



**Agenda Item 2**

**CX/FH 15/36/2  
December 2014**

**JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME**

**CODEX COMMITTEE ON METHODS OF ANALYSIS AND SAMPLING**

**Thirty-sixth Session**

**Budapest, Hungary, 23 – 27 February 2015**

**MATTERS REFERRED BY THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND OTHER SUBSIDIARY BODIES**

**A. DECISIONS OF THE 37<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE COMMISSION RELATED TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**

**Standards and Related Texts adopted<sup>1</sup>**

1. The Commission adopted the methods of analysis and sampling in Codex standards, with the exception of the biological and functional methods to determine paralytic shellfish toxicity.

**Methods for determination of marine biotoxins<sup>2</sup>**

2. The Commission considered the methods for determination of marine biotoxins (Section I-8.6) in the *Standard for Live and Raw Bivalve Molluscs* as endorsed and amended by CCMAS.

3. There were concerns regarding the classification of the mouse bioassay (MBA) as Type IV which would mean that it could not be used for control, inspection and regulatory purposes. This would have a negative impact on trade as the method was widely used and efficient, and allowed for adequate protection of human health.

4. It was further noted that the criteria as described in the Procedural Manual were not applicable to biological methods, but rather to chemical methods and consideration should be given to exempt biological methods as currently was the case for PCR and ELISA methods.

5. Delegations reiterated their view that CCMAS should consider developing criteria for biological methods as the current criteria used for selection of methods applied to chemical methods, and led to Type IV classification.

6. The Commission:

- i. returned the biological and functional methods to determine paralytic shellfish toxicity to CCMAS with a request to review the typing of the methods in question and encouraged Members to submit information in order for CCMAS to take a decision on this matter.
- ii. Encouraged CCMAS to proceed rapidly with its discussion on the way to deal with biological methods from a criteria approach perspective.

7. The Committee is **invited to consider the request** from CAC37.

**Codex Strategic Plan (2014-2019)<sup>3</sup>**

8. The Commission endorsed the conclusions and recommendations of the CCEXEC<sup>4</sup> to establish a monitoring framework for the implementation of the Strategic Plan including mechanisms for systematic data collection (e.g. templates) to make assessing information from multiple committee easier where these were the main providers of monitoring information.

<sup>1</sup> REP14/CAC, Appendix III

<sup>2</sup> REP14/CAC, paras 53 - 60

<sup>3</sup> REP14/EXEC, paras 42-43

<sup>4</sup> REP14/CAC, para. 119

9. The Committee is **invited to provide replies** to the activities of relevance as indicated in the provisional template attached as Appendix I to this document, in order to monitor the implementation of the Strategic Plan.

#### **Guidance on information documents**

10. The Commission agreed to forward guidance on information documents to all Committees as recommended by CCGP28.<sup>5</sup> The guidance on information documents is attached as Appendix II to this document.

11. The Committee is **invited to note** this guidance.

#### **OTHER MATTERS**

##### **Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR)**

##### **Annex to the Principles for the use of sampling and testing in international trade (CAC/GL 83-2013)**<sup>6</sup>

12. In regard to the work of CCMAS on the development of practical examples on sampling plans related to, amongst others, pesticide residues as an Annex to the Principles for the use of sampling and testing in international trade, the CCPR46 noted that work on sampling plans and methods of analysis for the determination of pesticide residues in food and feed was within the remit of CCPR. Therefore, the Committee agreed to request CCMAS to clarify the nature of this work and the potential implications for CCPR.

13. The Committee is **invited to clarify** the nature of this work and provide a reply to CCPR.

##### **Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables (CCPFV)**

##### **Standard for Certain Canned Fruits**<sup>7</sup>

14. CCPFV27 retained the method for fill of containers (glass containers) CAC/RM 46-1972 as no other method could be identified to replace the Codex method. It was agreed to request CCMAS to identify an appropriate internationally validated method for this provision.

15. The Committee is **invited to provide a reply** to CCPFV28.

##### **FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Asia (CCASIA)**

##### **Regional Standard for Tempe**<sup>8</sup>

16. CCASIA19 noted the recommendations of CCMAS34 and agreed to:

- Replace the method of analysis for lipid content with ISO 1211 | IDF1:2010;
- Retain the conversion factor of 5.71 for the determination of protein content noting that scientific literature (e.g. Food energy – methods of analysis and conversion factors. Report of a technical workshop Rome, 3-6 December 2002. FAO, 2003. Comprehensive review of scientific literature pertaining to nitrogen protein conversion factor) indicated that this factor was appropriate for soybean, which is the main ingredient of tempe.

17. The Committee is **invited to note** the information.

##### **Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU)**

##### **Methods for dietary fibre**<sup>9</sup>

18. CCNFSDU36 agreed to recommend to CCMAS to:

- Retain AACCI 32-45.01 as the Type I method for dietary and adopt AACCI 32-50.01 as the Type 1 method for insoluble and soluble parts of dietary fibre (which can be summed up to total dietary fibre) as they have different scopes and are collaboratively studied and designed to match the Codex definition.
- Review if AOAC 2009.01 should now be considered as Type IV because it has been modified and not been collaboratively studied and is no longer considered equivalent to AACCI 32-45.01;

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<sup>5</sup> REP14/CAC, para. 105

<sup>6</sup> REP14/PR, para. 10

<sup>7</sup> REP15/PFV, para. 18

<sup>8</sup> REP15/ASIA, para. 7-8

<sup>9</sup> REP15/NFSDU, paras 16 - 17

- Adopt AOAC 2011.25 as Type IV method because it has been modified and not been collaboratively studied and is no longer considered equivalent to AACCI 32-50.01.

#### **Trans fatty acids**<sup>10</sup>

19. CCNFSDU36 agreed to request advice from CCMAS on the lowest level of TFAs that current analytical methods can accurately detect as well as consistently reproduce.

#### **Method for detection of the toxic fraction in gluten harmful for individuals intolerant to gluten: ELISA G12 method**<sup>11</sup>

20. CCNFSDU36 considered a proposal for ELISA G12 method to be included in the *Standard for Food for Special Dietary Use for Persons Intolerant to Gluten* (CODEX STAN 118-1979) as it fulfilled all the criteria in section 5.1 of this Standard.

21. The Observer of AO ECS recalled that the threshold of “gluten free” as defined in CODEX STAN 118-1979 was determined by analysing food with the R5 method. Therefore, she requested that before taking a decision, consideration should be made regarding the labelling consequences for the term “gluten-free” before incorporating method G12 in the Standard, should the results determined by the G12 method in the same food samples be different than those determined by the R5 method.

22. CCNFSDU36 agreed to ask CCMAS to examine ELISA G12 as a potential additional method for determination of gluten.

23. The Committee is **invited to note and/or provide advice** to CCNFSDU37 on the above matters.

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<sup>10</sup> REP15/NFSDU, para. 156

<sup>11</sup> REP15/NFSDU, paras 184 - 186

## CODEX STRATEGIC PLAN 2014-2019

## 2014-2019 Strategic Plan Activities for which "all committees" are responsible

Strategic Goal	Objective	Activity	Expected Outcome	Measurable Indicators/Outputs
1: Establish international food standards that address current and emerging food issues.	1.1: Establish new and review existing Codex standards, based on priorities of the CAC.	1.1.1: Consistently apply decision-making and priority-setting criteria across Committees to ensure that the standards and work areas of highest priority are progressed in a timely manner.	New or updated standards are developed in a timely manner.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Priority setting criteria are reviewed, revised as required and applied.</li> <li>- # of standards revised and # of new standards developed based on these criteria.</li> </ul>
<b>Question to the Committee:</b>				
Is this activity relevant to the work of the Committee? YES/NO. Does the Committee use any specific criteria for standards development? Does the Committee intend to develop such criteria				
	1.2: Proactively identify emerging issues and Member needs and, where appropriate, develop relevant food standards.	1.2.1: Develop a systematic approach to promote identification of emerging issues related to food safety, nutrition, and fair practices in the food trade.	Timely Codex response to emerging issues and to the needs of Members.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Committees implement systematic approaches for identification of emerging issues.</li> <li>- Regular reports on systematic approach and emerging issues made to the CCEXEC through the Codex Secretariat.</li> </ul>
<b>Question to the Committee:</b>				
Is this activity relevant to the work of the Committee? YES/NO. How does the Committee identify emerging issues and members needs? Is there a systematic approach? Is it necessary to develop such an approach?				
		1.2.2: Develop and revise international and regional standards as needed, in response to needs identified by Members and in response to factors that affect food safety, nutrition and fair practices in the food trade.	Improved ability of Codex to develop standards relevant to the needs of its Members.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Input from committees identifying and prioritizing needs of Members.</li> <li>- Report to CCEXEC from committees on how standards developed address the needs of the Members as part of critical review process.</li> </ul>
<b>Included in question to 1.2.</b>				
2: Ensure the application of risk analysis principles in the development of Codex	2.1: Ensure consistent use of risk analysis principles and scientific advice.	2.1.1: Use the scientific advice of the joint FAO/WHO expert bodies to the	Scientific advice consistently taken into account by all relevant committees during	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- # of times the need for scientific advice is:</li> <li>- identified,</li> <li>- requested and,</li> </ul>

Strategic Goal	Objective	Activity	Expected Outcome	Measurable Indicators/Outputs
standards.		fullest extent possible in food safety and nutrition standards development based on the "Working Principles of Risk Analysis for Application in the Framework of the Codex Alimentarius".	the standard setting process.	- utilized in a timely manner.
<p><b>Question to the Committee:</b>  Is this activity relevant to the work of the Committee? YES/NO.  Does the committee request scientific advice in course of its work, how often does it request such advice.  Does the committee always use the scientific advice, if not, why not?</p>				
		2.1.2: Encourage engagement of scientific and technical expertise of Members and their representatives in the development of Codex standards.	Increase in scientific and technical experts at the national level contributing to the development of Codex standards.	- # of scientists and technical experts as part of Member delegations. - # of scientists and technical experts providing appropriate input to country positions.
<p><b>Question to the Committee:</b>  Is this activity relevant to the work of the Committee? YES/NO.  How do members make sure that the necessary scientific input is given into country positions and that the composition of the national delegation allows to adequately present and discuss this position? What guidance could be given by the Committee or FAO and WHO?</p>				
		2.1.3: Ensure that all relevant factors are fully considered in exploring risk management options in the context of Codex standard development.	Enhanced identification, and documentation of all relevant factors considered by committees during the development of Codex standards.	- # of committee documents identifying all relevant factors guiding risk management recommendations. - # of committee documents clearly reflecting how those relevant factors were considered in the context of standards development.
<p><b>Question to the Committee:</b>  Is this activity relevant to the work of the Committee? YES/NO.  How does the Committee ensure that all relevant factors have been taken into account when developing a standard and how are these documented?</p>				
		2.1.4: Communicate the risk management recommendations to all interested parties.	Risk management recommendations are effectively communicated and disseminated to all interested	- # of web publication/communications relaying Codex standards. - # of media

Strategic Goal	Objective	Activity	Expected Outcome	Measurable Indicators/Outputs
			parties.	releases disseminating Codex standards.
<p><b>Question to the Committee:</b> Is this activity relevant to the work of the Committee? YES/NO. When taking a risk management decision, does the committee give guidance to members how to communicate this decision? Would more consideration of this be helpful to members?</p>				
3: Facilitate the effective participation of all Codex Members.	3.1: Increase the effective participation of developing countries in Codex.	3.1.5: To the extent possible, promote the use of the official languages of the Commission in committees and working groups.	Active participation of Members in committees and working groups.	- Report on number of committees and working groups using the languages of the Commission.
<p><b>Question to the Committee:</b> Is this activity relevant to the work of the Committee? YES/NO. Is the use of official languages in working groups of the committee sufficient? What are the factors determining the choice of languages? How could the situation be improved?</p>				
	3.2: Promote capacity development programs that assist countries in creating sustainable national Codex structures.	3.2.3: Where practical, the use of Codex meetings as a forum to effectively conduct educational and technical capacity building activities.	Enhancement of the opportunities to conduct concurrent activities to maximize use of the resources of Codex and Members.	-. # of activities hosted on the margins of Codex meetings.
<p><b>Question to the Committee:</b> Is this activity relevant to the work of the Committee? YES/NO. Does the Committee organize technical capacity activities or other activities in the margins of Committee sessions? If yes – how many and with which topics have been organized in the past. If no – could this be useful and what topics could be addressed?</p>				
4: Implement effective and efficient work management systems and practices.	4.1: Strive for an effective, efficient, transparent, and consensus based standard setting process.	4.1.4: Ensure timely distribution of all Codex working documents in the working languages of the Committee/ Commission.	Codex documents distributed in a more timely manner consistent with timelines in the Procedural Manual.	<p>- Baseline Ratio (%) established for documents distributed at least 2 months prior to versus less than 2 months prior to a scheduled meeting.</p> <p>- Factors that potentially delay the circulation of documents identified and addressed.</p> <p>- An increase in the ratio (%) of documents circulated 2 months or more prior to meetings.</p>
<p><b>Question to the Committee:</b> Is this activity relevant to the work of the Committee? YES/NO. Does the Committee have a mechanism in place to ensure timely distribution of documents? What could be done to further improve the situation?</p>				
		4.1.5: Increase	Improved	- # of physical

Strategic Goal	Objective	Activity	Expected Outcome	Measurable Indicators/Outputs
		the scheduling of Work Group meetings in conjunction with Committee meetings.	efficiency in use of resources by Codex committees and Members.	working group meetings in conjunction with committee meetings, where appropriate.
<p><b>Question to the Committee:</b>                      Is this activity relevant to the work of the Committee? YES/NO.                      Does the Committee hold physical working groups independent of Committee sessions? If yes – why is this necessary?</p>				
	4.2: Enhance capacity to arrive at consensus in standards setting process.	4.2.1: Improve the understanding of Codex Members and delegates of the importance of and approach to consensus building of Codex work.	Members and delegates awareness of the importance of consensus in the Codex standard setting process improved.	- Training material on guidance to achieve consensus developed and made available in the languages of the Commission to delegates. - Regular dissemination of existing material to Members through Codex Contact Points. - Delegate training programs held in association with Codex meetings. - Impediments to consensus being achieved in Codex identified and analyzed and additional guidance developed to address such impediments, if necessary.
<p><b>Question to the Committee:</b>                      Is this activity relevant to the work of the Committee? YES/NO.                      Are there problems with finding consensus in the Committee? If yes – what are the impediments to consensus? What has been attempted and what more could be done?</p>				

**Appendix II****Guidance on information documents**

- i. It is recognized that there is the occasional need for Codex committees to make available information documents, however Codex committees should not deliberately develop such documents and these documents should be by-products of ongoing work of the Committee.
- ii. Documents are considered to be information documents if they:
  - Have been developed and agreed upon by a Codex committee;
  - Have been determined by the Committee to contain information that is useful to national governments and/or Codex members and observers and Codex committees; and
  - Are not considered appropriate by the Committee to be adopted as Codex standards, guidelines or codes of practice or as recommendations for inclusion in the Procedural Manual.
- iii. Information documents will be made available on the Codex website of the relevant committee, clearly separated from official Codex documents and adopted texts.