

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda Items 5, 6, 7, 8, 10

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ORIGINAL LANGUAGE ONLY

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME CODEX COMMITTEE ON CONTAMINANTS IN FOODS

16th Session

18-21 April 2023 (physical plenary meeting)

26 April 2023 (virtual report adoption)

Comments submitted by South Africa

Agenda item 5: Maximum levels for Lead in certain Food Categories

SUGARS (SOFT BROWN, RAW AND NON-CENTRIFUGED)

South Africa supports the proposals for the establishment of ML of 0.15 mg/kg for soft brown, raw and non-centrifuged sugars excluding white and refined.

Rationale: Although it was initially recommended to evaluate the sugars separately, the observation during the EWG discussions on the difficulty to classify the products separately is noted. The proposed ML will offer health protection and facilitate trade.

READY-TO-EAT MEALS FOR INFANTS AND YOUNG CHILDREN

South Africa supports the proposals for the establishment of ML of 0.03 mg/kg for the whole category of ready-to-eat meals for infants and young children.

Rationale: While lower limits are desired, this level is supported while investigating the availability of suitable analytical methods that can detect lower limits as this could impact the monitoring efforts.

Agenda Item 6: Code of Practice for prevention and reduction of mycotoxin contamination in cassava and cassava-based products

South Africa supports the recommendation to consider the CoP for final adoption.

Rationale: The CoP will provide information and clear guidance on the control and prevention of mycotoxin contamination in all stages of production.

Agenda Item 7: Sampling Plans for Total Aflatoxins in certain cereals and cereal-based products including foods for infants and young children.

South Africa supports the recommended sampling plan.

Rationale: The development of the sampling plan will assist in having harmonized guidance for sampling for aflatoxins, which is implementable on respective food categories.

Agenda Item 8: Maximum Levels for Total Aflatoxins in Ready-To-Eat-Peanuts and associated sampling plan.

South Africa supports the recommendations for the paper on the proposed ML and associated plan to be presented at CCCF17.

Rationale: The EWG could not analyse the data provided to it by the WHO GEMS/Food administrator to present to CCCF16. This will also provide members with an opportunity to submit data that has since been generated.

Agenda Item 10: Discussion Paper on the Prevention and Reduction of Ciguatera Poisoning.

South Africa supports new work and the development of the CoP on the prevention and reduction of Ciguatera Poisoning.

Rationale: New work on the proposed CoP will help countries reduce the food safety risk associated with ciguatoxins and ciguatera poisoning.