

CODEx ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda Item 2.4

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE CODEx ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Eighty-fourth Session
CICG, Geneva, Switzerland

10 – 14 July 2023

CRITICAL REVIEW – PART IV

DRAFT MRLs FOR ZILPATEROL HYDROCHLORIDE IN CATTLE LIVER, KIDNEY AND MUSCLE – UPDATE

(Prepared by the Chairperson of the Codex Alimentarius Commission)

1. CAC45 discussed the draft MRLs for zilpaterol hydrochloride in cattle liver, kidney and muscle. It agreed the JECFA risk assessment provided a robust basis for the elaboration of these draft MRLs, noting reservations from China, the Russian Federation and Thailand.
2. CAC45 adopted the draft MRLs for zilpaterol hydrochloride in cattle liver, kidney and muscle at Step 5 (by vote) and agreed to retain the further elaboration of these draft MRLs in the Commission, noting the reservation of China. Accordingly, the Codex Secretariat has distributed a Circular Letter¹ to Members and Observers that requests comments at Step 6 on the draft MRLs be submitted by 15 September 2023 to inform further discussion by CAC46.
3. As a complement to this formal process, CAC45 welcomed the prospect of further informal consultation by the CVCs prior to CAC46 to facilitate consensus. Accordingly, and following consultation with Regional Coordinators, CVCs proposed in a letter to Members and Observers on 30 March 2023 the following process for the informal consultation:
 - The Regional Coordinators will aim to consult Members in their respective regions in advance of CCEXEC84 to establish whether Members have any new proposals for approaches to discussion of the draft MRLs for zilpaterol hydrochloride that might result in a consensus at CAC46. If there are any such proposals, they can then be discussed at CCEXEC84 and circulated to the entire Codex membership with any observations or recommendations that CCEXEC might make.
 - Following CCEXEC84, whatever the outcome of those initial consultations, CVCs and Regional Coordinators will again aim to hold virtual informal consultation meetings on a regional basis. CVCs will submit a report on these consultations to CCEXEC85 and to CAC46, which will be published in the usual way.
 - Although CVCs hope once again that these informal consultations are successful in bridging the gap between the divergent positions expressed by Members to date, they will, as last year, work closely with the Codex Secretariat and with the Legal Offices of FAO and WHO to prepare for a potential vote on zilpaterol at CAC46.
4. At the time of writing, Regional Coordinators have not reported any new proposals for approaches to discussion of the draft MRLs for zilpaterol hydrochloride that might result in a consensus at CAC46. Any such proposals may be tabled at CCEXEC84 under this agenda item for discussion.

¹ CL 2023/33/OCS-CAC