

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda Item 2

CX/MAS 21/41/2

March 2021

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX COMMITTEE ON METHODS OF ANALYSIS AND SAMPLING

41st Session
Virtual

17-21 and 25 May 2021

MATTERS REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE BY THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND OTHER SUBSIDIARY BODIES

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE 42ND AND 43RD SESSIONS OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

A. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

42nd Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC42)

Standards and Related Texts Adopted¹

1. The Commission **adopted** the methods of analysis / performance criteria for provisions in Codex standards; the preamble and document structure for the *General Standard on Methods of Analysis and Sampling* (CXS 234-1999); and editorial amendments of methods of analysis for provisions in Codex Standards (CXS 234-1999). The Commission noted that the preamble and new structure for CXS 234-1999 will not immediately be published as it would take time to prepare the transfer of all the methods into the new structure.
2. The Commission **adopted** the proposed draft Revised *Guidelines on Measurement Uncertainty* (CXG 54-2004) at Step 5.

Standards and Related Texts Revoked²

3. The Commission **revoked** the methods of analysis for provisions in Codex standards – CXS 234-1999.

43rd Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC43)

Recognition of the Commission of the current situation and necessary actions between CAC43 and CAC44³

4. CAC43:
 - (i) recognized the challenges facing the Codex Alimentarius Commission in fulfilling its duties as the pre-eminent international food standards setting body due to the COVID-19 pandemic;
 - (ii) recognized that while many Codex Committee meetings had to be postponed in 2020 this could not continue in 2021; and
 - (iii) supported the use of modern tools and approaches by Codex subsidiary bodies in line with the Codex core values to ensure Codex work progressed in a timely and effective manner.

Procedural aspects⁴

5. CAC43:
 - (i) agreed, on an exceptional basis in view of the circumstances surrounding the pandemic that, with respect to meetings and sessions of the Codex Subsidiary Bodies to be held in 2021, Rule XI (7) and (8) may be interpreted in a manner that includes a virtual setting;

¹ REP19/CAC, paras. 14, 73 and Appendix II, III and VII

² REP19/CAC, para. 95 and Appendix IV

³ REP20/CAC para. 10

⁴ REP20/CAC para. 20

- (ii) agreed on this basis, that Codex Subsidiary Bodies may be held virtually in 2021, if determined appropriate by FAO and WHO, in consultation with the host governments concerned and the Codex Secretariat.

Ongoing work of the subsidiary bodies⁵

6. CAC43 recommended to all subsidiary bodies and Members and Observers to make full use of existing remote working mechanisms such as EWGs and CLs and to plan their virtual committee meetings in such a manner as to optimize the possibility to complete their agendas.

MATTERS ARISING FROM OTHER CODEX SUBSIDIARY BODIES

A. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD HYGIENE (CCFH51)

CXS 234-1999 as single reference for methods of analysis⁶

7. CCFH51 agreed to request the Codex Secretariat to provide links to the relevant CCFH texts containing methods of analysis for inclusion of the links in CXS 234-1999 and in principle to transfer the methods in the *General Methods for the Detection of Irradiated Foods* (CXS 231-2001) to CXS 234-1999. CCFH51 noted the offer of Brazil to review the methods in CXS 231-2001 to determine their fitness for purpose and their possible conversion to performance-based criteria for consideration by CCFH52.

FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARRIBEAN (CCLAC21)⁷

Review and update of CXS 234-1999 and development of database of methods

8. CCLAC21 took note of the recent progress and ongoing work and the importance of Codex methods in having reliable results, and the value of CXS 234-1999 for national food control management systems.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION (CCEXEC78)

Implementation of CAC42: Feedback on Changes and Proposals for Further Improvements⁸

9. CCEXEC78 requested that Chairpersons of subsidiary bodies and CAC together with the Secretariat:
- a) develop strategies to prevent or mitigate technical discussions at CAC on topics for which there was no consensus and communicate these strategies to Members. Such strategies may include short adjournments of the session for informal discussions or suspension of discussions on items that overrun the planned time limit; and
 - b) ensure that, at meetings of CAC, written comments received were given due consideration and the technical basis of reservations were included in meeting reports.

Regular Review of Codex Work Management 2018-2019: Critical Review Process⁹

10. CCEXEC78 concluded that the Critical Review was overall an efficient and effective work management tool and that there was no urgent need to revise it substantively while recognizing that improvements could be further discussed.

11. In this regard, CCEXEC78 also recognized that CCEXEC could provide guidance and advice to subsidiary bodies and that subsidiary bodies could also seek advice from CCEXEC and that such exchange could take place outside of the Critical Review process.

Follow-Up to Regular Review of Codex Work Management 2017-2018: Periodic Review of Codex Standards¹⁰

12. CCEXEC78 concluded that the current approaches to standards review were working for active subsidiary bodies, and encouraged these bodies to continuously enhance their work management processes to consider the need for reviewing existing Codex standards.

⁵ REP20/CAC para. 31

⁶ REP20/FH, para. 8

⁷ REP20/LAC, para. 31

⁸ REP20/EXEC1, para. 30, ii

⁹ REP20/EXEC1, paras. 46, 51

¹⁰ REP 20/EXEC1, paras. 54-57

Follow-up to Regular Review of Codex Work Management 2017-2018: Use of References in Codex Texts¹¹

13. CCEXEC78 emphasized that while there may on occasion be merit in including references to standards of another standard setting organization, these should be kept to a minimum since they become an integral part of a Codex text and require life-long monitoring.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION (CCEXEC80)¹²

14. CCEXEC80 recognized that CAC43 had agreed on the possibility of holding virtual meetings in 2021 and endorsed the proposals from the sub-committee on Codex and the pandemic to operationalize this decision, noting that this did not at present require any change to formal Codex procedures.

RECOMMENDATION ON MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

15. The Committee **is invited to note** the above-information and that the draft revision of the Guidelines on Measurement Uncertainty will be considered under Agenda Item 5.

B. MATTERS FOR ACTION**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION (CCEXEC77)¹³**

16. CCEXEC77 encouraged CCMAS to liaise with other committees regarding methods of analysis/performance criteria and sampling and the use of the *General Standard on Methods of Analysis and Sampling* (CXS 234-1999) as the single reference point for methods of analysis/performance criteria and sampling as much as possible.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON NUTRITION AND FOODS FOR SPECIAL DIETARY USES (CCNFSDU41)Microbiological methods¹⁴

17. CCNFSDU41 agreed to inform CCMAS that the microbiological methods for nicotinamide, niacin, pantothenic acid, pyridoxine, cobalamin, and Vitamin D were still in use and to retain these methods.

Methods of analysis for provisions in the *Standard for Follow-Up Formula* (CXS 156-1987)

18. CCNFSDU41 agreed to inform CCMAS to replace AOAC 999.15 / EN 14148 for Vitamin K with AOAC 2015.09 / ISO 21446 as Type II.

Performance criteria for Type III methods for determination of nine minerals in CXS 72-1981¹⁵

19. CCNFSDU41 agreed to request CCMAS to develop performance criteria for Type III methods for determination of the nine minerals (calcium, copper, iron, magnesium, manganese, phosphorous, potassium, sodium and zinc) in the *Standard for Infant Formula and Formulas for Special Medical Purposes Intended for Infants* (CXS 72-1981), noting that this approach would provide flexibility to members to choose methods for general use; and to inform CCMAS that Type II methods should continue to be listed in CXS 234-1999 as specific methods were preferred for dispute settlement purposes.

Methods to measure sweetness in Drink/Product for young children with added nutrients / Drink for young children¹⁶

20. CCNFSDU41 agreed to ask CCMAS whether there were internationally validated methods to measure sweetness of carbohydrate sources for follow up formula for older infants and drink/product for young children with added nutrients or drink for young children.

Dietary fibre: Applicable to the Guidelines for Use of Nutrition and Health Claims (CXG 23-1997): Table of Conditions for Claims¹⁷

21. CCNFSDU41 agreed to submit to CCMAS the method for dietary fibre, ICC Standard No. 185 / AOAC 2017.16 / as Type I method to replace AOAC 2009.01 / AACC Intl 32-45.01.

¹¹ REP20/EXEC1, paras. 58-64

¹² REP21/EXEC1, paras. 35-36

¹³ REP19/EXEC2, para 21

¹⁴ REP20/NFSDU, paras. 198-199

¹⁵ REP20/NFSDU, para 9

¹⁶ REP20/NFSDU, para 49

¹⁷ REP20/NFSDU, para 196

FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR ASIA (CCASIA21)¹⁸Methods of analysis for laver products (CXS 323R-2017)

22. CCASIA21 clarified that the method for acid value was for the extracted oil and agreed to forward the information, in response to the CCMAS question regarding extraction method, for consideration by CCMAS.

23. CCASIA21 agreed to provide the validation data on the method of analysis for moisture content for consideration to re-type the testing method for moisture content by CCMAS. See [CRD2](#) presented to CCASIA21 for the validation data.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON PROCESSED FOODS AND VEGETABLES (CCPFV29)¹⁹

24. Concerning the request of CCMAS38 to recommend a method for fat extraction for testing for free fatty acids (FFA) in quick frozen French fried potatoes, CCPFV29 noted that the testing of FFA is performed on oil used to “par-fry” the potatoes (before freezing) and not on the potatoes. As a result, the FFA analysis would not be a quality requirement for quick-frozen French fried potatoes.

25. CCPFV29 recommended removing the FFA requirement for analysis from the annex on French Fried Potatoes of the *Standard for Quick Frozen Vegetables* (CXS 320-2015) and informing CCMAS that the FFA test and an extraction method were not needed.

RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE MATTERS FOR ACTION

26. The Committee **is invited to:**

- a. **continue** its liaison with other committees as encouraged by CCEXEC; and
- b. **consider** the matters related to methods of analysis from CCFNSDU, CCASIA and CCPFV.

(Note: all the above matters related to methods of analysis will be considered by the WG on endorsement.)

¹⁸ REP20/ASIA, paras. 52-53

¹⁹ REP20/PFV, paras. 32-33 and App. VIII