

# CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of  
the United Nations



World Health  
Organization

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**Agenda Item 3**

**MAS/36 CRD/25**  
**Original Language Only**

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

**36<sup>th</sup> Session**  
**Budapest, Hungary, 23 – 27 February 2015**

### ENDORSEMENT OF METHODS OF ANALYSIS PROVISIONS IN CODEX STANDARDS

#### **Inconsistencies identified by CCMAS on sampling plans for fumonisins in maize and maize products**

*(Proposed by the Working Group on the endorsement of methods of analysis and sampling)*

Specific points to review include the following:

Both the Raw Grain Maize and Maize Flour and Maize Meal Tables list a specific Aggregate Sample Size, 5 kg and 1 kg, respectively. The Aggregate Sample Size is not a critical parameter and does not need to be included in these tables. However if CCCF decides to maintain the Aggregate Sample Size, it should not be stated as a target size, but as a minimum requirement (i.e.  $\geq 5$  kg). This will indicate that a larger aggregate sample size can be collected.

In Table 1 (for lots  $\geq 50$  tonnes) it is stated that the number of incremental samples should be 100 and the aggregate sample weight is 5 kg. However the text (para 3) states that the incremental sample weight should be approximately 100 g, which is consistent with the tables Raw Maize Grain and Maize Flour and Maize Meal. However 100 incremental samples at 100 g weight do not produce a 5 kg aggregate sample, therefore the mass or number of incremental samples or the mass of the aggregate sample must be changed. If necessary any changes should also be captured in the Raw Maize Grain and/or Maize Flour and Maize Meal tables.

Table 1 states that for lots of  $< 50$  tonnes the number of incremental samples can be from 3 – 100 and references Table 2. However in Para 4 the text states “For lots less than 50 tonnes, the sampling plan must be used with 10 to 100 incremental samples...”. This discrepancy should be corrected.

Table 1 states that for lots  $< 50$  tonnes the aggregate sample weight can be from 1 to 5 kg. However in Table 2 as few as 3 samples can be taken, which would mean an incremental sample of over 300 g, which is larger than the incremental samples for other lots/sublots. Is this consistent with intent of CCCF?

Table 1 states that for lots  $\geq 50$  and  $\leq 300$  tonnes a subplot of 100 tonnes be created. This suggestion is not possible with lots of  $< 100$  tonnes.

In Table 1 the word “lots” in column 2 heading should be changed to “sublots”.

In Table 1 the word tonnes should be added after 500 in column 2.

In Table 1 and 2 the abbreviation (ton) should be removed and replaced by tonnes or “t”. Ton is generally reserved for unit of measure representing 2000 pounds.

In Table 1, for clarity, a unit (kg) should be added to the column heading.

In Table 2 the “≥” symbol in front of 0.05 should be changed to a “≤”.

In Table 2 the “≤” in front of 50 should be changed to “<” to be consistent with Table 1.

Paragraph 3 states an approximate weight of an incremental sample when the lot is greater than 50 tonnes, but based on Para 4 and Table 2 should this be changed from 50 tonnes to 0.5 tonnes.

Paragraph 3 states an approximate weight of an incremental sample when the lot is greater than 50 tonnes, but there is not a suggested weight, here or elsewhere in the plan, when lots are < 50 tonnes.

In paragraph 3 the word “metric” before tonnes should be removed, it is redundant with the use of “tonnes”.

The Definition of Laboratory Sample includes “If the aggregate sample is larger than the laboratory sample(s), the laboratory sample(s) should be removed in a random manner from the aggregate sample.” Text should be added that clearly states that if/when the aggregate sample size is reduced to produce the laboratory sample, it is performed in such a way to ensure that the laboratory sample is still representative of the subplot sampled.