



## JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

### CODEX COMMITTEE ON CONTAMINANTS IN FOODS

15<sup>th</sup> Session

Virtual, 9 – 13 May and 24 May 2022

#### MATTERS REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE BY THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND/OR ITS SUBSIDIARY BODIES

##### I. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

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##### A. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

##### 44<sup>th</sup> Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (2021)

##### *Standards and related texts adopted at Steps 8 and 5/8 (with omission of Steps 6/7) of the Procedure including consequential amendments<sup>1</sup>*

1. CAC44 adopted the:

- maximum Level (ML) for cadmium in chocolates containing or declaring <30% total cocoa solid on a dry matter basis at Step 8, noting the reservations of the European Union, Egypt, Norway, Switzerland and Ukraine, for the reasons expressed at CCCF14 and reiterated in CX/CAC 21/44/4-Add.1;
- ML for cadmium in chocolates containing or declaring ≥30% to <50% total cocoa solid on a dry matter basis at Step 5/8 noting the reservations of the European Union, Egypt, Norway, Switzerland and Ukraine, for the reasons expressed at CCCF14 and reiterated in CX/CAC 21/44/4-Add.1;
- revision of the *Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Lead Contamination in Foods* (CXS 56-2004) at Step 5/8; and
- amendment to extend the MLs for lead in fruit juices and grape juice in the *General Standard for Contaminants in Food and Feed* (CXS 193-1995) to cover infants and young children, noting the reservations of the European Union, Norway, Switzerland and Ukraine and the concerns of two Observers.

##### *Standards and related texts adopted at Step 5 of the Procedure<sup>2</sup>*

2. CAC44 adopted the Code of practice for the prevention and reduction of cadmium contamination in cocoa beans at Step 5 and endorsed the extension of the timeline for completion of the work to CCCF16.

##### *New Work<sup>3</sup>*

3. CAC44 approved as new work:

- MLs for methylmercury in orange roughy and pink cusk eel; and
- Code of practice for the prevention and reduction of mycotoxin contamination in cassava and cassava-based products

##### *Application of the Statements of Principle Concerning the Role of Science in the Codex Decision-Making Process and the extent to which other factors are taken into account (SoP)<sup>4</sup>*

4. CAC44 welcomed the ongoing work on guidance for Chairpersons and Members on the operationalization and the consistent application of the Statements of Principle and encouraged CCEXEC to complete this work in an expeditious manner.

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<sup>1</sup> REP21/CAC44, para. 44 and Appendix III

<sup>2</sup> REP21/CAC44, para. 45 and Appendix IV

<sup>3</sup> REP21/CAC44, para. 46 and Appendix VI

<sup>4</sup> REP21/CAC44, paras. 13-14, REP21/EXEC81, paras. 92-99, REP21/EXEC80, paras. 37-43

**60th Anniversary of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (1963-2023)<sup>5</sup>**

5. CAC44 agreed that the celebration of the Codex 60th Anniversary would be a wonderful occasion to raise awareness about food safety and quality and encouraged all Members and Observers to use the opportunity of the Codex 60th Anniversary to plan and implement activities to build awareness of Codex and to engage high level political support for Codex work.

**B. MATTERS ARISING FROM SUBSIDIARY BODIES AS RELATED TO THE WORK OF CCCF**

**81<sup>st</sup> Session of the Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (2021)**

***Codex and the Pandemic - progress on implementation of recommendations of CAC43 (2020) and CCEXEC80 (2021) and issues for consideration for 2022<sup>6</sup>***

6. CCEXEC81 commended the huge efforts of the Codex family to deliver the 2021 work programme and in moving forward recommended that: Chairpersons and Host Secretariats collaborate closely with the Codex Secretariat in their efforts to establish a meeting schedule that is realistic to implement and ensure adequate time between meetings and that the Codex Secretariat together with Chairpersons and the larger membership further consider how EWGs and/or other inclusive and transparent mechanisms can continue to be strengthened, playing an even more fundamental role in Codex as a flexible mechanism to prepare work and ensure that discussions in subsidiary bodies is only held when there is a need for guidance or the work it is ready for progression in the step process. In addition CCEXEC81 agreed to establish and lead a process to develop the blueprint for the future of Codex for consideration by CAC on its 60th anniversary in 2023. The process should include communication and outreach to Members and observers to collect general views on what a future Codex should look like.
7. CAC44 adopted measures to address the ongoing challenges caused by the pandemic to ensure that work could continue virtually in Codex committees in 2022 if physical meetings are not possible and made a number of recommendations in this regard including that Rule XI (7) and (8) continue to be interpreted in a manner that includes a virtual setting with respect to sessions of Codex Subsidiary Bodies including CCEXEC and that application of this should take into consideration the criteria<sup>7</sup> outlined by CCEXEC80.

***New food sources and production systems: need for Codex attention and guidance<sup>8</sup>***

8. CCEXEC81 agreed to investigate potential mechanisms to address cross-cutting, overarching and emerging issues in Codex such as new food sources and production systems.

***Monitoring the use and impact of Codex standards<sup>9</sup>***

9. In line with Goal 3 of the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025 (Increase recognition and use of Codex Standards), the Codex Secretariat in consultation with the FAO and WHO Evaluation Offices has initiated a project to identify, and in due course implement, an approach to monitor the use and impact of Codex standards. Following the initial review and analysis phase, a proposal for a phased approach will be presented for consideration by CCEXEC82 (2022).

**41<sup>st</sup> Session of the Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (2021)**

***Review/update of methods of analysis in the General Standard for Methods of Analysis and Sampling<sup>10</sup>***

10. CCMAS41 confirmed its continued liaison with other Codex committees on the use of the *General Standard on Methods of Analysis and Sampling* (CXS 234-1999) as the single reference for methods of analysis and sampling.

***Revision of the General Guidelines on Sampling (CXG 50-2004)<sup>11</sup>***

11. CCMAS41 agreed to inform other relevant Codex Committees of the ongoing work on the revision of the *General Guidelines on Sampling* and invite any comments as relevant.

<sup>5</sup> REP21/CAC44, para. 150

<sup>6</sup> REP21/EXEC81, paras. 83-85; REP21/CAC44, para. 12

<sup>7</sup> REP21/EXEC80, para. 35 (iv)

<sup>8</sup> REP21/EXEC81, para. 110 (ii)

<sup>9</sup> REP21/EXEC81, para. 90; REP21/CAC44, para.107

<sup>10</sup> REP21/MAS41, para. 6

<sup>11</sup> REP21/MAS41, para. 110 (iv)

**Recommendations for endorsement by CCCF**

12. CCCF is invited to:

- (i) Note that the information provided in paragraphs 2 – 3 would be considered under Agenda Items 6, 8 and 12, respectively;
- (ii) note the information provided in paragraphs 1, 4-10 and in particular for:
  - a. the 60th anniversary, encourage members and observers to plan and implement activities to build awareness of Codex and to engage high level political support for Codex work;
  - b. the ongoing/upcoming discussion in CCEXEC on the operationalization of the SoP; the future of Codex and on how to address cross-cutting, overarching and emerging issues in Codex; and monitoring the use of Codex standards, encourage members and observers to actively engage in opportunities to contribute to the discussions in CCEXEC through their regional coordinators and/or by providing replies to relevant circular letters to be distributed in this regard.
- (iii) encourage members and observers to provide relevant comments on the revision to the *General Guidelines on Sampling* (CXG 50-2004) as described in paragraph 11.