**CRD19**

**Terms of Reference for the eWG on Method Endorsement**

1. To review existing and consider the development of new approaches to the establishment of sampling plans within Codex.
2. To provide guidance to non-specialists in this complex area.

**Background**

The general principles for the selection of Codex sampling plans are dated and rarely followed by Codex Committees when establishing sampling plans in their areas of responsibility. New approaches to sampling have been internationally developed and are starting to be used in the food sector. A thorough review of their appropriateness, and in particular the procedures for and the significance of the estimation of uncertainty from sampling should be undertaken within Codex.

There is currently some confusion within the various Codex Committees as to the significance of the various recent developments and thus clarification should be made to aid understanding. It is now timely to provide such clarification.

***The following may be considered by the eWG:***

***a. Acceptance Sampling***

Acceptance sampling, as is presently approach defined by the Codex Sampling Principles. It does require an understanding by the Codex Committees of the variability that is inherent with acceptance sampling plans, and in particular the relatively high probability of accepting a lot with unsatisfactory material in it. This is not currently understood by many Codex Committees.

***b. The Estimation of the total uncertainty from both analysis and sampling***

Procedures for the quantification of the total uncertainty in the measurement process, including that from both analysis and sampling will be considered. Discussion on whether the assessment of such uncertainty could be reduced to an “acceptable” level, normally by taking more sample increments (units) or reducing the variability within the lot being sampled will be made..

***c. Representative/Pragmatic Uncertainty***

Whether to ignore all aspects of sampling uncertainty and define a practical plan on little scientific basis.

***d. Auto-Control***

A radically different approach, i.e. verifying the results obtained from continuous food production. This approach, called here “auto-control”, has been considered in international Working Groups.