



Agenda Item 2

CX/MAS 13/34/2

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

Thirty-fourth Session
Budapest, Hungary, 4 - 8 March 2013

MATTERS REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE BY THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND OTHER CODEX COMMITTEES

A. DECISIONS OF THE 35TH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION RELATED TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

Provisions on the Use of Proprietary Methods in Codex Standards¹

1. The Delegation of India proposed to refer the draft provisions back to the CCMAS for further consideration, as the use of proprietary methods raised several concerns and had important implications for governments, and the draft had been finalized in only one session, while some countries could not attend the last session.
2. The Chair of the CCMAS clarified that the question of proprietary methods had been discussed for three years and that at the last session the proposed text had been agreed unanimously.
3. After some discussion, the Commission adopted the text as proposed.

Methods of Analysis in Codex Standards at different steps, including methods of analysis for food grade salt²

4. The Commission adopted the methods of analysis as proposed with the amendments proposed by Argentina.
5. With regard to the method of analysis for total nitrogen in fish sauce, the Committee agreed with the method proposed by CCMAS because another proposed method, AOAC 981.10, is not applicable to the commodity.

Draft Principles for the Use of Sampling and Testing in International Food Trade (section on Principles)³

6. The Commission adopted the Draft Principles at Step 5 as proposed by the Committee. This item will be considered under Agenda Item 4a.

¹ REP12/CAC paras 17 – 19 and Appendix II

² REP12/CAC paras 37, 38 and Appendix III

³ REP12/CAC Appendix IV

B. MATTERS ARISING FROM OTHER CODEX COMMITTEES AS RELATED TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

6th Session of the Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF)

Proposed Draft Maximum Levels For Arsenic In Rice⁴

7. While discussing the Proposed Draft Maximum Levels for Arsenic in Rice the JECFA Secretariat noted that a number of validated methods for inorganic arsenic are available, however these are complex and may not be available for routine monitoring in some countries. In analogy to the approaches taken for mercury, the possibility to measure total arsenic for routine monitoring, and in case where it exceeds the proposed MLs, a follow up with specific methods for inorganic arsenic could be considered.

8. Based on the above considerations, the CCCF agreed that CCMAS should be requested to identify suitable methods of analysis for the determination of inorganic arsenic in rice in order to assist the CCCF in the establishment of MLs; The Committee is invited to identify suitable methods of analysis for the determination of inorganic arsenic in rice.

32nd Session of the Committee on Fish and Fishery Products (CCFFP)

Proposed Draft Performance Criteria for Reference and Confirmatory Methods for Marine Biotoxins in the Standard for Live and Raw Bivalve Molluscs⁵

9. It was agreed to insert two new paragraphs indicating that methods should meet the numerical criteria listed in Table 1 and may meet either the minimum applicable range or the LOD and LOQ. There was some discussion on whether the methods should meet both the LOD and LOQ or either of the two. There seemed to be some discrepancy among the texts in the *Working Instructions for the Implementation of the Criteria Approach in Codex*, the *Guidelines for Establishing Numeric Values for Method Criteria and/or Assessing Methods for Compliance Thereof* and the flow chart in the *Guidelines for Establishing Numeric Values for Method Criteria and/or Assessing Methods for Compliance Thereof* (Principles for the Establishment of Codex Methods of Analysis, Procedural Manual). The Committee therefore agreed to request clarification from the Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling on whether methods should meet both LOD and LOQ or either of the two.

34th Session of the Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU)

Methods of Analysis for trans fatty acids⁶

10. The CCFL had requested the Committee to consider requesting CCMAS to review method AOCS Ce 1H-05 for trans fatty acids in foods as it is only applicable to certain types of fats and oils and to consider method AOAC 996.06, currently a Type II method for the Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling for saturated fatty acids, as a Type II method for trans fatty acids for the purposes of the Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling and potentially for the Guidelines on Nutrition and Health Claims. One delegation indicated that AOAC 996.06 has not been validated for trans fatty acids.

11. One delegation proposed to establish a table for trans fatty acids in different types of foods as in the case of dietary fibre. Another delegation expressed the view that methods should be established only if a specific condition for claim was described. One delegation indicated that the Guidelines allows the declaration of trans fatty acids and that there should be a method for their determination.

12. The Secretariat recalled that AOCS Ce 1H-05 is listed only for trans fatty acids in infant formula as a specific level was defined in the corresponding standard, and that, a general approach, methods were selected when relevant provisions existed in Codex texts.

13. The Committee agreed to ask CCMAS to review the applicability of the methods of analysis for the trans fatty acid currently defined in the Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling.

⁴ REP12/CF paras 62, 63

⁵ REP13/FFP para. 96

⁶ REP13/NFSDU paras 16 – 19