



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

Twenty-eighth Session
23–27 March 2026

Minneapolis, Minnesota, United States of America

MATTERS REFERRED BY CAC AND OTHER SUBSIDIARY BODIES

(Prepared by the Codex Secretariat)

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND ITS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
(Since the last session of CCRVDF)

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

Specific matters

Standards and related texts adopted by the Commission¹

Final adoption

1. CAC47 (2024) adopted the following:
 - i. Maximum residue limits (MRLs) for clopidol (chicken – kidney, liver, muscle, and skin/fat) at Step 5/8.
 - ii. MRLs for imidacloprid (finfish fillet (muscle with skin in natural proportions) and/or muscle), at Step 5/8.
 - iii. Extrapolated MRLs for the following veterinary drugs to one or more species, at Step 5/8:
 - a) Lufenuron (finfish – fillet);
 - b) Emamectin benzoate (finfish – muscle and fillet); and
 - c) Ivermectin (all other ruminants – milk).
 - iv. Revisions to the *Risk Analysis Principles applied by CCRVDF, Codex Procedural Manual*, as follows:
 - a) Revisions to Annex C - *Approach for the extrapolation of MRLs for veterinary drugs to one or more species* (i.e., revised criterion 2b on the marker residue in cases where the active substance is a combination of homologous compounds, new set of criteria for the extrapolation of MRLs to camelids, and additional criterion for milk extrapolation)
 - b) Inclusion of Annex D - *Criteria and procedures for the establishment of Action Levels for residues of veterinary drugs in food of animal origin resulting from unavoidable and unintentional veterinary drug carry-over in non-target animal feed* to guide the establishment of action levels by CCRVDF.
 - c) Consequential amendment to the section on the establishment of the priority list of veterinary drugs (Section 4) to reflect the prioritization of compounds for the establishment of extrapolated MRLs and action levels for veterinary drug residues by CCRVDF, in addition to MRLs arising from JECFA evaluations.

Adoption at Step 5

2. CAC47 adopted MRLs for fumagillin dicyclohexylamine (fish fillet and honey) at Step 5.
3. The MRLs for fumagillin DCH in fish fillet and honey will be considered under Agenda items 6 and 10.

¹ REP24/CAC47, para 125, Appendices II and III

Availability of adopted MRLs and related texts

4. The MRLs and extrapolated MRLs adopted by CAC47 are available in the *Maximum residue limits and risk management recommendations for residues of veterinary drugs in foods* (CXM2²) and on the online database³ on MRLs for veterinary drugs in foods.

Approval of new work⁴

5. CAC47 approved the new work proposals on:
- i. Guidelines for competent authorities on actions that may be taken when residues of veterinary drugs in food are below or above action levels, or there are no action levels established; and
 - ii. Priority list of compounds proposed for evaluation by the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA), extrapolation and establishment of action levels.
6. These topics will be considered under Agenda items 8.1 and 10 respectively.

Other issues related to the work of CCRVDF⁵

7. CAC47 congratulated CCRVDF for successfully addressing innovative risk management approaches for the establishment of MRLs for veterinary drugs in foods, such as the new criteria to extrapolate MRLs to camelids, which would enable the establishment of MRLs for these species and the establishment of action levels to address residues of veterinary drugs in foods arising from cross-contamination of feed to protect public health and facilitate trade.
8. CAC47 also endorsed the following editorial amendments in the *Code of practice on good animal feeding* (CXC 54-2004):
- i. the amendment to footnote 9 as endorsed by CCRVDF27 to replace outdated reference (i.e., referring now to 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* (CXG 71-2009); and
 - ii. the deletion of footnote 12 related to an FAO definition for “good agricultural practices (GAPs)” since FAO does not have one specific guidelines on good agricultural practices, but rather multiple guidelines relating to different commodities.
9. The updated Code of practice is available on the Codex website⁶.

General mattersFuture of Codex⁷Mechanisms available to advance work between plenary sessions and leadership roles in electronic working groups (EWGs)

10. CCEXEC86 (2024) noted the importance of working groups in progressing the work of Codex between sessions . The Committee encouraged more Members to take leadership roles in committee working groups to ensure their sustainability and inclusiveness, while recognizing the challenges these Members may face, and further encouraged the Codex Secretariat and experienced working group chairs to proactively seek engagement of other Members and provide guidance and support⁸:
11. CAC48 encouraged FAO, WHO and experienced Members to support mentorship mechanisms to assist more Members to take up leadership roles in working groups.⁹

Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031¹⁰

12. CAC47 adopted the Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031.
13. CAC48 (2025) adopted the monitoring framework for the Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031, as proposed by CCEXEC89 (2025), noting that it may be reviewed after two years when initial data is available and some experience has

² <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/committees/committee/related-standards/hu/?committee=CCRVDF>

³ <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/codex-texts/dbs/vetdrugs/en/>

⁴ REP24/CAC47, para 169(i) and Appendix V

⁵ REP24/CAC47, paras 131 and 199 iii, Appendix VII

⁶ <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/committees/committee/related-standards/en/?committee=TFAF>

⁷ REP23/EXEC85, para 38; REP23/CAC46, para 7-8

⁸ REP24/EXEC86, para 61; REP24/CAC47, para 238(ii)

⁹ REP25/CAC48, para17(iii)

¹⁰ REP24/CAC47, Appendix IX

been gained on its use.

Codex Guidelines for new work proposals¹¹

14. CCEXEC87 (2024) welcomed the Codex Secretariat's plans to develop practical guidelines for Members on the development of new work proposals. The Codex Secretariat is currently working on these guidelines and will engage with Members through the forthcoming FAO/WHO coordinating committees to build awareness of their development and seek input on issues that Members would wish to see included in these guidelines.

Codex EWGs handbook¹²

15. A practical guidance for EWGs has been published as the *Codex electronic working groups handbook¹³* targeted to all participants involved throughout the EWG lifecycle. CAC47 welcomed its publication and encouraged its use.

Monitoring the use and impact of Codex texts

16. CAC47 recalled the ongoing work on building a mechanism to monitor the use and impact of Codex texts, including an annual survey, case studies, and collaboration with the World Trade Organization (WTO), and thanked Members for participating in the 2024 Codex survey.¹⁴
17. The reports of the Codex survey 2024 on the use and impact of Codex texts¹⁵, and a publication on the use and implementation of Codex, the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), and the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) standards¹⁶ have been published online.
18. The 2025 survey on the use and impact of Codex texts, which marks the fourth cycle of the survey, was announced in October 2025 and introduced two updates: regional standards are included for the first time, responding to Members' requests to capture a fuller picture of how Codex texts are used. In addition, the original three-year survey plan has been extended to a fourth year to accommodate the regional scope and to survey a broader set of texts. Results of the 2025 survey will be published during 2026.

Improvements in the timeliness of documents¹⁷

19. CAC48, recognizing that the importance of timely delivery of documents and improved timeliness was a shared responsibility, encouraged Members to brief their Permanent Representatives to FAO on the importance of timely translation and advocate for flexibility in translation options, including the use of technology, and reminded all Members, committees and EWGs of the importance of timely delivery of and more concise documents.

Ensuring adequate and timely scientific advice for Codex standards¹⁸

20. CAC48 emphasized the importance of timely and adequately resourced scientific advice to support the development and adoption of science-based Codex standards; encouraged FAO, WHO and the Codex Secretariat to provide information on priorities and related costs to assist CAC in prioritizing requests and to support Members in securing resources for the Joint FAO/WHO Scientific Advice Programme.
21. CAC48 noted that support for scientific advice extends beyond financial resources to include access to data and expertise; and encouraged Members to promote engagement of national experts and timely data submission. The Commission further noted the need for innovative approaches to address scientific advice needs and invited FAO and WHO to explore such approaches.

Development of databases¹⁹

22. CCEXEC89 identified three priority areas on which additional resources should be used, one being the update on the current databases for food additives, pesticide residues and veterinary drug residues.

¹¹ REP24/EXEC87, para 82

¹² REP17/EXEC74, paras 88 and 91(i); REP24/CAC47, para 22(ii)

¹³ <https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/aee7614e-d630-4665-a98c-74adcc4d3040>

¹⁴ REP24/CAC47, para 209

¹⁵ <https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/8bad756e-1ec9-4806-bc5d-85decacd5dc4>

¹⁶ <https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/d93faf09-2ecd-4ee5-89e7-d39412baaf7c>

¹⁷ REP25/CAC48, para 17(ii)

¹⁸ REP25/CAC48, para 139

¹⁹ REP25/EXEC89, para 78(vi)

RECOMMENDATIONS

23. CCRVDF28 is invited to:
 - i. note the information presented in the paragraphs above;
 - ii. note that some information provided in this document will be further discussed under other relevant agenda items, and
 - iii. encourage more Members to take leadership roles in committee working groups and familiarize with the guidance provided in the *Codex electronic working groups handbook*.