packaging, transport or holding of such food or feed, or as a result of environmental contamination. The term does not include insect fragments, rodent hairs and other extraneous matter.”

3. The Delegation of Japan indicated that the inclusion of “or feed” in the revised definition of contaminant, which referred to “contaminant” as any substance “not intentionally” added to food “or feed”, introduced a discrepancy between the definition and section 1.2.2 of the *General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed* which did not explicitly exclude feed additives (intentionally added to feed) from the indicated application of the term “contaminant” as opposed to compounds governed by other Codex committees such as pesticide or veterinary drugs residues. The Delegation further noted that, if the definition of contaminant would be limited to the “unintentional/unavoidable” presence of substance in foods and “feed”, the scope of the preamble in the GSCTFF would still allow for interpretation that feed additives “intentionally” added to feed are covered by the definition of contaminant as not explicitly excluded in the list as other substances like veterinary drugs and pesticide residues.

¹ REP12/CF, paras 33-36 and Appendix IV

4. The Committee **is invited** to note the above discussion.

Guidance for risk management options in light of different risk assessment options²

5. The 6th CCCF considered a discussion paper (CX/CF 12/6/16) paper contained a brief description of risk assessment steps and outcomes, provided a description of the risk management options by the Committee as well as that for national governments and further outlined other measures that national governments could use. The Committee agreed, as an interim measure, to append the document to its report for future reference (REP12/CF Appendix XII, available on Codex website www.codexalimentarius.org).

6. The Committee **is invited** to note this information.

Committee on General Principles (CCGP) – 27th Session, Paris (France), 2-6 April 2012

Standard held at Step 8³

7. The 27th CCGP considered the recommendations (listed below) provided in a working document (CX/GP 12/27/3) examining the issues related to standards held at Step 8⁴.

- i. A facilitated discussion or workshop be held to allow Codex members a free and open discussion around current standards setting procedures, perceived failures and challenges.
- ii. No work be undertaken to develop additional guidance for chairpersons in the Codex Procedural Manual. However, there is a need to provide training and support to chairpersons to enable them to apply the available guidance in a consistent manner in all Committees.
- iii. New work be undertaken to revise the Codex Procedural Manual to ensure early identification of potential challenges to the elaboration of a standard either by revising the content of the Project Document as found in *Part 2: Critical Review; Proposals to Undertake New Work or to Revise a Standard* or alternatively to revise the *Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities*. It should be noted that the principle of transparency needs to be incorporated into these discussions.
- iv. Use of “Concern Forms” be implemented, recognizing that this form as used by CCPR may need to be modified to be applicable in other Committees.
- v. Amend the elaboration procedures in the Codex Procedural Manual to amend paragraph 5 of the Procedures for the Elaboration of Codex Standards and Related Texts by deleting the final sentence, i.e. delete “The Commission may also decide that the standard be held at Step 8”.
- vi. The Procedural Manual be revised to allow for the adoption of a standard on a regional basis should consensus not be achieved to adopt the standard as a global standard.
- vii. The Rules of Procedure with respect to voting be reviewed with a view to providing for a vote if a standard has been held at step 8 for a specified number of years and to provide clarity regarding the second sentence of Rule XII.2.

8. In particular, the 27th CCGP noted Recommendation iv regarding the use of “concern form” and asked the advice of the concerned committees, including the CCRVDF, as to the relevance of using concern forms.

9. The Committee **is invited** to provide its advice as to the relevance of using concern forms in the CCRVDF work.

Definition of “Contaminant”⁵

10. The 27th CCGP Committee agreed to endorse the revised definition of “contaminants” as proposed by the CCCF. The definition will be considered by the 35th Session of the Commission for adoption and inclusion in the Procedural Manual.

11. The Committee **is invited** to note this information.

² REP12/CF, paras 142-157 and Appendix XII

³ REP12/GP, paras 10-21 and Appendix XII

⁴ REP12/GP provides the details of the CCGP discussion and conclusion

⁵ REP12/GP, paras 143-158 and Appendix XII