

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of
the United Nations



World Health
Organization

Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, Italy - Tel: (+39) 06 57051 - Fax: (+39) 06 5705 4593 - E-mail: codex@fao.org - www.codexalimentarius.org

Agenda Item 6

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME CODEX COMMITTEE ON METHODS OF ANALYSIS AND SAMPLING

36th Session
Budapest, Hungary, 23 – 27 February 2015

DISCUSSION PAPER ON CRITERIA APPROACH FOR METHODS WHICH USE A 'SUM OF COMPONENTS'

(Report of the in-session working group)

1. On Tuesday 24th February 2015 the Sum of Components WG met during the 36th session of CCMAS to discuss, in general terms, work undertaken thus far with a view to defining the future direction of the eWG and developing a document for discussion at the 37th session of CCMAS. During discussions the WG made the following recommendations:

- 1) If the eWG is to continue then future work should concentrate on chemical methods of analysis only. Issues relating to biological methods and Type I issues are being addressed within another eWG.
- 2) The eWG will undertake an analysis of STAN 234, and relevant commodity standards, to determine the extent to which methods of analysis that use a sum of components approach are cited and used. It will also undertake a 'horizon scanning' exercise to try and identify potential methods that might be sent to CCMAS in the future for conversion to method performance criteria and that use a sum of components approach.
- 3) Using work already reported within papers CX/MAS 14/35/5 and CX/MAS 15/36/6, as a starting point, the eWG will undertake further work to develop potential options for establishing criteria approaches for methods that are sums of components.
- 4) Using information obtained through recommendation 2 the options identified within recommendation 3 will be evaluated to ascertain fitness for purpose. Methods of analysis based upon the sum of components that are going to be problematic if converted to method performance criteria will also be identified.
- 5) [Based upon the outcome of recommendations 1-4 the eWG will consider the need to either amend the General Criteria for the Selection of Methods of Analysis section of the Procedural Manual or draft dedicated a Guideline Document.]