GUIDELINES FOR CODEX COMMITTEES AND *AD HOC* INTERGOVERNMENTAL TASK FORCES

GUIDELINES TO HOST GOVERNMENTS OF CODEX COMMITTEES AND AD HOC INTERGOVERNMENTAL TASK FORCES

INTRODUCTION

By virtue of Article 7 of the Statutes of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and Rule XI.1(b) of its Rules of Procedure, the Commission has established a number of Codex Committees and *ad hoc* Intergovernmental Task Forces to prepare standards in accordance with the Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Standards and Coordinating Committees to exercise general coordination of its work in specific regions or groups of countries. The Rules of Procedure of the Commission shall apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to Codex Committees, Coordinating Committees and *ad hoc* Intergovernmental Task Forces. The Guidelines applying to Codex Committees, as described in this Section, apply also to Coordinating Committees and to Codex *ad hoc* Intergovernmental Task Forces.

COMPOSITION OF CODEX COMMITTEES

MEMBERSHIP

Membership of Codex Committees is open to Members of the Commission who have notified the Director-General of FAO or WHO of their desire to be considered as members thereof or to selected members designated by the Commission. Membership of Regional Coordinating Committees is open only to Members of the Commission belonging to the region or group of countries concerned.

OBSERVERS

Any other Member of the Commission or any Member or Associate Member of FAO or WHO which has not become a Member of the Commission may participate as an observer at any Codex Committee if it has notified the Director-General of FAO or WHO of its wish to do so. Such countries may participate fully in the discussions of the Committee and shall be provided with the same opportunities as other Members to express their point of view (including the submission of memoranda), but without the right to vote or to move motions either of substance or of procedure. International organizations which have formal relations with either FAO or WHO should also be invited to

attend in an observer capacity sessions of those Codex Committees which are of interest to them.

ORGANIZATION AND DUTIES

CHAIRPERSON

The Codex Alimentarius Commission will designate a member country of the Commission, which has indicated its willingness to accept financial and all other responsibility, as having responsibility for appointing a chairperson of the Committee. The member country concerned is responsible for appointing the chairperson of the Committee from among its own nationals. Should this person for any reason be unable to take the chair, the member country concerned shall designate another person to perform the functions of the chairperson for as long as the chairperson is unable to do so. A Committee may appoint at any session one or more rapporteurs from among the delegates present.

SECRETARIAT

A member country to which a Codex Committee has been assigned is responsible for providing all conference services including the secretariat. The secretariat should have adequate administrative support staff able to work easily in the languages used at the session and should have at its disposal adequate word processing and document reproducing equipment. Interpretation, preferably simultaneous, should be provided from and into all languages used at the session, and if the report of the session is to be adopted in more than one of the working languages of the Committee, then the services of a translator should be available. The Committee secretariat and the Joint FAO/WHO (Codex) Secretariat are charged with the preparation of the draft report in consultation with the rapporteurs, if any.

DUTIES AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

The duties of a Codex Committee shall include:

(a) the drawing up of a list of priorities as appropriate, among the subjects and products within its terms of reference,

(b) consideration of the types of safety and quality elements (or recommendations) to be covered, whether in standards for general application or in reference to specific food products,

(c) consideration of the types of product to be covered by standards, e.g., whether materials for further processing into food should be covered,

(d) preparation of draft Codex standards within its terms of reference,

(e) reporting to each session of the Commission on the progress of its work and, where necessary, on any difficulties caused by its terms of reference, together with suggestions for their amendment.

(f) the review and, as necessary, revision of existing standards and related texts on a scheduled, periodic basis to ensure that the standards and related texts within its terms of reference are consistent with current scientific knowledge and other relevant information.

SESSIONS

DATE AND PLACE

A member country to which a Codex Committee has been assigned is consulted by the Directors-general of FAO and WHO before they determine when and where a session of this Committee shall be convened.

The member country should consider arrangements for holding Codex sessions in developing countries.

INVITATIONS AND PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Sessions of Codex Committees and Coordinating Committees will be convened by the Directors-General of FAO and WHO in consultation with the chairperson of the respective Codex Committee. The letter of invitation and provisional agenda shall be prepared by the Secretary, Codex Alimentarius Commission, Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme, FAO, Rome, in consultation with the chairperson of the Committee for issue by the Directors-General to all Members and Associate Members of FAO and WHO or, in the case of Coordinating Committees, to the countries of the region or group of countries concerned, Codex Contact Points and interested international organizations in accordance with the official mailing lists of FAO and WHO. Chairpersons should, before finalizing the drafts, inform and consult with the national Codex Contact Point where one has been established, and, if necessary, obtain clearance from the national authorities concerned (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Health, or as the case may be). The invitation and Provisional Agenda will be translated and distributed by FAO/WHO in the working languages of the Commission at least four months before the date of the meeting.

Invitations should include the following:

(a) title of the Codex Committee,

(b) time and date of opening and date of closing of the session,

(c) place of the session,

(d) languages to be used and arrangements for interpretation, i.e., whether simultaneous or not,

(e) if appropriate, information on hotel accommodation,

(f) request for the names of the chief delegate and other members of the delegation, and for information on whether the chief delegate of a government will be attending as a representative or in the capacity of an observer.

Replies to invitations will normally be requested to be sent to reach the chairperson as early as possible and in any case not less than 30 days before the session. A copy should be sent also to the Secretary, Codex Alimentarius Commission, Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme, FAO, Rome. It is of the utmost importance that by the date requested a reply to invitations should be sent by all those governments and international organizations which intend to participate. The reply should specify the number of copies and the language of the documents required.

The Provisional Agenda should state the time, date and place of the meeting and should include the following items:

(a) adoption of the agenda,

(b) if considered necessary, election of rapporteurs,

(c) items relating to subject matter to be discussed, including, where appropriate, the step in the Commission's Procedure for the Elaboration of Standards at which the item is being dealt with at the session. There should also be reference to the Committee papers relevant to the item,

(d) any other business,

(e) consideration of date and place of next session,

(f) adoption of draft report.

The work of the Committee and the length of the meeting should be so arranged as to leave sufficient time at the end of the session for a report of the Committee's transactions to be agreed.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

A Codex or Coordinating Committee may assign specific tasks to countries, groups of countries or to international organizations represented at meetings of the Committee and may ask member countries and international organizations for views on specific points.

Ad hoc working groups established to accomplish specific tasks shall be

disbanded once the tasks have been accomplished as determined by the Committee.

A Codex or Coordinating Committee may not set up standing sub-committees, whether open to all Members of the Commission or not, without the specific approval of the Commission.

PREPARATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF PAPERS

Papers for a session should be sent by the chairperson of the Codex Committee concerned at least two months before the opening of the session to the following:

(i) all Codex Contact Points,

(ii) chief delegates of member countries, of observer countries and of international organizations, and

(iii) other participants on the basis of replies received. Twenty copies of all papers in each of the languages used in the Committee concerned should be sent to the Secretary, Codex Alimentarius Commission, Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme, FAO, Rome.

Papers for a session prepared by participants must be drafted in one of the working languages of the Commission, which should, if possible, be one of the languages used in the Codex Committee concerned. These papers should be sent to the chairperson of the Committee, with a copy to the Secretary, Codex Alimentarius Commission, Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme, FAO, Rome, in good time to be included in the distribution of papers for the session.

Documents circulated at a session of a Codex Committee other than draft documents prepared at the session and ultimately issued in a final form, should subsequently receive the same distribution as other papers prepared for the Committee.

Codex Contact Points will be responsible for ensuring that papers [12] are circulated to those concerned within their own country and for ensuring that all necessary action is taken by the date specified.

Consecutive reference numbers in suitable series should be assigned to all documents of Codex Committees. The reference number should appear at the top right-hand corner of the first page together with a statement of the language in which the document was prepared and the date of its preparation. A clear statement should be made of the provenance (origin or author country) of the

[12] See Uniform System of References for Codex Documents.

paper immediately under the title. The text should be divided into numbered paragraphs. At the end of these guidelines is a series of references for Codex documents adopted by the Codex Alimentarius Commission for its own sessions and those of its subsidiary bodies.

Members of the Codex Committees should advise the Committee chairperson through their Codex Contact Point of the number of copies of documents normally required.

Working papers of Codex Committees may be circulated freely to all those assisting a delegation in preparing for the business of the Committee; they should not, however, be published. There is, however, no objection to the publication of reports of the meetings of Committees or of completed draft standards.

GUIDELINES ON THE CONDUCT OF MEETINGS OF CODEX COMMITTEES AND AD HOC INTERGOVERNMENTAL TASK FORCES

INTRODUCTION

By virtue of Article 7 of the Statutes of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and Rule XI.1(b) of its Rules of Procedure, the Commission has established a number of Codex Committees and *ad hoc* Intergovernmental Task Forces to prepare standards in accordance with the Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Standards and Coordinating Committees to exercise general coordination of its work in specific regions or groups of countries. The Rules of Procedure of the Commission shall apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to Codex Committees, Coordinating Committees and *ad hoc* Intergovernmental Task Forces. The Guidelines applying to the conduct of meetings of Codex Committees as described in this Section apply also to those of Coordinating Committees and to those of Codex *ad hoc* Intergovernmental Task Forces.

CONDUCT OF MEETINGS

Meetings of Codex and Coordinating Committees shall be held in public unless the Committee decides otherwise. Member countries responsible for Codex and Coordinating Committees shall decide who should open meetings on their behalf.

Meetings should be conducted in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the *Codex Alimentarius* Commission.

Only the chief delegates of members, or of observer countries or of international organizations have the right to speak unless they authorize other members of their delegations to do so.

The representative of a regional economic integration organization shall provide the chairperson of the Committee, before the beginning of each session, with a written statement outlining where the competence lies between this organization and its members for each item, or subparts thereof, as appropriate, of the provisional agenda, pursuant to the Declaration of Competence submitted according to Rule II of the Rules of Procedure of the Codex Alimentarius Commission by this organization. In areas of shared ("mixed") competence between this organization and its members, this statement shall make clear which party has the voting right.

Delegations and delegations from observer countries who wish their opposition to a decision of the Committee to be recorded may do so, whether the decision has been taken by a vote or not, by asking for a statement of their position to be contained in the report of the Committee. This statement should not merely use

a phrase such as: "The delegation of X reserved its position" but should make clear the extent of the delegation's opposition to a particular decision of the Committee and state whether they were simply opposed to the decision or wished for a further opportunity to consider the question.

REPORTS

In preparing reports, the following points shall be borne in mind:

(a) decisions should be clearly stated; action taken in regard to economic impact statements should be fully recorded; all decisions on draft standards should be accompanied by an indication of the step in the Procedure that the standards have reached;

(b) if action has to be taken before the next meeting of the Committee, the nature of the action, who is to take it and when the action must be completed should be clearly stated;

(c) where matters require attention by other Codex Committees, this should be clearly stated;

(d) if the report is of any length, summaries of points agreed and the action to be taken should be included at the end of the report, and in any case, a section should be included at the end of the report showing clearly in summary form:

- standards considered at the session and the steps they have reached;
- standards at any step of the Procedure, the consideration of which has been postponed or which are held in abeyance and the steps which they have reached;
- new standards proposed for consideration, the probable time of their consideration at Step 2 and the responsibility for drawing up the first draft.

The following appendices should be attached to the report:

(a) list of participants with full postal addresses,

(b) draft standards with an indication of the step in the Procedure which has been reached.

The Joint FAO/WHO Secretariat should ensure that, as soon as possible and in any event not later than one month after the end of the session, copies of the final report, as adopted in the languages of the Committee, are sent to all members and observers of the Commission.

Circular Letters should be attached to the report, as required, requesting comments on Proposed Draft or Draft Standards or Related Texts at Step 5, 8 or Step 5 (Accelerated), with the indication of the date by which comments or proposed amendments must be received in writing, so as to allow such comments to be considered by the Commission.

DRAWING UP OF CODEX STANDARDS

A Codex Committee, in drawing up standards and related texts, should bear in mind the following:

(a) the guidance given in the General Principles of the Codex Alimentarius;

(b) that all standards and related texts should have a preface containing the following information:

- the description of the standard or related text,
- a brief description of the scope and purpose(s) of the standard or related text,
- references including the step which the standard or related text has reached in the Commission's Procedures for the Elaboration of Standards, together with the date on which the draft was approved,
- matters in the draft standard or related text requiring endorsement or action by other Codex Committees.

(c) that for standards or any related text for a product which includes a number of sub-categories, the Committee should give preference to the development of a general standard or related text with specific provisions as necessary for sub-categories.

GUIDELINES TO CHAIRPERSONS OF CODEX COMMITTEES AND AD HOC INTERGOVERNMENTAL TASK FORCES

INTRODUCTION

By virtue of Article 7 of the Statutes of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and Rule XI.1(b) of its Rules of Procedure, the Commission has established a number of Codex Committees and *ad hoc* Intergovernmental Task Forces to prepare standards in accordance with the Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Standards and Coordinating Committees to exercise general coordination of its work in specific regions or groups of countries. The Rules of Procedure of the Commission shall apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to Codex Committees, Coordinating Committees and *ad hoc* Intergovernmental Task Forces. The Guidelines applying to the Chairpersons of Codex Committees as described in this Section apply also to those of Coordinating Committees and to those of Codex *ad hoc* Intergovernmental Task Forces.

DESIGNATION

The Codex Alimentarius Commission will designate a member country of the Commission, which has indicated its willingness to accept financial and all other responsibility, as having responsibility for appointing a chairperson of the Committee. The member country concerned is responsible for appointing the chairperson of the Committee from among its own nationals. Should this person for any reason be unable to take the chair, the member country concerned shall designate another person to perform the functions of the chairperson for as long as the chairperson is unable to do so.

CRITERIA FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRPERSONS

By virtue of Article 7 of its Statutes, the Commission may establish such subsidiary bodies as it deems necessary for the accomplishment of its task.

The Member countries who shall be designated, under Rule XI.10, as responsible for appointing Chairpersons of subsidiary bodies established under Rule XI.1(b)(i) and Rule XI.1(b)(ii), shall retain the right to appoint a chairperson of their choice.

The following criteria may be considered during the selection of the appointee:

- to be a national of the member country responsible for appointing the chairperson of the Committee;
- to have a general knowledge in the fields of the subsidiary body concerned and to be able to understand and analyse technical issues;
- insofar as possible, to be able to serve in a continuing capacity;
- to be familiar with the system of Codex and its rules, and to have experience in the work of relevant international, governmental or non-governmental organizations;
- to be able to communicate clearly both orally and in writing in one of the working languages of the Commission;
- to have demonstrated ability in chairing meetings with objectivity and impartiality, and in facilitating consensus building;
- to exercise tact and sensitivity to issues of particular importance to members of the Commission;
- not to engage and/or not to have engaged in activities which could give rise to a conflict of interest on any item on the agenda of the Committee.

CONDUCT OF MEETINGS

The chairperson should invite observations from members of the Committee concerning the Provisional Agenda and in the light of such observations formally request the Committee to adopt the Provisional Agenda or the amended agenda.

Meetings should be conducted in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. Attention is particularly drawn to Rule VIII.7 which reads: "The provisions of Rule XII of the General Rules of FAO shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to all matters which are not specifically dealt with under Rule VIII of the present Rules."

Rule XII of the General Rules of FAO, a copy of which will be supplied to all chairpersons of Codex and Coordinating Committees, gives full instructions on the procedures to be followed in dealing with voting, points of order, adjournment and suspension of meetings, adjournment and closure of discussions on a particular item, reconsideration of a subject already decided and the order in which amendments should be dealt with.

Chairpersons of Codex Committees should ensure that all questions are fully discussed, in particular statements concerning possible economic implications of standards under consideration at Steps 4 and 7.

Chairpersons should also ensure that the written comments, received in a timely manner, of members and observers not present at the session are considered by the Committee; that all issues are put clearly to the Committee. This can usually best be done by stating what appears to be the generally acceptable view and asking delegates whether they have any objection to its being adopted.

Chairpersons should use the statement submitted by the representatives of the regional economic integration organizations on the matters of respective competence between these organizations and their members in the conduct of meetings, including assessing of the situation with regard to the party which has the right to vote.

CONSENSUS[13]

The chairpersons should always try to arrive at a consensus and should not ask the Committee to proceed to voting if agreement on the Committee's decision can be secured by consensus.

The *Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Standards and Related Texts* allows for full discussion and exchange of views on the issue under consideration, in order to ensure the transparency of the process and arrive at compromises that would facilitate consensus.

Much of the responsibility for facilitating the achievement of consensus would lie in the hands of the Chairpersons.

When working out the means of progressing the work of a Committee, the chairperson should consider:

(a) the need for timely progress in developing standards ;

(b) the need to achieve consensus among the members as to the content of, and justification for, proposed standards;

(c) the importance of achieving consensus at all stages of the elaboration of standards and that draft standards should, as a matter of principle, be submitted to the Commission for adoption only where consensus has been achieved at the technical level.

The chairperson should also consider implementing the following measures in order to facilitate consensus building in the elaboration of standards at the Committee stage:

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[13] Reference is made to the *Measures to facilitate consensus* (see Appendix: General Decisions of the Codex Alimentarius Commission).

(a) ensuring that: *(i)* the scientific basis is well established on current data including, wherever possible, scientific data and intake and exposure information from the developing countries; *(ii)* where data from developing countries are not available, an explicit request for collecting and making available such data is made; and *(iii)* where necessary, further studies are carried out in order to clarify controversial issues;

(b) ensuring that issues are thoroughly discussed at meetings of the Committees concerned;

(c) organizing informal meetings of the parties concerned where disagreements arise, provided that the objectives of any such meetings are clearly defined by the Committee concerned and that participation is open to all interested delegations and observers in order to preserve transparency;

(d) requesting the Commission, where possible, for a redefinition of the scope of the subject matter being considered for the elaboration of standards in order to cut out issues on which consensus cannot be reached;

(e) ensuring that matters are not progressed from step to step until all relevant concerns are taken into account and adequate compromises worked out[14];

(f) facilitating increased involvement and participation of developing countries.

[14] This does not preclude square bracketing of parts of a text in the early stages of the elaboration of a standard, where there is consensus on the large majority of the text.

GUIDELINES ON PHYSICAL WORKING GROUPS

INTRODUCTION

Working groups should be *ad hoc*, open to all members, take into account the problems of developing country participation and only be established where there is consensus in the Committee to do so and other strategies have been considered.

The Rules of Procedure and the guidelines governing the work of a Codex Committee shall apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to the working groups this Committee establishes, unless stated otherwise in these Guidelines.[15]

The Guidelines applying to physical working groups (hereinafter, "working groups") established by Codex Committees as described in these guidelines apply also to those established by Regional Coordinating Committees and by Codex *ad hoc* Intergovernmental Task Forces.

COMPOSITION OF WORKING GROUPS

MEMBERSHIP

Membership of a working group is notified to the chairperson of the Codex Committee and to the host country secretariat of the Committee.

When establishing a working group, a Codex Committee should ensure, as far as possible, that the membership is representative of the membership of the Commission.

OBSERVERS

Observers should notify the Chairperson of the Codex Committee and to the host country secretariat of the Committee of their wish to participate in a working group. Observers may participate in all sessions and activities of a working group, unless otherwise specified by the Committee members.

ORGANIZATION AND DUTIES

A Codex Committee may decide that the working groups will be managed by the Host Government Secretariat, or by another member of the Commission, having volunteered to undertake this responsibility and having been accepted by the Committee (hereinafter "the Host").

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[15] The provisions of the "Guidelines to Host Governments of Codex Committees and *ad hoc* Intergovernmental Task Forces", the "Guidelines on the Conduct of Meetings of Codex Committees and *ad hoc* Intergovernmental Task Forces" and the "Guidelines to Chairpersons of Codex Committees and *ad hoc* Intergovernmental Task Forces" are especially relevant in this matter.

CHAIRPERSON

The Host is responsible for appointing the chairperson of the working group. While selecting of the appointee, the Host may consider applying, where relevant, the *Codex Criteria for the Appointment of Chairpersons*[16].

SECRETARIAT

The Host is responsible for providing all conference services, including the secretariat, for the working group and should meet all the requirements agreed upon by the Committee, when the working group was established.

DUTIES AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

The terms of reference of the working group shall be established by the Committee during its plenary session, shall be limited to the immediate task at hand and normally shall not be subsequently modified.

The terms of reference shall clearly state the objective(s) to be achieved by the establishment of the working group and the language(s) to be used. Interpretation and translation services should be provided in all languages of the Committee, unless decided otherwise by the Committee.

The terms of reference shall clearly state the time frame by which the work is expected to be completed. The proposals/recommendations of a working group shall be presented to the Committee for consideration.

They shall not be binding on the Committee.

The working group shall be dissolved after the specified work has been completed or when the time limit allocated for the work has expired or at any other point in time, if the Codex Committee which has established it, so decides.

No decision on behalf of the Committee, nor vote, either on point of substance or of procedure, shall take place in working groups.

SESSIONS

DATE

A session of a working group may be held at any time, in-between two sessions or in conjunction with the session of the Committee, which has established it.

When convened in-between two sessions of the Committee, the session of the working group should be scheduled as to allow the working group to report to the Committee well in advance of the next meeting so that countries and other

[16] Reference is made to the Guidelines to Chairpersons of Codex Committees and ad hoc Intergovernmental Task Forces.

interested parties, that were not members of the working group, can comment on the proposals that the working group might put to the Committee.

When convened during a session of a Committee, a working group should be scheduled so as to allow participation of all delegations present at the session.

WORKING GROUP NOTIFICATION AND PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Sessions of a working group shall be convened by the Chairperson designated by the Host.

If the working group is scheduled in-between two sessions of the Committee, a notice of the working group meeting and provisional agenda shall be prepared, translated and distributed by the Host. It shall be issued to all Members and Observers who have expressed the willingness to attend the meeting. These documents should be distributed as far in advance of the meeting as possible.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Written comments will be circulated to all concerned by the secretariat of the Host.

PREPARATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF PAPERS

The secretariat of the Host should circulate the papers at least two months before the opening of the session.

Paper for the session prepared by the participants should be sent to the secretariat of the Host, in good time.

CONCLUSIONS

The Secretariat of the Host should, as soon as possible after the end of the session of a working group, send a copy of the final conclusions, in the form of either a discussion paper or a working document, and the list of participants, to the Joint FAO/WHO Secretariat and to the host country secretariat of the Committee.

Conclusions of a working group shall be distributed to all Codex Contact Points and observers by the Joint FAO/WHO Secretariat in time to allow full consideration of the working group's recommendations.

The Joint FAO/WHO Secretariat should ensure that these conclusions are included in the distribution of papers for the next session of the Codex Committee.

The working group shall report, through its Chairperson, on the progress of its work at the next session of the Committee, which has established the working group.

GUIDELINES ON ELECTRONIC WORKING GROUPS

INTRODUCTION

The search for world-wide consensus and for greater acceptability of Codex Standards requires the involvement of all the Members of Codex and the active participation of developing countries.

Special efforts are needed to enhance the participation of developing countries in Codex Committees, by increased use of written communications, especially through remote participation via email, internet and other modern technologies, in the work done between sessions of Committees.

Codex Committees, when deciding to undertake work between sessions, should give the first priority to considering the establishment of electronic working groups.

The Rules of Procedure and the guidelines governing the work of a Committee shall apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to the electronic working groups this Committee establishes, unless stated otherwise in these Guidelines.[17]

The Guidelines applying to electronic working groups established by Codex Committees, as described in these Guidelines, apply also to those established by Regional Coordinating Committees and by Codex *ad hoc* Intergovernmental Task Forces.

COMPOSITION OF ELECTRONIC WORKING GROUPS

MEMBERSHIP

Membership of an electronic working group is notified the chairperson of the Codex Committee and to the host country secretariat of the Committee.

When establishing an electronic working group, a Codex Committee should ensure, as far as possible, that the membership is representative of the membership of the Commission.

OBSERVERS

Observers should notify the Chairperson of the Committee and to the host country secretariat of the Committee, of their wish to participate in a working

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[17] The provisions of the "Guidelines to Host Governments of Codex Committees and *ad hoc* Intergovernmental Task Forces", the "Guidelines on the Conduct of Meetings of Codex Committees and *ad hoc* Intergovernmental Task Forces", the "Guidelines to Chairpersons of Codex Committees and *ad hoc* Intergovernmental Task Forces" and the "Guidelines on Physical Working Groups" are especially relevant in this matter.

group. Observers may participate in all the activities of an electronic working group, unless otherwise specified by Committee members.

ORGANIZATION AND DUTIES

Codex Committees may decide that the electronic working group will be managed by the Host Government Secretariat, or by another member of the Commission, having volunteered to undertake this responsibility and having been accepted by the Committee (hereinafter "the Host"). The Host should be notified of the participants in an electronic working group by Codex Members through their Codex Contact Points and by Observer organizations.

MANAGEMENT

The Host is responsible for the management of the electronic working group for which it has been appointed.

The business of an electronic working group is transacted exclusively by electronic means.

SECRETARIAT

The Host is responsible for providing the secretariat of the electronic working group with all services needed for its functioning, including suitable Information Technology (IT) equipment, and should meet all the requirements agreed upon by the Committee.

DUTIES AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

The terms of reference of the electronic working group shall be established by the Committee during its plenary session, shall be limited to the immediate task at hand and normally shall not be subsequently modified.

The terms of reference shall clearly state the objective(s) to be achieved by the establishment of the electronic working group and the language(s) to be used. Interpretation and translation services should be provided in all languages of the Committee, unless decided otherwise by the Committee.

The terms of reference shall clearly state the time frame by which the work is expected to be completed.

The electronic working group shall be dissolved after the specified work has been completed or when the time limit allocated for the work has expired or at any other point in time, if the Codex Committee which has established it, so decides.

No decision on behalf of the Committee, nor vote, either on point of substance or of procedure, shall take place in electronic working groups.

ELECTRONIC WORKING GROUP NOTIFICATION AND PROGRAMME OF WORK

A notice indicating when the electronic working group starts to operate and a programme of work shall be prepared, translated and distributed by the Host to all Members and Observers who have expressed the willingness to contribute.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Circulation of drafts and calls for comments shall include a request for the names, positions and e-mail addresses of all the persons willing to contribute to the business of the electronic working group.

Comments from participants should be submitted exclusively by electronic means. These submissions shall be circulated to all concerned by the Host.

Any participant should be made aware of the materials contributed by all others.

An update on the progress of its work shall be presented by the Host at each session of the Codex Committee which has established it, indicating the number of countries having sent contributions by mail. A compilation of these contributions should be made available.

PREPARATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF MATERIALS

Materials should be sent to the secretariat of the Host, in good time.

The Host is responsible for the distribution of all the materials submitted by a participant during the business of the electronic working group to all other participants of the electronic working group.

Attention should be given to constraints of a technical nature (file sizes and formats, limited band width, …) and special care should be taken to ensure the widest distribution of all the available materials.

CONCLUSIONS

As soon as possible after the end of the business of an electronic working group, the secretariat of the Host should send a copy of the final conclusions, in the form of either a discussion paper or a working document and of the list of participants to the Joint FAO/WHO Secretariat and to the host country secretariat of the Committee.

The conclusions of an electronic working group and the list of participants shall be distributed to Codex Contact Points and observers by the Joint FAO/WHO Secretariat in time to allow full consideration of the electronic working group's recommendations.

The Joint FAO/WHO Secretariat should ensure that these conclusions are included in the distribution of papers for the next session of the Codex Committee, which has established the electronic working group.

CRITERIA FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF WORK PRIORITIES

When a Codex Committee proposes to elaborate a standard, code of practice or related text within its terms of reference, it should first consider the priorities established by the Commission in the Strategic Plan, the relevant outcomes of the critical review conducted by the Executive Committee, and the prospect of completing the work within a reasonable period of time. It should also assess the proposal against the criteria set out below.

If the proposal falls in an area outside the Committee's terms of reference the proposal should be reported to the Commission in writing together with proposals for such amendments to the Committee's terms of reference as may be required.

CRITERIA

GENERAL CRITERION

Consumer protection from the point of view of health, food safety, ensuring fair practices in the food trade and taking into account the identified needs of developing countries.

CRITERIA APPLICABLE TO GENERAL SUBJECTS

(a) Diversification of national legislations and apparent resultant or potential impediments to international trade.

(b) Scope of work and establishment of priorities between the various sections of the work.

(c) Work already undertaken by other international organizations in this field and/or suggested by the relevant international intergovernmental body(ies).

CRITERIA APPLICABLE TO COMMODITIES

(a) Volume of production and consumption in individual countries and volume and pattern of trade between countries.

(b) Diversification of national legislations and apparent resultant or potential impediments to international trade.

(c) International or regional market potential.

(d) Amenability of the commodity to standardisation.

(e) Coverage of the main consumer protection and trade issues by existing or proposed general standards.

(f) Number of commodities which would need separate standards indicating whether raw, semi-processed or processed.

(g) Work already undertaken by other international organizations in this field and/or suggested by the relevant international intergovernmental body(ies).

CRITERIA FOR THE PRIORITIZATION PROCESS OF COMPOUNDS FOR EVALUATION BY JMPR

1. GENERAL CRITERIA

1.1 Criteria for Inclusion of Compounds on the Priority List

Before a pesticide can be considered for the Priority List it:

i must be registered for use in a member country;

ii must be available for use as a commercial product;

iii must not have been already accepted for consideration; and

iv must give rise to residues in or on a food or feed commodity moving in international trade, the presence of which is (or may be) a matter of public health concern and thus create (or have the potential to create) problems in international trade.

1.2 Criteria for Selecting Food Commodities for which Codex MRLs or EMRLs Should Be Established

The commodity for which the establishment of a Codex MRL or EMRL is sought should be such that it may form a component in international trade. A higher priority will be given to commodities that represent a significant proportion of the diet.

Note

Before proposing a pesticide/commodity for prioritization, it is recommended that governments check if the pesticide is already in the Codex system. Pesticide/commodity combinations that are already included in the Codex system or under consideration are found in a working document prepared for and used as a basis of discussion at each Session of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues. Consult the document of the latest session to see whether or not a given pesticide has already been considered.

2. CRITERIA FOR PRIORITISATION

2.1 New Chemicals

When prioritizing new chemicals for evaluation by the JMPR, the Committee will consider the following criteria:

1. If the chemical has a reduced acute and/or chronic toxicity risk to humans compared with other chemicals in its classification (insecticide, fungicide, herbicide);

2. The date when the chemical was nominated for evaluation;

3. Commitment by the sponsor of the compound to provide supporting data for review with a firm date for data submission;

4. The availability of regional/national reviews and risk assessments, and coordination with other regional/national lists; and

5. Allocating priorities to new chemicals, so that at least 50% of evaluations are for new chemicals, if possible.

Note

In order to satisfy the criterion that the proposed new chemical is a "safer" or "reduced risk" replacement chemical, the nominating country is required to provide:

i the name(s) of the chemicals for which the proposed chemical is likely to be an alternative;

ii a comparison of the acute and chronic toxicities of the proposed chemical with other chemicals in its classification (insecticide, fungicide, herbicide);

iii a summary of acute and chronic dietary exposure calculations encompassing the range of diets considered by CCPR; and

iv other relevant information to support classification of the proposed chemical as a safer alternative chemical.

2.2 Periodic Re-Evaluation

When prioritizing chemicals for periodic re-evaluation by the JMPR, the Committee will consider the following criteria:

1. If the intake and/or toxicity profile indicate some level of public health concern;

2. Chemicals that have not been reviewed toxicologically for more than 15 years and/or not having a significant review of maximum residue limits for 15 years;

3. The year the chemical is listed in the list for Candidate Chemicals for Periodic Re-evaluation –Not Yet Scheduled;

4. The date that data will be submitted;

5. Whether the CCPR has been advised by a national government that the chemical has been responsible for trade disruption;

6. If there is a closely related chemical that is a candidate for periodic re-evaluation that can be evaluated concurrently; and

7. The availability of current labels arising from recent national re-evaluations.

2.3 Evaluations

When prioritizing proposed toxicological or residue evaluations by the JMPR the Committee will consider the following criteria:

1. The date the request was received;

2. Commitment by the sponsor to provide the required data for review with a firm date of submission;

3. Whether the data is submitted under the 4-year rule for evaluations; and

4. The nature of the data to be submitted, and the reason for its submission; for example, a request from CCPR.

Note:

Where a pesticide has already been evaluated by the JMPR and MRLs, EMRLs or GLs have been established, new evaluations may be initiated if one or more of the following situations arise:

i New toxicological data becomes available to indicate a significant change in the ADI or ARfD.

ii The JMPR may note a data deficiency in a Periodic Re-evaluation or New Chemical evaluation. In response, national governments or other interested parties may pledge to supply the information to the appropriate Joint Secretary of the JMPR with a copy for consideration by the CCPR. Following scheduling in the JMPR tentative **s**chedule, the data should be submitted subsequently to the appropriate Joint Secretary of the JMPR.

iii The CCPR may place a chemical under the four-year rule, in which case the government or industry should indicate support for the specific MRLs to the FAO Joint Secretary of the JMPR. Following scheduling in the JMPR tentative schedule, any data in support of maintenance of the MRL(s) would be submitted to the FAO Joint Secretary of the JMPR.

iv A government member may seek to expand the use of an existing Codex chemical: that is, obtain MRLs for one or more new commodities where some MRLs already exist for other commodities. Such requests should be directed to the FAO Joint Secretary of the JMPR and submitted for consideration by the CCPR. Following scheduling in the JMPR tentative schedule, the data would be submitted to the FAO Joint Secretary of the JMPR.

v A government member may seek to review a MRL due to a change in GAP. For example a new GAP may necessitate a larger MRL. In this case the request should be made to the FAO Joint Secretary with a copy for consideration by the Committee. Following scheduling in the JMPR tentative schedule, the data would be submitted to the FAO Joint Secretary of the JMPR.

vi The CCPR may request a clarification or reconsideration of a recommendation from the JMPR. In such cases the relevant Joint Secretary will schedule the request for the next JMPR.

vii A serious public health concern may emerge in relation to a particular pesticide for which MRLs exist. In such cases government members should notify the WHO Joint Secretary of the JMPR promptly and provide appropriate data to the WHO Joint Secretary.

CRITERIA FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

When there is a proposal for the elaboration of a standard, code of practice or related text in an area not covered by the terms of reference of any existing subsidiary body[18], or the revision of standards, codes of practice or other texts elaborated by subsidiary bodies adjourned *sine die*, such a proposal should be accompanied by a written statement to the Commission explaining its justification in light of the Commission's Medium-Term Objectives and containing, as far as practicable, the information contained in the Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities.

Should the Commission decide to establish a Subsidiary Body for the purpose of elaborating an appropriate draft standard or related text or for the purpose of revising an existing standard(s) or related text(s), first consideration should be given to the establishment of an *ad hoc* Intergovernmental Task Force under Rule XI.1(b)(i) of the Commission's Rules of Procedure under the following conditions:

1. TERMS OF REFERENCE

- the terms of reference of the proposed *ad hoc* Intergovernmental Task Force shall be limited to the immediate task at hand and normally shall not be subsequently modified;
- the terms of reference shall clearly state the objective(s) to be achieved by the establishment of the *ad hoc* Intergovernmental Task Force;
- the terms of reference shall clearly state either (i) the number of sessions to be convened, or (ii) the date (year) by which the work is expected to be completed, which in any case shall not exceed five years.

2. REPORTING

The *ad hoc* Intergovernmental Task Force shall report to the Codex Alimentarius Commission and to the Executive Committee on the progress of its work. The reports of the *ad hoc* Intergovernmental Task Force shall be transmitted to all Members of the Commission and interested international organization.

[18] The Commission may wish to consider extending the Terms of Reference of an appropriate existing body to accommodate the proposal.

3. OPERATING EXPENSES

No provision shall be made concerning the operating expenditures of the *ad hoc* Intergovernmental Task Force in the estimate of expenditures of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme, except insofar as costs involved in preparatory work are recognized as operating expenses of the Commission in accordance with Article 10 of its Statutes.

4. HOST GOVERNMENT ARRANGEMENTS

The Commission, at the time of the establishment of the *ad hoc* Intergovernmental Task Force, shall ascertain that there will be appropriate host government arrangements adequate to ensure the functioning of the Task Force for the duration of its assignment.[19]

5. WORKING PROCEDURES

Ad hoc Intergovernmental Task Forces shall be open to all Members of the Commission and the Rules of Procedure of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the Uniform Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Standards and Related Texts shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to *ad hoc* Intergovernmental Task Forces.

6. DISSOLUTION

The *ad hoc* Intergovernmental Task Force shall be dissolved after the specified work has been completed or when the number of sessions or the time limit allocated for the work has expired.

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[19] This may involve Host Government arrangements with one or more Members of the Commission.

GUIDELINES FOR THE INCLUSION OF SPECIFIC PROVISIONS IN CODEX STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS

GUIDELINES ON THE ELABORATION AND/OR REVISION OF CODES OF HYGIENIC PRACTICE FOR SPECIFIC COMMODITIES

The establishment of additional food hygiene requirements for specific food items or food groups should be limited to the extent necessary to meet the defined objectives of individual codes.

Codex Codes of Hygienic Practice should serve the primary purpose of providing advice to governments on the application of food hygiene provisions within the framework of national and international requirements.

The Revised Recommended International Code of Practice - General Principles of Food Hygiene (including the Guidelines for the Application of the Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) System) and the Revised Principles for the Establishment and Application of Microbiological Criteria for Foods are the base documents in the field of food hygiene.

All Codex Codes of Hygienic Practice applicable to specific food items or food groups shall refer to the General Principles of Food Hygiene and shall only contain material additional to the General Principles which is necessary to take into account the particular requirements of the specific food item or food group.

Provisions in Codex Codes of Hygienic Practice should be drafted in a sufficiently clear and transparent manner such that extended explanatory material is not required for their interpretation.

The above considerations should also apply to Codex Codes of Practice which contain provisions relating to food hygiene.

PRINCIPLES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CODEX METHODS OF ANALYSIS

PURPOSE OF CODEX METHODS OF ANALYSIS

The methods are primarily intended as international methods for the verification of provisions in Codex standards. They should be used for reference, in calibration of methods in use or introduced for routine examination and control purposes.

METHODS OF ANALYSIS

Definition of types of methods of analysis

(a) Defining Methods (Type I)

Definition: A method which determines a value that can only be arrived at in terms of the method per se and serves by definition as the only method for establishing the accepted value of the item measured.

Examples: Howard Mould Count, Reichert-Meissl value, loss on drying, salt in brine by density.

(b) Reference Methods (Type II)

Definition: A Type II method is the one designated Reference Method where Type I methods do not apply. It should be selected from Type III methods (as defined below). It should be recommended for use in cases of dispute and for calibration purposes.

Example: Potentiometric method for halides.

(c) Alternative Approved Methods (Type III)

Definition: A Type III Method is one which meets the criteria required by the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling for methods that may be used for control, inspection or regulatory purposes.

Example: Volhard Method or Mohr Method for chlorides

(d) Tentative Method (Type IV)

Definition: A Type IV Method is a method which has been used traditionally or else has been recently introduced but for which the criteria required for acceptance by the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling have not yet been determined.

Examples: chlorine by X-ray fluorescence, estimation of synthetic colours in foods.

General Criteria for the Selection of Methods of Analysis

(a) Official methods of analysis elaborated by international organizations occupying themselves with a food or group of foods should be preferred.

(b) Preference should be given to methods of analysis the reliability of which have been established in respect of the following criteria, selected as appropriate:

(i) specificity

(ii) accuracy

(iii) precision; repeatability intra-laboratory (within laboratory), reproducibility inter-laboratory (within laboratory and between laboratories)

(iv) limit of detection

(v) sensitivity

(vi) practicability and applicability under normal laboratory conditions

(vii) other criteria which may be selected as required.

(c) The method selected should be chosen on the basis of practicability and preference should be given to methods which have applicability for routine use.

(d) All proposed methods of analysis must have direct pertinence to the Codex Standard to which they are directed.

(e) Methods of analysis which are applicable uniformly to various groups of commodities should be given preference over methods which apply only to individual commodities.

General Criteria for the Selection of Methods of Analysis using the Criteria Approach

In the case of Codex Type II and Type III methods, method criteria may be identified and values quantified for incorporation into the appropriate Codex commodity standard. Method criteria which are developed will include the criteria in section Methods of Analysis, paragraph (c) above together with other appropriate criteria, e.g., recovery factors."

General Criteria for the Selection of Single-Laboratory Validated Methods of Analysis

Inter-laboratory validated methods are not always available or applicable, especially in the case of multi-analyte/multi substrate methods and new analytes. The criteria to be used to select a method are included in the General Criteria for the Selection of Methods of Analysis. In addition the single-laboratory validated methods must fulfil the following criteria:

i. the method is validated according to an internationally recognized protocol (e.g. those referenced in the harmonized IUPAC Guidelines for Single-Laboratory Validation of Methods of Analysis)

ii. the use of the method is embedded in a quality system in compliance with the ISO/IEC 17025: 1999 Standard or Principles of Good Laboratory Practice;

The method should be complemented with information on accuracy demonstrated for instance with:

- regular participation in proficiency schemes, where available;
- calibration using certified reference materials, where applicable;
- recovery studies performed at the expected concentration of the analytes;
- verification of result with other validated method where available

WORKING INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CRITERIA APPROACH IN CODEX

Any Codex Commodity Committee may continue to propose an appropriate method of analysis for determining the chemical entity, or develop a set of criteria to which a method used for the determination must comply. In some cases a Codex Commodity Committee may find it easier to recommend a specific method and request the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS) to "convert" that method into appropriate criteria. The Criteria will then be considered by the CCMAS for endorsement and will, after the endorsement, form part of the commodity standard replacing the recommended method of analysis. If a Codex Commodity Committee wishes to develop the criteria by itself rather than allowing the CCMAS to do so, it should follow instructions given for the development of specific criteria as outlined below. These criteria must be approved for the determination in question.

However, the primary responsibility for supplying methods of analysis and criteria resides with the Commodity Committee. If the Commodity Committee fails to provide a method of analysis or criteria despite numerous requests, then the CCMAS may supply an appropriate method and "convert" that method into appropriate criteria.

The minimum "approved" Codex analytical characteristics will include the following numeric criteria as well as the general criteria for methods laid down in the *Analytical Terminology for Codex Use*:

- precision (within and between laboratories, but generated from collaborative trial data rather than measurement uncertainty considerations)
- recovery
- selectivity (interference effects etc.)
- applicability (matrix, concentration range and preference given to 'general' methods)
- detection/determination limits if appropriate for the determination being considered

- linearity

CCMAS will generate the data corresponding to the above criteria.

CONVERSION OF SPECIFIC METHODS OF ANALYSIS TO METHOD CRITERIA BY THE CCMAS

When a Codex Commodity Committee submits a Type II or Type III method to CCMAS for endorsement, it should also submit information on the criteria listed below to enable the CCMAS to convert it into suitable generalized analytical characteristics:

- accuracy
- applicability (matrix, concentration range and preference given to 'general' methods)
- detection limit
- determination limit
- precision; repeatability intra-laboratory (within laboratory), reproducibility inter-laboratory (within laboratory and between laboratories), but generated from collaborative trial data rather than measurement uncertainty considerations
- recovery
- selectivity
- sensitivity
- linearity

These terms are defined in the Analytical Terminology for Codex Use, as are other terms of importance.

The CCMAS will assess the actual analytical performance of the method which has been determined in its validation. This will take account of the appropriate precision characteristics obtained in collaborative trials which may have been carried out on the method together with results from other development work carried out during the course of the method development. The set of criteria that are developed will form part of the report of the CCMAS and will be inserted in the appropriate Codex Commodity Standard.

In addition, the CCMAS will identify numeric values for the criteria for which it would wish such methods to comply.

ASSESSMENT OF THE ACCEPTABILITY OF THE PRECISION CHARACTERISTICS OF A METHOD OF ANALYSIS

The calculated repeatability and reproducibility values can be compared with existing methods and a comparison made. If these are satisfactory then the method can be used as a validated method. If there is no method with which to compare the precision parameters then theoretical repeatability and reproducibility values can be calculated from the Horwitz equation. (M. Thompson, *Analyst*, 2000, **125**, 385-386).

ANALYTICAL TERMINOLOGY FOR CODEX USE

Result: The final value reported for a measured or computed quantity, after performing a measuring procedure including all sub-procedures and evaluations.

Notes:

When a result is given, it should be made clear whether it refers to:

- the indication [signal];
- the uncorrected result;
- the corrected result; and
- whether several values were averaged.

A complete statement of the result of a measurement includes information about the uncertainty of measurement.

Selectivity: Selectivity is the extent to which a method can determine particular analyte(s) in mixtures or matrices without interferences from other components of similar behaviour.

Selectivity is the recommended term in analytical chemistry to express the extent to which a particular method can determine analyte(s) in the presence of interferences from other components. Selectivity can be graded. The use of the term specificity for the same concept is to be discouraged as this often leads to confusion.

Accuracy: The closeness of agreement between a test result and the accepted reference value.

Note:

The term accuracy, when applied to a set of test results, involves a combination of random components and a common systematic error or bias component.

***Trueness*:** The closeness of agreement between the average value obtained from a series of test results and an accepted reference value.

Notes:

1 The measure of trueness is usually expressed in terms of bias.

2 Trueness has been referred to as "accuracy of the mean". This usage is not recommended.

***Bias*:** The difference between the expectation of the test results and an accepted reference value.

Notes:

Bias is the total systematic error as contrasted to random error. There may be one or more systematic error components contributing to bias. A larger systematic difference from the accepted reference value is reflected by a larger bias value.

When the systematic error component(s) must be arrived at by a process that includes random error, the random error component is increased by propagation of error considerations and reduced by replication.

***Precision*:** The closeness of agreement between independent test results obtained under stipulated conditions.

Notes:

Precision depends only on the distribution of random errors and does not relate to the true value or to the specified value.

The measure of precision is usually expressed in terms of imprecision and computed as a standard deviation of the test results. Less precision is reflected by a larger standard deviation.

"Independent test results" means results obtained in a manner not influenced by any previous result on the same or similar test object. Quantitative measures of precision depend critically on the stipulated conditions. Repeatability and reproducibility conditions are particular sets of extreme conditions.

Repeatability [Reproducibility]: Precision under repeatability [reproducibility] conditions.

Repeatability conditions: Conditions where independent test results are obtained with the same method on identical test items in the same laboratory by the same operator using the same equipment within short intervals of time.

***Reproducibility conditions*:** Conditions where test results are obtained with the same method on identical test items in different laboratories with different operators using different equipment.

Notes:

When different methods give test results that do not differ significantly, or when different methods are permitted by the design of the experiment, as in a proficiency study or a material-certification study for the establishment of a consensus value of a reference material, the term "reproducibility" may be applied to the resulting parameters. The conditions must be explicitly stated.

Repeatability [Reproducibility] standard deviation: The standard deviation of test results obtained under repeatability [reproducibility] conditions.

Notes:

Repeatability [Reproducibility] standard deviation is a measure of the dispersion of the distribution of test results under repeatability [reproducibility] conditions.

Similarly "repeatability [reproducibility] variance" and "repeatability [reproducibility] coefficient of variation" could be defined and used as measures of the dispersion of test results under repeatability [reproducibility] conditions.

Repeatability [Reproducibility] limit: The value less than or equal to which the absolute difference between two test results obtained under repeatability [reproducibility] conditions may be expected to be with a probability of 95%.

Notes:

The symbol used is r [R].

When examining two single test results obtained under repeatability [reproducibility] conditions, the comparison should be made with the repeatability [reproducibility] limit r [R] = 2.8 sr[sR].

When groups of measurements are used as the basis for the calculation of the repeatability [reproducibility] limits (now called the critical difference), more complicated formulae are required that are given in ISO 5725-6:1994, 4.2.1 and 4.2.2.

Interlaboratory Study: A study in which several laboratories measure a quantity in one or more "identical" portions of homogeneous, stable materials under documented conditions, the results of which are compiled into a single document.

Notes:

The larger the number of participating laboratories, the greater the confidence that can be placed in the resulting estimates of the statistical parameters. The

IUPAC-1987 protocol (Pure & Appl. Chem., **66**, 1903-1911(1994)) requires a minimum of eight laboratories for method-performance studies.

Method-Performance Study: An interlaboratory study in which all laboratories follow the same written protocol and use the same test method to measure a quantity in sets of identical test samples. The reported results are used to estimate the performance characteristics of the method. Usually these characteristics are within-laboratory and among-laboratories precision, and when necessary and possible, other pertinent characteristics such as systematic error, recovery, internal quality control parameters, sensitivity, limit of determination, and applicability.

Notes:

The materials used in such a study of analytical quantities are usually representative of materials to be analyzed in actual practice with respect to matrices, amount of test component (concentration), and interfering components and effects. Usually the analyst is not aware of the actual composition of the test samples but is aware of the matrix.

The number of laboratories, number of test samples, number of determinations, and other details of the study are specified in the study protocol. Part of the study protocol is the procedure which provides the written directions for performing the analysis.

The main distinguishing feature of this type of study is the necessity to follow the same written protocol and test method exactly.

Several methods may be compared using the same test materials. If all laboratories use the same set of directions for each method and if the statistical analysis is conducted separately for each method, the study is a set of method-performance studies. Such a study may also be designated as a method-comparison study.

Laboratory-Performance (Proficiency) Study: An interlaboratory study that consists of one or more measurements by a group of laboratories on one or more homogeneous, stable, test samples by the method selected or used by each laboratory. The reported results are compared with those from other laboratories or with the known or assigned reference value, usually with the objective of improving laboratory performance.

Notes:

Laboratory-performance studies can be used to support accreditation of laboratories or to audit performance. If a study is conducted by an organization with some type of management control over the participating laboratories—organizational, accreditation, regulatory, or contractual—the method may be specified or the selection may be limited to a list of approved or equivalent

methods. In such situations, a single test sample is insufficient to judge performance.

A laboratory-performance study may be used to select a method of analysis that will be used in a method-performance study. If all laboratories, or a sufficiently large subgroup, of laboratories , use the same method, the study may also be interpreted as a method-performance study, provided that the test samples cover the range of concentration of the analyte.

Laboratories of a single organization with independent facilities, instruments, and calibration materials, are treated as different laboratories.

Material-Certification Study: An interlaboratory study that assigns a reference value ("true value") to a quantity (concentration or property) in the test material, usually with a stated uncertainty.

Note:

A material-certification study often utilizes selected reference laboratories to analyze a candidate reference material by a method(s) judged most likely to provide the least-biased estimates of concentration (or of a characteristic property) and the smallest associated uncertainty.

Applicability: The analytes, matrices, and concentrations for which a method of analysis may be used satisfactorily to determine compliance with a Codex standard.

Note:

In addition to a statement of the range of capability of satisfactory performance for each factor, the statement of applicability (scope) may also include warnings as to known interference by other analytes, or inapplicability to certain matrices and situations.

Sensitivity: Change in the response divided by the corresponding change in the concentration of a standard (calibration) curve; i.e., the slope, s_i, of the analytical calibration curve.

Note:

This term has been used for several other analytical applications, often referring to capability of detection, to the concentration giving 1% absorption in atomic absorption spectroscopy, and to ratio of found positives to known, true positives in immunological and microbiological tests. Such applications to analytical chemistry should be discouraged.

A method is said to be sensitive if a small change in concentration, c, or quantity, q, causes a large change in the measure, x; that is, when the derivative dx/dc or dx/dq is large.

Although the signal may vary with the magnitude of c_i or q_i, the slope, s_i, is usually constant over a reasonable range of concentrations. s_i may also be a function of the c or q of other analytes present in the sample.

***Ruggedness*:** The ability of a chemical measurement process to resist changes in results when subjected to minor changes in environmental and procedural variables, laboratories, personnel, etc.

TERMS TO BE USED IN THE CRITERIA APPROACH

Detection Limit: The detection limit is conventionally defined as field blank + 3σ, where is the standard deviation of the field blank value signal (IUPAC definition).

However, an alternative definition which overcomes most of the objections to the above approach (i.e. the high variability at the limit of measurement can never be overcome) is to base it on the rounded value of the reproducibility relative standard deviation when it goes out of control (where $3\ \sigma_R = 100\%$; $\sigma_R = 33\%$, rounded to 50% because of the high variability). Such a value is directly related to the analyte and to the measurement system and is not based on the local measurement system.

Determination limit: As for detection limit except that 6 or 10 is required rather than 3.

However, an alternative definition that corresponds to that proposed for the detection limit is to use $\sigma_R = 25\%$. This value does not differ much from that assigned to the detection limit because the upper limit of the detection limit merges indistinguishably into the lower limit of the determination limit.

Recovery: Proportion of the amount of analyte present or added to the test material which is extracted and presented for measurement.

Selectivity: Selectivity is the extent to which a method can determine particular analyte(s) in mixtures or matrices without interferences from other components of similar behaviour.

Selectivity is the recommended term in analytical chemistry to express the extent to which a particular method can determine analyte(s) in the presence of interferences from other components. Selectivity can be graded. The use of the term specificity for the same concept is to be discouraged as this often leads to confusion.

Linearity: The ability of a method of analysis, within a certain range, to provide an instrumental response or results proportional to the quality of analyte to be determined in the laboratory sample. This proportionality is expressed by an a priori defined mathematical expression. The linearity limits are the experimental limits of concentrations between which a linear calibration model

can be applied with a known confidence level (generally taken to be equal to 1%).

PRINCIPLES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OR SELECTION OF CODEX SAMPLING PROCEDURES

PURPOSE OF CODEX METHODS OF SAMPLING

Codex Methods of Sampling are designed to ensure that fair and valid sampling procedures are used when food is being tested for compliance with a particular Codex commodity standard. The sampling methods are intended for use as international methods designed to avoid or remove difficulties which may be created by diverging legal, administrative and technical approaches to sampling and by diverging interpretation of results of analysis in relation to lots or consignments of foods, in the light of the relevant provision(s) of the applicable Codex standard.

METHODS OF SAMPLING

Types of Sampling Plans and Procedures

(a) Sampling Plans for Commodity Defects:

These are normally applied to visual defects (e.g. loss of colour, mis-graded for size, etc.) and extraneous matter. They will normally be attributes plans, and plans such as those included in the *FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Sampling Plans for Prepackaged Foods (AQL 6.5)*[20] may be applied.

(b) Sampling Plans for Net Contents:

These are sampling plans which apply to pre-packaged foods generally and are intended to serve to check compliance of lots or consignments with provisions for net contents.

(c) Sampling Plans for Compositional Criteria:

Such plans are normally applied to analytically determined compositional criteria (e.g., loss on drying in white sugar, etc.). They are predominantly based on variable procedures with unknown standard deviation.

(d) Specific Sampling Plans for Health-related Properties:

Such plans are generally applied to heterogeneous conditions, e.g., in the assessment of microbiological spoilage, microbial by-products or sporadically occurring chemical contaminants.

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[20] Codex Alimentarius: Volume 13.

General Instructions for the Selection of Methods of Sampling

(a) Official methods of sampling as elaborated by international organizations occupying themselves with a food or a group of foods are preferred. Such methods, when attracted to Codex standards, may be revised using Codex recommended sampling terms (to be elaborated).

(b) The appropriate Codex Commodity Committee should indicate, before it elaborates any sampling plan, or before any plan is endorsed by the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling, the following:

(i) the basis on which the criteria in the Codex Commodity standards have been drawn up (e.g. whether on the basis that every item in a lot, or a specified high proportion, shall comply with the provision in the standard or whether the average of a set of samples extracted from a lot must comply and, if so, whether a minimum or maximum tolerance, as appropriate, is to be given);

(ii) whether there is to be any differentiation in the relative importance of the criteria in the standards and, if so, what is the appropriate statistical parameter each criterion should attract, and hence, the basis for judgement when a lot is in conformity with a standard.

(c) Instructions on the procedure for the taking of samples should indicate the following:

(i) the measures necessary in order to ensure that the sample taken is representative of the consignment or of the lot;

(ii) the size and the number of individual items forming the sample taken from the lot or consignment;

(iii) the administrative measures for taking and handling the sample.

(d) The sampling protocol may include the following information:

(i) the statistical criteria to be used for acceptance or rejection of the lot on the basis of the sample;

(ii) the procedures to be adopted in cases of dispute.

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

(a) The Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling should maintain closest possible relations with all interested organizations working on methods of analysis and sampling.

(b) The Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling should organize its work in such a manner as to keep under constant review all methods of analysis and sampling published in the Codex Alimentarius.

(c) In the Codex methods of analysis, provision should be made for variations in reagent concentrations and specifications from country to country.

(d) Codex methods of analysis which have been derived from scientific journals, theses, or publications, either not readily available or available in languages other than the official languages of FAO and WHO, or which for other reasons should be printed in the Codex Alimentarius *in extenso*, should follow the standard layout for methods of analysis as adopted by the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling.

(e) Methods of analysis which have already been printed as official methods of analysis in other available publications and which are adopted as Codex methods need only be quoted by reference in the Codex Alimentarius.

THE USE OF ANALYTICAL RESULTS: SAMPLING PLANS, RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE ANALYTICAL RESULTS, THE MEASUREMENT UNCERTAINTY, RECOVERY FACTORS AND PROVISIONS IN CODEX STANDARDS

ISSUES INVOLVED

There are a number of analytical and sampling considerations which prevent the uniform implementation of legislative standards. In particular, different approaches may be taken regarding sampling procedures, the use of measurement uncertainty and recovery corrections.

At present there is no official guidance on how to interpret analytical results in the framework of Codex. Significantly different decisions may be taken after analysis of the "same sample". For example some countries use an "every-item-must-comply" sampling regime, others use an "average of a lot" regime, some deduct the measurement uncertainty associated with the result, others do not, some countries correct analytical results for recovery, others do not. This interpretation may also be affected by the number of significant figures included in any commodity specification.

It is essential that analytical results be ~~are~~ interpreted in the same way if there is to be harmonization in the framework of Codex.

It is stressed that this is not an analysis or sampling problem as such but an administrative problem which has been highlighted as the result of recent activities in the analytical sector, most notably the development of International Guidelines on the Use of Recovery Factors when Reporting Analytical Results and various Guides prepared dealing with Measurement Uncertainty.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that when a Codex Commodity Committee discusses and agrees on a commodity specification and the analytical methods concerned, it states the following information in the Codex Standard:

1. Sampling Plans

The appropriate sampling plan, as outlined in the Guidelines for Sampling (CAC/GL 50-2004), Section 2.1.2 Guidelines on Sampling to control conformity of products with the specification. This should state:

- whether the specification applies to every item in a lot, or to the average in a lot, or the proportion non-conforming;
- the appropriate acceptable quality level to be used;
- the acceptance conditions of a lot controlled, in relation to the qualitative/quantitative characteristic determined on the sample.

2. Measurement Uncertainty

An allowance is to be made for the measurement uncertainty when deciding whether or not an analytical result falls within the specification. This requirement may not apply in situations when a direct health hazard is concerned, such as for food pathogens.

3. Recovery

Analytical results are to be expressed on a recovery corrected basis where appropriate and relevant, and when corrected it has to be so stated.

If a result has been corrected for recovery, the method by which the recovery was taken into account should be stated. The recovery rate is to be quoted wherever possible.

When laying down provisions for standards, it will be necessary to state whether the result obtained by a method used for analysis within conformity checks shall be expressed on an recovery-corrected basis or not..

4. Significant Figures

The units in which the results are to be expressed and the number of significant figures to be included in the reported result.

UNIFORM SYSTEM OF REFERENCES FOR CODEX DOCUMENTS

In referencing Codex documents, the Document Reference given in the table below appear first, followed by the year in which the session will be held, the session number, and finally the consecutive number of the document.

For example, documents prepared for the 20th session of the Codex Committee on General Principles meeting in 2004, are identified by the series CX/GP 04/20/1, 2, 3 etc.

Prior to 2003, most documents are identified by the Document Reference, year, and series number only (except for the Executive Committee).

Statutory Bodies	**Document Reference**
Codex Alimentarius Commission	ALINORM
Executive Committee	CX/EXEC
Subsidiary Bodies	
Codex Committees	
General Principles	CX/GP
Food Additives	CX/FA
Contaminants	CX/CF
Food Hygiene	CX/FH
Food Labelling	CX/FL
Methods of Analysis and Sampling	CX/MAS
Pesticide Residues	CX/PR
Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods	CX/RVDF
Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems	CX/FICS
Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses	CX/NFSDU
Cereals, Pulses and Legumes	CX/CPL

Cocoa Products and Chocolate	CX/CPC
Fats and Oils	CX/FO
Fish and Fishery Products	CX/FFP
Milk and Milk Products	CX/MMP
Meat Hygiene	CX/MH
Natural Mineral Waters	CX/NMW
Processed Fruits and Vegetables	CX/PFV
Sugars	CX/S
Vegetable Proteins	CX/VP
Fresh Fruits and Vegetables	CX/FFV
FAO/WHO Regional Coordinating Committees	
Africa	CX/AFRICA
Asia	CX/ASIA
Europe	CX/EURO
Latin America and the Caribbean	CX/LAC
Near East	CX/NEA
North America and the South West Pacific	CX/NASWP
***Ad hoc* Intergovernmental Task Forces**	
Foods derived from Biotechnology	CX/FBT
Antimicrobial Resistance	CX/AMR
Processing and Handling of Quick Frozen Foods	CX/QFF
Statutory Bodies Abolished, Dissolved or Renamed	
(for archival reference only)	
Codex Committee on Edible Ices	CX/IE
Codex Committee on Soups and Broths	CX/SB

Codex Committee on Processed Meat and Poultry Products	CX/PMPP
Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants	CX/FAC
Ad hoc Intergovernmental Task Force on Animal Feeding	CX/AF
Ad hoc Intergovernmental Task Force on Fruit and Vegetable Juices	CX/FJ
Joint Codex/IOOC Meeting on the Standardization of Table Olives	CX/TO
Joint ECE/Codex Alimentarius Group of Experts on the Standardization of Fruit Juices	CX/FJ
Joint ECE/Codex Alimentarius Group of Experts on the Standardization of Quick Frozen Foods	CX/QFF

FORMAT FOR CODEX COMMODITY STANDARDS

INTRODUCTION

The Format is also intended for use as a guide by the subsidiary bodies of the Codex Alimentarius Commission in presenting their standards, with the object of achieving, as far as possible, a uniform presentation of commodity standards. The Format also indicates the statements which should be included in standards as appropriate under the relevant headings of the standard. The sections of the Format require to be completed in a standard only insofar as such provisions are appropriate to an international standard for the food in question.

NAME OF THE STANDARD

SCOPE

DESCRIPTION

ESSENTIAL COMPOSITION AND QUALITY FACTORS

FOOD ADDITIVES

CONTAMINANTS

HYGIENE

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

LABELLING

METHODS OF ANALYSIS AND SAMPLING

NOTES ON THE HEADINGS

NAME OF THE STANDARD

The name of the standard should be clear and as concise as possible. It should usually be the common name by which the food covered by the standard is known or, if more than one food is dealt with in the standard, by a generic name covering them all. If a fully informative title should be inordinately long, a subtitle could be added.

SCOPE

This section should contain a clear, concise statement as to the food or foods to which the standard is applicable unless this is self-explanatory in the name of the standard. In the case of a general standard covering more than one specific product, it should be made clear as to which specific products the standard applies.

DESCRIPTION

This section should contain a definition of the product or products with an indication, where appropriate, of the raw materials from which it is derived and any necessary references to processes of manufacture. It may also include references to types and styles of product and to type of pack. There may also be additional definitions when these are required to clarify the meaning of the standard.

ESSENTIAL COMPOSITION AND QUALITY FACTORS

This section should contain all quantitative and other requirements as to composition including, where necessary, identity characteristics, provisions on packing media and requirements as to compulsory and optional ingredients. It should also include quality factors which are essential for the designation, definition or composition of the product concerned. Such factors could include the quality of the raw material, with the object of protecting the health of the consumer, provisions on taste, odour, colour and texture which may be apprehended by the senses, and basic quality criteria for the finished products, with the object of preventing fraud. This section may refer to tolerances for defects, such as blemishes or imperfect material, but this information should be contained in an appendix to the standard or in another advisory text.

FOOD ADDITIVES

This section should contain the names of the additives permitted and, where appropriate, the maximum amount permitted in the food. It should be prepared in accordance with guidance given in the section on Food Additives and Contaminants in the *Relations between Commodity Committees and General Committees*, and may take the following form:

> *"The following provisions in respect of food additives and their specifications as contained in section ..... of the Codex Alimentarius are subject to endorsement [have been endorsed] by the Codex Committee on Food Additives ."*

Then should follow a tabulation, viz.:

> *"Name of additive, maximum level (in percentage or mg/kg)."*

CONTAMINANTS

Pesticide Residues:

This section should include, by reference, any levels for pesticide residues that have been established by the Codex Alimentarius Commission for the product concerned. [21]

Other Contaminants:

In addition, this section should contain the names of other contaminants and where appropriate the maximum level permitted in the food, and the text to appear in the standard may take the following form:

> *"The following provisions in respect of contaminants, other than pesticide residues, are subject to endorsement [have been endorsed] by the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods."*

Then should follow a tabulation, viz.:

> *"Name of contaminant, maximum level (in percentage or mg/kg)."*

HYGIENE

Any specific mandatory hygiene provisions considered necessary should be included in this section. They should be prepared in accordance with the guidance given in the section on Food Hygiene in the *Relations between Commodity Committees and General Committees*. Reference should also be made to applicable codes of hygienic practice. Any parts of such codes, including in particular any end-product specifications, should be set out in the standard, if it is considered necessary that they should be made mandatory. The following statement should also appear:

> *"The following provisions in respect of the food hygiene of this product are subject to endorsement [have been endorsed] by the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene."*

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

This section should include all provisions, other than labelling provisions, relating to weights and measures, e.g. where appropriate, fill of container, weight, measure or count of units determined by an appropriate method of sampling and analysis. Weights and measures should be expressed in S.I. units. In the case of standards which include provisions for the sale of products in

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[21] N.B. This Procedure has not been followed for practical reasons. Codex maximum limits for pesticide residues are published separately in Volume 2 of the *Codex Alimentarius*.

standardized amounts, e.g. multiples of 100 grams, S.I. units should be used, but this would not preclude additional statements in the standards of these standardized amounts in approximately similar amounts in other systems of weights and measures.

LABELLING

This section should include all the labelling provisions contained in the standard and should be prepared in accordance with the guidance given in the section on Food Labelling in the *Relations between Commodity Committees and General Committees*. Provisions should be included by reference to the General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods. The section may also contain provisions which are exemptions from, additions to, or which are necessary for the interpretation of the General Standard in respect of the product concerned provided that these can be justified fully. The following statement should also appear:

> *"The following provisions in respect of the labelling of this product are subject to endorsement [have been endorsed] by the Codex Committee on Food Labelling."*

METHODS OF ANALYSIS AND SAMPLING

This section should include, either specifically or by reference, all methods of analysis and sampling considered necessary and should be prepared in accordance with the guidance given in the section on Methods of Analysis and Sampling in the *Relations between Commodity Committees and General Committees*. If two or more methods have been proved to be equivalent by the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling, these could be regarded as alternative and included in this section either specifically or by reference. The following statement should also appear:

> *"The methods of analysis and sampling described hereunder are to be endorsed [have been endorsed] by the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling."* [22]

[22] Methods of analysis should be indicated as being "defining", "reference", "alternative approved" or "tentative" methods, as appropriate.

RELATIONS BETWEEN COMMODITY COMMITTEES AND GENERAL COMMITTEES

Codex Committees may ask the advice and guidance of committees having responsibility for matters applicable to all foods on any points coming within their province.

The Codex Committees on Food Labelling; Food Additives; Contaminants in Foods; Methods of Analysis and Sampling; Food Hygiene; Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses; and Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems may establish general provisions on matters within their terms of reference. These provisions should only be incorporated into Codex Commodity Standards by reference unless there is a need for doing otherwise.

Codex Commodity standards shall contain sections on hygiene, labelling and methods of analysis and sampling and these sections should contain all of the relevant provisions of the standard. Provisions of Codex General Standards, Codes or Guidelines shall only be incorporated into Codex Commodity Standards by reference unless there is a need for doing otherwise. Where Codex Committees are of the opinion that the general provisions are not applicable to one or more commodity standards, they may request the responsible Committees to endorse deviations from the general provisions of the Codex Alimentarius. Such requests should be fully justified and supported by available scientific evidence and other relevant information. Sections on hygiene, labelling, and methods of analysis and sampling which contain specific provisions or provisions supplementing the Codex General Standards, Codes or Guidelines shall be referred to the responsible Codex Committees at the most suitable time during Steps 3, 4 and 5 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Standards and Related Texts, though such reference should not be allowed to delay the progress of the standard to the subsequent steps of the Procedure.

Subject and commodity Committees should refer to the principles and guidelines developed by the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems when developing provisions and/or recommendations on inspection and certification and make any appropriate amendments to the standards, guidelines and codes within the responsibility of the individual committees at the earliest convenient time.

FOOD LABELLING

The provisions on food labelling should be included by reference to the Codex General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods (CODEX STAN 1-1985). Exemptions from, or additions to, the General Standard which are

necessary for its interpretation in respect of the product concerned should be justified fully, and should be restricted as much as possible.

Information specified in each draft standard should normally be limited to the following:

- a statement that the product shall be labelled in accordance with the Codex General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods (CODEX STAN 1-1985)
- the specified name of the food
- date marking and storage instructions (only if the exemption foreseen in Section 4.7.1 of the General Standard is applied)

Where the scope of the Codex Standard is not limited to prepackaged foods, a provision for labelling of non retail containers may be included.

In such cases the provision may specify that:

> *"Information on ...*[23] *shall be given either on the container or in accompanying documents, except that the name of the product, lot identification, and the name and address of the manufacturer or packer shall appear on the container.*[24]
>
> *However, lot identification, and the name and address of the manufacturer or packer may be replaced by an identification mark provided that such a mark is clearly identifiable with the accompanying documents."*

In respect of date marking (Section 4.7 of the General Standard), a Codex Committee may, in exceptional circumstances, determine another date or dates as defined in the General Standard, either to replace or to accompany the date of minimum durability, or alternatively decide that no date marking is necessary. In such cases, a full justification for the proposed action should be submitted to the Codex Committee on Food Labelling.

FOOD ADDITIVES AND CONTAMINANTS

Codex commodity committees should prepare a section on food additives in each draft commodity standard and this section should contain all the provisions in the standard relating to food additives. The section should include the names

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[23] Codex Committees should decide which provisions are to be included.

[24] Codex Committees may decide that further information is required on the container. In this regard, special attention should be given to the need for storage instructions to be included on the container.

of those additives which are considered to be technologically necessary or which are widely permitted for use in the food within maximum levels where appropriate.

All provisions in respect of food additives (including processing aids) and contaminants contained in Codex commodity standards should be referred to the Codex Committee on Food Additives or on Contaminants in Foods, as appropriate, preferably after the Standards have been advanced to Step 5 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Standards or before they are considered by the Commodity Committee concerned at Step 7, though such reference should not be allowed to delay the progress of the Standard to the subsequent Steps of the Procedure.

All provisions in respect of food additives will require to be endorsed by the Codex Committee on Food Additives , on the basis of technological justification submitted by the commodity committees and of the recommendations of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives concerning the safety-in-use (acceptable daily intake (ADI) and other restrictions) and an estimate of the potential and, where possible, the actual intake of the food additives.

In preparing working papers for the Codex Committee on Food Additives, the Secretariat should make a report to the Committee concerning the endorsement of provisions for food additives (including processing aids). Provisions for food additives should indicate the International Numbering System (INS) number, the ADI, technological justification, proposed level, and whether the additive was previously endorsed (or temporarily endorsed).

When commodity standards are sent to governments for comment at Step 3, they should contain a statement that the provisions "in respect of food additives and contaminants are subject to endorsement by the Codex Committees on Food Additives or on Contaminants in Foods and to incorporation into the General Standard for Food Additives or the General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Foods."

When establishing provisions for food additives, Codex committees should follow the Preamble of the General Standard for Food Additives. Full explanation should be provided for any departure from the above recommendations.

When an active commodity committee exists, proposals for the use of additives in any commodity standard under consideration should be prepared by the committee concerned, and forwarded to the Codex Committee on Food Additives for endorsement. When the Codex Committee on Food Additives decides not to endorse specific additives provisions (use of the additive, or level in the end-product), the reason should be clearly stated. The section under consideration should be referred back to the Committee concerned if further

information is needed, or for information if the Codex Committee on Food Additives decides to amend the provision.

When no active commodity committee exists, proposals for new additive provisions or amendment of existing provisions should be forwarded directly by member countries to the Codex Committee on Food Additives .

Good Manufacturing Practice means that:

- the quantity of the additive added to food does not exceed the amount reasonably required to accomplish its intended physical nutritional or other technical effect in food;
- the quantity of the additive that becomes a component of food as a result of its use in the manufacturing, processing or packaging of a food and which is not intended to accomplish any physical, or other technological effect in the food itself, is reduced to the extent reasonably possible;
- the additive is of appropriate food grade quality and is prepared and handled in the same way as a food ingredient. Food grade quality is achieved by compliance with the specifications as a whole and not merely with individual criteria in terms of safety.

FOOD HYGIENE

Commodity Committees should use in the commodity standards the following text:

- It is recommended that the products covered by the provisions of this standard be prepared and handled in accordance with the appropriate sections of the Recommended International Code of Practice - General Principles of Food Hygiene (CAC/RCP 1-1969, Rev 4-2003), and other relevant Codex texts such as Codes of Hygienic Practice and Codes of Practice.
- The products should comply with any microbiological criteria established in accordance with the Principles for the Establishment and Application of Microbiological Criteria for Foods (CAC/GL 21-1997).

METHODS OF ANALYSIS AND SAMPLING

NORMAL PRACTICE

Except for methods of analysis and sampling associated with microbiological criteria, when Codex committees have included provisions on methods of analysis or sampling in a Codex commodity standard, these should be referred to the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling at Step 4, to ensure Government comments at the earliest possible stage in the development

of the standard. A Codex Committee should, whenever possible, provide to the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling information, for each individual analytical method proposed, relating to specificity, accuracy, precision (repeatability, reproducibility) limit of detection, sensitivity, applicability and practicability, as appropriate. Similarly a Codex Committee should, whenever possible, provide to the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling information for each sampling plan relating to the scope or field of application, the type of sampling (e.g. bulk or unit), sample sizes, decision rules, details of plans (e.g. "Operating characteristic" curves), inferences to be made to lots or processes, levels of risk to be accepted and pertinent supportive data.

Other criteria may be selected as required. Methods of analysis should be proposed by the Commodity Committees in consultation if necessary with an expert body.

At Step 4 Codex Commodity Committees should discuss and report to the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling on matters connected with:

- Provisions in Codex standards which require analytical or statistical procedure;
- Provisions for which elaboration of specific methods of analysis or sampling are required;
- Provisions which are defined by the use of Defining Methods (Type I);
- All proposals to the extent possible should be supported by appropriate documentation; especially for Tentative Methods (Type IV);
- Any request for advice or assistance.

The Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling should undertake a coordinating role in matters relating to the elaboration of Codex methods of analysis and sampling. The originating committee is, however, responsible for carrying out the Steps of the Procedure.

When it is necessary, the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling should try to ensure elaboration and collaborative testing of methods by other recognized bodies with expertise in the field of analysis.

The Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling will assess the actual analytical performance of the method which has been determined in its validation. This will take account of the appropriate precision characteristics obtained in collaborative trials which may have been carried out on the method together with results from other development work carried out during the course of the method development. The set of criteria that are developed will form part

of the report of the endorsement by the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling and will be inserted in the appropriate Codex Commodity Standard.

In addition, the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling will identify numeric values for the criteria for which it would wish such methods to comply.

METHODS OF ANALYSIS AND SAMPLING OF GENERAL APPLICATION TO FOODS

When the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling itself elaborates methods of analysis and sampling which are of general application to foods, it is responsible for carrying out the steps of the Procedure.

METHODS OF ANALYSIS OF FOOD ADDITIVES AS SUCH

Methods of analysis included in Codex Advisory Food Additives Specifications, for the purpose of verifying the criteria of purity and identity of the food additive, need not be referred to the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling for endorsement. The Codex Committee on Food Additives is responsible for carrying out the steps of the Procedure.

METHODS OF ANALYSIS OF PESTICIDE RESIDUES IN FOOD

The methods for determining the levels of pesticide residues in food need not be referred to the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling for endorsement. The Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues is responsible for carrying out the steps of the Procedure.

MICROBIOLOGICAL METHODS OF ANALYSIS AND SAMPLING

When Codex committees have included provisions on microbiological methods of analysis and sampling for the purpose of verifying hygiene provisions, they should be referred to the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene at the most suitable time during Steps 3, 4 and 5 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Standards, which will ensure that government comments on the methods of analysis and sampling are available to the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene. The procedure to be followed will be as in the normal practice described above, substituting the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene for the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling. Microbiological methods of analysis and sampling elaborated by the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene for inclusion in Codex commodity standards for the purpose of verifying hygiene provisions need not be referred to the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling for endorsement.

CORE FUNCTIONS OF CODEX CONTACT POINTS

The operation of Codex Contact Points will differ in each country depending on national legislation, government structures and practices.

CODEX CONTACT POINTS:

1. Act as the link between the Codex Secretariat and Member countries;

2. Coordinate all relevant Codex activities within their own countries;

3. Receive all Codex final texts (standards, codes of practice, guidelines and other advisory texts) and working documents of Codex sessions and ensure that they are circulated to those concerned within their own countries;

4. Send comments on Codex documents or proposals to the Codex Alimentarius Commission or its subsidiary bodies and/or the Codex Secretariat;

5. Work in close cooperation with the national Codex committee, where such a committee has been established. The Codex Contact Point acts as the liaison point with the food industry, consumers, traders and all other concerned to ensure that the government is provided with an appropriate balance of policy and technical advice upon which to base decisions relating to issues raised in the context of the Codex work;

6. Act as a channel for the exchange of information and coordination of activities with other Codex Members;

7. Receive the invitation to Codex sessions and inform the relevant chairpersons and the Codex Secretariat of the names of participants from their own countries;

8. Maintain a library of Codex final texts; and

9. Promote Codex activities throughout their own countries.

SECTION III

- Working Principles for Risk Analysis
- Risk Analysis Principles Applied by the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants
- CCFAC Policy for Exposure Assessment of Contaminants and Toxins in Foods or Food Groups

CONTENTS OF THIS SECTION

This Section contains risk analysis policy documents adopted by the Commission, which apply to and guide the work of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies. The Working Principles for Risk Analysis for Application in the Framework of the Codex Alimentarius were adopted by the Commission in 2003.

The Risk Analysis Principles Applied by the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants and the CCFAC Policy for Exposure Assessment of Contaminants and Toxins in Foods or Food Groups were adopted by the Commission in 2005.These documents currently guide the work of the Codex Committees on Food Additives and on Contaminants in Foods.

WORKING PRINCIPLES FOR RISK ANALYSIS FOR APPLICATION IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS

SCOPE

1. These principles for risk analysis are intended for application in the framework of the Codex Alimentarius.

2. The objective of these Working Principles is to provide guidance to the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the joint FAO/WHO expert bodies and consultations, so that food safety and health aspects of Codex standards and related texts are based on risk analysis.

3. Within the framework of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and its procedures, the responsibility for providing advice on risk management lies with the Commission and its subsidiary bodies (risk managers), while the responsibility for risk assessment lies primarily with the joint FAO/WHO expert bodies and consultations (risk assessors).

RISK ANALYSIS - GENERAL ASPECTS

4. The risk analysis used in Codex should be:

- applied consistently;
- open, transparent and documented;
- conducted in accordance with both the *Statements of Principle Concerning the Role of Science in the Codex Decision-Making Process and the Extent to Which Other Factors are Taken into Account* and the *Statements of Principle Relating to the Role of Food Safety Risk Assessment*[25] ; and
- evaluated and reviewed as appropriate in the light of newly generated scientific data.

5. The risk analysis should follow a structured approach comprising the three distinct but closely linked components of risk analysis (risk assessment, risk management and risk communication) as defined by the Codex Alimentarius Commission[26], each component being integral to the overall risk analysis.

6. The three components of risk analysis should be documented fully and systematically in a transparent manner. While respecting legitimate concerns to

[25] See Appendix: General Decisions of the Commission

[26] See Definitions of Risk Analysis Terms Related to Food Safety.

preserve confidentiality, documentation should be accessible to all interested parties[27].

7. Effective communication and consultation with all interested parties should be ensured throughout the risk analysis.

8. The three components of risk analysis should be applied within an overarching framework for management of food related risks to human health.

9. There should be a functional separation of risk assessment and risk management, in order to ensure the scientific integrity of the risk assessment, to avoid confusion over the functions to be performed by risk assessors and risk managers and to reduce any conflict of interest. However, it is recognized that risk analysis is an iterative process, and interaction between risk managers and risk assessors is essential for practical application.

10. When there is evidence that a risk to human health exists but scientific data are insufficient or incomplete, the Codex Alimentarius Commission should not proceed to elaborate a standard but should consider elaborating a related text, such as a code of practice, provided that such a text would be supported by the available scientific evidence.

11. Precaution is an inherent element of risk analysis. Many sources of uncertainty exist in the process of risk assessment and risk management of food related hazards to human health. The degree of uncertainty and variability in the available scientific information should be explicitly considered in the risk analysis. Where there is sufficient scientific evidence to allow Codex to proceed to elaborate a standard or related text, the assumptions used for the risk assessment and the risk management options selected should reflect the degree of uncertainty and the characteristics of the hazard.

12. The needs and situations of developing countries should be specifically identified and taken into account by the responsible bodies in the different stages of the risk analysis.

RISK ASSESSMENT POLICY

13. Determination of risk assessment policy should be included as a specific component of risk management.

14. Risk assessment policy should be established by risk managers in advance of risk assessment, in consultation with risk assessors and all other interested

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[27] For the purpose of the present document, the term “interested parties” refers to “risk assessors, risk managers, consumers, industry, the academic community and, as appropriate, other relevant parties and their representative organizations” (see definition of “Risk Communication”)

parties. This procedure aims at ensuring that the risk assessment is systematic, complete, unbiased and transparent.

15. The mandate given by risk managers to risk assessors should be as clear as possible.

16. Where necessary, risk managers should ask risk assessors to evaluate the potential changes in risk resulting from different risk management options.

RISK ASSESSMENT[28]

17. The scope and purpose of the particular risk assessment being carried out should be clearly stated and in accordance with risk assessment policy. The output form and possible alternative outputs of the risk assessment should be defined

18. Experts responsible for risk assessment should be selected in a transparent manner on the basis of their expertise, experience, and their independence with regard to the interests involved. The procedures used to select these experts should be documented including a public declaration of any potential conflict of interest. This declaration should also identify and detail their individual expertise, experience and independence. Expert bodies and consultations should ensure effective participation of experts from different parts of the world, including experts from developing countries.

19. Risk assessment should be conducted in accordance with the Statements of Principle Relating to the Role of Food Safety Risk Assessment and should incorporate the four steps of the risk assessment, i.e. hazard identification, hazard characterization, exposure assessment and risk characterization.

20. Risk assessment should be based on all available scientific data. It should use available quantitative information to the greatest extent possible. Risk assessment may also take into account qualitative information.

21. Risk assessment should take into account relevant production, storage and handling practices used throughout the food chain including traditional practices, methods of analysis, sampling and inspection and the prevalence of specific adverse health effects.

22. Risk assessment should seek and incorporate relevant data from different parts of the world, including that from developing countries. These data should particularly include epidemiological surveillance data, analytical and exposure data. Where relevant data are not available from developing countries, the Commission should request that FAO/WHO initiate time-bound studies for this

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[28] Reference is made to the Statements *of Principle Relating to the Role of Food Safety Risk Assessment:* See Appendix: *General Decisions of the Commission.*

purpose. The conduct of the risk assessment should not be inappropriately delayed pending receipt of these data; however, the risk assessment should be reconsidered when such data are available.

23. Constraints, uncertainties and assumptions having an impact on the risk assessment should be explicitly considered at each step in the risk assessment and documented in a transparent manner. Expression of uncertainty or variability in risk estimates may be qualitative or quantitative, but should be quantified to the extent that is scientifically achievable.

24. Risk assessments should be based on realistic exposure scenarios, with consideration of different situations being defined by risk assessment policy. They should include consideration of susceptible and high-risk population groups. Acute, chronic (including long-term), cumulative and/or combined adverse health effects should be taken into account in carrying out risk assessment, where relevant.

25. The report of the risk assessment should indicate any constraints, uncertainties, assumptions and their impact on the risk assessment. Minority opinions should also be recorded. The responsibility for resolving the impact of uncertainty on the risk management decision lies with the risk manager, not the risk assessors.

26. The conclusion of the risk assessment including a risk estimate, if available, should be presented in a readily understandable and useful form to risk managers and made available to other risk assessors and interested parties so that they can review the assessment.

RISK MANAGEMENT

27. While recognizing the dual purposes of the Codex Alimentarius are protecting the health of consumers and ensuring fair practices in the food trade, Codex decisions and recommendations on risk management should have as their primary objective the protection of the health of consumers. Unjustified differences in the level of consumer health protection to address similar risks in different situations should be avoided.

28. Risk management should follow a structured approach including preliminary risk management activities[29], evaluation of risk management options, monitoring and review of the decision taken. The decisions should be based on

[29] For the purpose of these Principles, preliminary risk management activities are taken to include: identification of a food safety problem; establishment of a risk profile; ranking of the hazard for risk assessment and risk management priority; establishment of risk assessment policy for the conduct of the risk assessment; commissioning of the risk assessment; and consideration of the result of the risk assessment.

risk assessment, and taking into account, where appropriate, other legitimate factors relevant for the health protection of consumers and for the promotion of fair practices in food trade, in accordance with the Criteria for the Consideration of the Other Factors Referred to in the Second Statement of Principles[30].

29. The Codex Alimentarius Commission and its subsidiary bodies, acting as risk managers in the context of these Working Principles, should ensure that the conclusion of the risk assessment is presented before making final proposals or decisions on the available risk management options, in particular in the setting of standards or maximum levels, bearing in mind the guidance given in paragraph 10.

30. In achieving agreed outcomes, risk management should take into account relevant production, storage and handling practices used throughout the food chain including traditional practices, methods of analysis, sampling and inspection, feasibility of enforcement and compliance, and the prevalence of specific adverse health effects.

31. The risk management process should be transparent, consistent and fully documented. Codex decisions and recommendations on risk management should be documented, and where appropriate clearly identified in individual Codex standards and related texts so as to facilitate a wider understanding of the risk management process by all interested parties.

32. The outcome of the preliminary risk management activities and the risk assessment should be combined with the evaluation of available risk management options in order to reach a decision on management of the risk.

33. Risk management options should be assessed in terms of the scope and purpose of risk analysis and the level of consumer health protection they achieve. The option of not taking any action should also be considered.

34. In order to avoid unjustified trade barriers, risk management should ensure transparency and consistency in the decision-making process in all cases. Examination of the full range of risk management options should, as far as possible, take into account an assessment of their potential advantages and disadvantages. When making a choice among different risk management options, which are equally effective in protecting the health of the consumer, the Commission and its subsidiary bodies should seek and take into consideration the potential impact of such measures on trade among its Member countries and select measures that are no more trade-restrictive than necessary.

35. Risk management should take into account the economic consequences and the feasibility of risk management options. Risk management should also recog-

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[30] See Appendix: General Decisions of the Commission.

nize the need for alternative options in the establishment of standards, guidelines and other recommendations, consistent with the protection of consumers' health. In taking these elements into consideration, the Commission and its subsidiary bodies should give particular attention to the circumstances of developing countries.

36. Risk management should be a continuing process that takes into account all newly generated data in the evaluation and review of risk management decisions. Food standards and related texts should be reviewed regularly and updated as necessary to reflect new scientific knowledge and other information relevant to risk analysis.

RISK COMMUNICATION

37. Risk communication should :

i) promote awareness and understanding of the specific issues under consideration during the risk analysis ;

ii) promote consistency and transparency in formulating risk management options/recommendations;

iii) provide a sound basis for understanding the risk management decisions proposed;

iv) improve the overall effectiveness and efficiency of the risk analysis ;

v) strengthen the working relationships among participants;

vi) foster public understanding of the process, so as to enhance trust and confidence in the safety of the food supply;

vii) promote the appropriate involvement of all interested parties; and

viii) exchange information in relation to the concerns of interested parties about the risks associated with food.

38. Risk analysis should include clear, interactive and documented communication, amongst risk assessors (Joint FAO/WHO expert bodies and consultations) and risk managers (Codex Alimentarius Commission and its subsidiary bodies), and reciprocal communication with member countries and all interested parties in all aspects of the process.

39. Risk communication should be more than the dissemination of information. Its major function should be to ensure that all information and opinion required for effective risk management is incorporated into the decision making process.

40. Risk communication involving interested parties should include a transparent explanation of the risk assessment policy and of the assessment of risk, including the uncertainty. The need for specific standards or related texts and

the procedures followed to determine them, including how the uncertainty was dealt with, should also be clearly explained. It should indicate any constraints, uncertainties, assumptions and their impact on the risk analysis, and minority opinions that had been expressed in the course of the risk assessment (see para. 25).

41. The guidance on risk communication in this document is addressed to all those involved in carrying out risk analysis within the framework of Codex Alimentarius. However, it is also of importance for this work to be made as transparent and accessible as possible to those not directly engaged in the process and other interested parties while respecting legitimate concerns to preserve confidentiality (see para. 6).

RISK ANALYSIS PRINCIPLES APPLIED BY THE CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD ADDITIVES AND CONTAMINANTS

SECTION 1. SCOPE

1) This document addresses the respective applications of risk analysis principles by the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants (CCFAC) and the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA). For matters which cannot be addressed by JECFA, this document does not preclude the possible consideration of recommendations arising from other internationally recognized expert bodies, as approved by the Commission.

2) This document should be read in conjunction with the *Working Principles for Risk Analysis for Application in the Framework of the Codex Alimentarius*.

SECTION 2. CCFAC and JECFA

3) CCFAC and JECFA recognize that communication between risk assessors and risk managers is critical to the success of their risk analysis activities.

4) CCFAC and JECFA should continue to develop procedures to enhance communication between the two committees.

5) CCFAC and JECFA should ensure that their contributions to the risk analysis process involve all interested parties and are fully transparent and thoroughly documented. While respecting legitimate concerns to preserve confidentiality, documentation should be made available, upon request, in a timely manner to all interested parties.

6) JECFA, in consultation with CCFAC, should continue to explore developing minimum quality criteria for data requirements necessary for JECFA to perform risk assessments. These criteria are used by CCFAC in preparing its Priority List for JECFA. The JECFA Secretariat should consider whether these minimum quality criteria for data have been met when preparing the provisional agenda for meetings of JECFA.

SECTION 3. CCFAC

7) CCFAC is primarily responsible for recommending risk management proposals for adoption by the CAC.

8) CCFAC shall base its risk management recommendations to the CAC on JECFA's risk assessments, including safety assessments[31], of food additives, naturally occurring toxicants, and contaminants in food.

9) In cases where JECFA has performed a safety assessment and CCFAC or the CAC determines that additional scientific guidance is necessary, CCFAC or CAC may make a more specific request to JECFA to obtain the scientific guidance necessary for a risk management decision.

10) CCFAC's risk management recommendations to the CAC with respect to food additives shall be guided by the principles described in the Preamble and relevant annexes of the Codex General Standard for Food Additives.

11) CCFAC's risk management recommendations to the CAC with respect to contaminants and naturally occurring toxicants shall be guided by the principles described in the Preamble and relevant annexes of the Codex General Standard for Contaminants and Naturally Occurring Toxins in Food.

12) CCFAC's risk management recommendations to the CAC that involve health and safety aspects of food standards shall be based on JECFA's risk assessments and other legitimate factors relevant to the health protection of consumers and to ensuring fair practices in food trade in accordance with the *Criteria for the Consideration of the Other Factors Referred to in the Second Statement of Principles*.

13) CCFAC's risk management recommendations to the CAC shall take into account the relevant uncertainties and safety factors described by JECFA.

14) CCFAC shall endorse maximum use levels only for those additives for which 1) JECFA has established specifications of identity and purity and 2) JECFA has completed a safety assessment or has performed a quantitative risk assessment.

15) CCFAC shall endorse maximum levels only for those contaminants for which 1) JECFA has completed a safety assessment or has performed a quantitative risk assessment and 2) the level of the contaminant in food can be determined through appropriate sampling plans and analysis methods, as adopted by Codex. CCFAC should take into consideration the analytical capabilities of developing countries unless public health considerations require otherwise.

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[31] A Safety Assessment is defined as a scientifically-based process consisting of: 1) the determination of a NOEL (No Observed Effect Level) for a chemical, biological, or physical agent from animal feeding studies and other scientific considerations; 2) the subsequent application of safety factors to establish an ADI or tolerable intake; and 3) comparison of the ADI or tolerable intake with probable exposure to the agent (Temporary definition to be modified when JECFA definition is available).

16) CCFAC shall take into account differences in regional and national food consumption patterns and dietary exposure as assessed by JECFA when recommending maximum use levels for additives or maximum levels for contaminants and naturally occurring toxicants in food.

17) Before finalising proposals for maximum levels for contaminants and naturally occurring toxicants, CCFAC shall seek the scientific advice of JECFA about the validity of the analysis and sampling aspects, about the distribution of concentrations of contaminants and naturally occurring toxicants in foods and about other relevant technical and scientific aspects, including dietary exposure, as necessary to provide for a suitable scientific basis for its advice to CCFAC.

18) When establishing its standards, codes of practice, and guidelines, CCFAC shall clearly state when it applies any other legitimate factors relevant to the health protection of consumers and to ensuring fair practices in food trade in accordance with the *Criteria for the Consideration of the Other Factors Referred to in the Second Statement of Principles*, in addition to JECFA's risk assessment, and specify its reasons for doing so.

19) CCFAC's risk communication with JECFA includes prioritising substances for JECFA review with the view towards obtaining the best available risk assessment for purposes of elaborating safe conditions of use for food additives and elaborating safe maximum levels or codes of practice for contaminants and naturally occurring toxicants in food.

20) CCFAC shall consider the following when preparing its priority list of substances for JECFA review:

- Consumer protection from the point of view of health and prevention of unfair trade practices;
- CCFAC's Terms of Reference;
- JECFA's Terms of Reference;
- The Codex Alimentarius Commission's Strategic Plan , its relevant plans of work and *Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities*;
- The quality, quantity, adequacy, and availability of data pertinent to performing a risk assessment, including data from developing countries;
- The prospect of completing the work in a reasonable period of time;
- The diversity of national legislation and any apparent impediments to international trade;
- The impact on international trade (i.e., magnitude of the problem in international trade);
- The needs and concerns of developing countries; and,

– Work already undertaken by other international organizations;

21) When referring substances to JECFA, CCFAC shall provide background information and clearly explain the reasons for the request when chemicals are nominated for evaluation;

22) CCFAC may also refer a range of risk management options, with a view toward obtaining JECFA's guidance on the attendant risks and the likely risk reductions associated with each option.

23) CCFAC requests JECFA to review any methods and guidelines being considered by CCFAC for assessing maximum use levels for additives or maximum levels for contaminants and naturally occurring toxicants. CCFAC makes any such request with a view toward obtaining JECFA's guidance on the limitations, applicability, and appropriate means for implementation of a method or guideline for CCFAC's work.

SECTION 4. JECFA

24) JECFA is primarily responsible for performing the risk assessments upon which CCFAC and ultimately the CAC base their risk management decisions.

25) JECFA's scientific experts should be selected on the basis of their competence and independence, taking into account geographical representation to ensure that all regions are represented.

26) JECFA should strive to provide CCFAC with science-based risk assessments that include the four components of risk assessment as defined by CAC and safety assessments that can serve as the basis for CCFAC's risk-management discussions. For contaminants and naturally occurring toxicants, JECFA should determine to the extent possible the risks associated with various levels of intake. Because of the lack of appropriate information, including data in humans, however, this may be possible in only a few cases for the foreseeable future. For additives, JECFA should continue to use its safety assessment process for establishing ADIs.

27) JECFA should strive to provide CCFAC with science-based quantitative risk assessments and safety assessments for food additives, contaminants, and naturally occurring toxicants in a transparent manner.

28) JECFA should provide CCFAC with information on the applicability and any constraints of the risk assessment to the general population to particular sub-populations and should as far as possible identify potential risks to populations of potentially enhanced vulnerability (e.g., children, women of child-bearing age, the elderly).

29) JECFA should also strive to provide CCFAC with specifications of identity and purity essential to assessing risk associated with the use of additives.

30) JECFA should strive to base its risk assessments on global data, including data from developing countries. These data should include epidemiological surveillance data and exposure studies.

31) JECFA is responsible for evaluating exposure to additives, contaminants, and naturally occurring toxicants.

32) When evaluating intake of additives or contaminants and naturally occurring toxicants during its risk assessment, JECFA should take into account regional differences in food consumption patterns.

33) JECFA should provide to CCFAC its scientific views on the validity and the distribution aspects of the available data regarding contaminants and naturally occurring toxicants in foods which have been used for exposure assessments, and should give details on the magnitude of the contribution to the exposure from specific foods as may be relevant for risk management actions or options of CCFAC.

34) JECFA should communicate to CCFAC the magnitude and source of uncertainties in its risk assessments. When communicating this information, JECFA should provide CCFAC with a description of the methodology and procedures by which JECFA estimated any uncertainty in its risk assessment.

35) JECFA should communicate to CCFAC the basis for all assumptions used in its risk assessments including default assumptions used to account for uncertainties.

36) JECFA's risk assessment output to CCFAC is limited to presenting its deliberations and the conclusions of its risk assessments and safety assessments in a complete and transparent manner. JECFA's communication of its risk assessments should not include the consequences of its analyses on trade or other non-public health consequence. Should JECFA include risk assessments of alternative risk management options, JECFA should ensure that these are consistent with the Working Principles for Risk Analysis for the Application in the Framework of the Codex Alimentarius and Risk Analysis Principles applied by the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants.

37) When establishing the agenda for a JECFA meeting, the JECFA Secretariat work closely with CCFAC to ensure that CCFAC's risk management priorities are addressed in a timely manner. With respect to food additives, the JECFA Secretariat should normally give first priority to compounds that have been assigned a temporary ADI, or equivalent. Second priority should normally be given to food additives or groups of additives that have previously been evaluated and for which an ADI, or equivalent, has been estimated, and for which new information is available. Third priority should normally be given to food additives that have not been previously evaluated.

With respect to contaminants and naturally occurring toxicants, the JECFA Secretariat should give priority to substances that present both a significant risk to public health and are a known or expected problem in international trade.

38) When establishing the agenda for a JECFA meeting, the JECFA Secretariat should give priority to substances that are known or expected problems in international trade or that present an emergency or imminent public health risk.

CCFAC POLICY FOR EXPOSURE ASSESSMENT OF CONTAMINANTS AND TOXINS IN FOODS OR FOOD GROUPS

SECTION 1. INTRODUCTION

1. Maximum Limits (MLs) do not need to be set for all foods that contain a contaminant or a toxin. The Preamble of the Codex General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Foods (GSCTF) states in Section 1.3.2 that "maximum levels (MLs) shall only be set for those foods in which the contaminant may be found in amounts that are significant for the total exposure of the consumer. They should be set in such a way that the consumer is adequately protected". Setting standards for foods that contribute little to dietary exposure would mandate enforcement activities that do not contribute significantly to health outcomes.

2. Exposure assessment is one of the four components of risk assessment within the risk analysis framework adopted by Codex as the basis for all standard-setting processes. The estimated contribution of specific foods or food groups to the total dietary exposure to a contaminant as it relates to a quantitative health hazard endpoint (e.g., PMTDI, PTWI) provides further information needed for the setting of priorities for the risk management of specific foods/food groups. Exposure assessments must be guided by clearly articulated policies elaborated by Codex with the aim of increasing the transparency of risk management decisions.

3. The purpose of this Annex is to outline steps in contaminant data selection and analysis undertaken by JECFA when requested by CCFAC to conduct a dietary exposure assessment.

4. The following components highlight aspects of JECFA's exposure assessment of contaminants and toxins that contribute to ensuring transparency and consistency of science-based risk assessments. Exposure assessments of contaminants and toxins in foods are performed by JECFA at the request of CCFAC. CCFAC will take this information into account when considering risk management options and making recommendations regarding contaminants and toxins in foods.

SECTION 2. ESTIMATION OF TOTAL DIETARY EXPOSURE TO A CONTAMINANT OR TOXIN FROM FOODS/FOOD GROUPS

5. JECFA uses available data from member countries and from GEMS/Food Operating Program for analytical laboratories system on contaminant levels in foods and the amount of foods consumed to estimate total dietary exposure to a contaminant or toxin. This is expressed as a percentage of the

tolerable intake (e.g., PTDI, PTWI, or other appropriate toxicological reference point). For a carcinogen with no clear threshold, JECFA uses available data on intake combined with data on carcinogenic potency to estimate potential population risks.

6. Median/mean contaminant levels in foods are determined from available analytical data submitted by countries and from other sources. These data are combined with information available for the GEMS/Food Regional diets to generate dietary exposure estimates for regions in the world. JECFA provides an estimate as to which of the GEMS/Food Regional diets are likely to approach or exceed the tolerable intake.

7. In some cases, available national contaminant and/or individual food consumption data may be used by JECFA to provide more accurate estimates of total dietary exposure, particularly for vulnerable groups such as children.

8. JECFA performs exposure assessments if requested by CCFAC using the GEMS/Food Regional Diets and, if needed, available national consumption data to estimate the impact on dietary exposure of proposed alternative maximum levels to inform CCFAC about these risk management options.

SECTION 3. IDENTIFICATION OF FOODS/FOOD GROUPS THAT CONTRIBUTE SIGNIFICANTLY TO TOTAL DIETARY EXPOSURE OF THE CONTAMINANT OR TOXIN

9. From dietary exposure estimates JECFA identifies foods/food groups that contribute significantly to the exposure according to CCFAC's criteria for selecting food groups that contribute to exposure.

10. The CCFAC determines criteria for selecting foods/food groups that contribute significantly to total dietary exposure of a contaminant or toxin. These criteria are based upon the percentage of the tolerable intake (or similar health hazard endpoint) that is contributed by a given food/food group and the number of geographic regions (as defined by the GEMS/Food Regional diets) for which dietary exposures exceed that percentage.

11. The criteria are as follows:

    a) Foods or food groups for which exposure to the contaminant or toxin contributes approximately 10%[32] or more of the tolerable intake (or similar health hazard endpoint) in one of the GEMS/Food Regional diets;

or,

[32] Rounded to the nearest 1/10th of a percent.

b) Foods or food groups for which exposure to the contaminant or toxin contributes approximately 5%1 or more of the tolerable intake (or similar health hazard endpoint) in two or more of the GEMS/Food Regional diets;

or,

c) Foods or food groups that may have a significant impact on exposure for specific groups of consumers, although exposure may not exceed 5% of the tolerable intake (or similar health hazard endpoint) in any of the GEMS/Food Regional diets. These would be considered on a case-by-case basis.

SECTION 4. GENERATION OF DISTRIBUTION CURVES FOR CONCENTRATIONS OF THE CONTAMINANT IN SPECIFIC FOODS/FOOD GROUPS (CONCURRENT WITH SECTION 2, OR SUBSEQUENT STEP)

12. If requested by CCFAC, JECFA uses available analytical data on contaminant or toxin levels in foods/food groups identified as significant contributors to dietary exposure to generate distribution curves of contaminant concentrations in individual foods. CCFAC will take this information into account when considering risk management options and, if appropriate, for proposing the lowest achievable levels for contaminants/toxins in food on a global basis.

13. Ideally, individual data from composite samples or aggregated analytical data would be used by JECFA to construct the distribution curves. When such data are not available, aggregated data would be used (for example mean and geometric standard deviation). However, methods to construct distribution curves using aggregated data would need to be validated by JECFA.

14. In presenting the distribution curves to CCFAC, JECFA should, to the extent possible, provide a comprehensive overview of the ranges of contamination of foods (i.e., both the maximum and outlier values) and of the proportion of foods/food groups that contain contaminants/toxins at those levels.

SECTION 5. ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPACT OF AGRICULTURAL AND PRODUCTION PRACTICES ON CONTAMINANT LEVELS IN FOODS/FOOD GROUPS (CONCURRENT WITH SECTION 2, OR SUBSEQUENT STEP)

15. If requested by CCFAC, JECFA assesses the potential impact of different agricultural and production practices on contaminant levels in foods to the extent that scientific data are available to support such assessments.

CCFAC takes this information into account when considering risk management options and for proposing Codes of Practice.

16. Taking this information into account, CCFAC proposes risk management decisions. To refine them, CCFAC may request JECFA to undertake a second assessment to consider specific exposure scenarios based on proposed risk management options. The methodology for assessing potential contaminant exposure in relation to proposed risk management options needs to be further developed by JECFA.

SECTION IV

- Subsidiary Bodies
- Membership
- Organigram

Contents of this section

This Section contains factual information about the Codex Alimentarius Commission, including a list of the Commission's Sessions and sessions of the Executive Committee.

The list of the Commission's Subsidiary Bodies gives the Terms of Reference of all Codex Committees established under Rule XI.1 of the Commission's Rules of Procedure. Each body (including the Commission and the Executive Committee) is also identified by its unique reference code used in all official correspondence. The meetings of each subsidiary body are listed. The structure of the Commission's subsidiary bodies is shown diagrammatically on the inside back cover.

The countries and organizations which form the Commission's Membership are listed (as of October 2006). The Secretariat of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme provides up-dated information on national Codex Contact Points at regular intervals, namely on its website: http://www.codexalimentarius.net.

SESSIONS OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

(**CX-701**)[33]

SESSION	PLACE AND DATES
1st	Rome, Italy, 25 June - 3 July 1963
2nd	Geneva, Switzerland, 28 September - 7 October 1964
3rd	Rome, Italy, 19-28 October 1965
4th	Rome, Italy, 7-14 November 1966
5th	Rome, Italy, 20 February - 1 March 1968
6th	Geneva, Switzerland, 4-14 March 1969
7th	Rome, Italy, 7-17 April 1970
8th	Geneva, Switzerland, 30 June - 9 July 1971
9th	Rome, Italy, 6-17 November 1972
10th	Rome, Italy, 1-11 July 1974
11th	Rome, Italy, 29 March - 9 April 1976
12th	Rome, Italy, 17-28 April 1978
13th	Rome, Italy, 3-14 December 1979
14th	Geneva, Switzerland, 29 June - 10 July 1981
15th	Rome, Italy 4-15 July 1983
16th	Geneva Switzerland, 1-12 July 1985
17th	Rome, Italy, 29 June - 10 July 1987
18th	Geneva, Switzerland, 3-12 July 1989
19th	Rome, Italy, 1-10 July 1991
20th	Geneva, Switzerland, 28 June - 7 July 1993
21st	Rome, Italy, 3-8 July 1995
22nd	Geneva, Switzerland, 23-28 June 1997
23rd	Rome, Italy, 28 June - 3 July 1999
24th	Geneva, Switzerland, 2-7 July 2001
25th	Geneva, Switzerland, 13-15 February 2003[34]
26th	Rome, Italy, 30 June – 7 July 2003
27th	Geneva, Switzerland, 28 June - 3 July 2004
28th	Rome, Italy, 4-9 July 2005
29th	Geneva, Switzerland, 3-7 July 2006

[33] The reference code, followed by the number of the session, used in official correspondence.

[34] Extraordinary session.

SESSIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

(CX-702)

SESSION	PLACE AND DATES
1st	Rome, Italy, 3 July 1963
2nd	Washington D.C., USA, 25-26 May 1964
3rd	Geneva, Switzerland, 25-26 September 1964
4th	Geneva, Switzerland, 7 October 1964
5th	Rome, Italy, 3-4 June 1965
6th	Rome, Italy, 18 October 1965
7th	Rome, Italy, 28 October 1965
8th	Rome, Italy, 14-16 June 1966
9th	Rome, Italy, 4 November 1966
10th	Rome, Italy, 16-18 May 1967
11th	Rome, Italy, 19 February 1968
12th	Rome, Italy, 5-7 June 1968
13th	Geneva, Switzerland, 3 March 1969
14th	Rome, Italy, 17-19 September 1969
15th	Rome, Italy, 3 April 1970
16th	Geneva, Switzerland, 9-11 February 1971
17th	Geneva, Switzerland, 25 June 1971
18th	Rome, Italy, 15-18 May 1972
19th	Geneva, Switzerland, 3-5 July 1973
20th	Rome, Italy, 28 June 1974
21st	Geneva, Switzerland, 17-19 June 1975
22nd	Rome, Italy, 23-24 March 1976
23rd	Geneva, Switzerland, 12-15 July 1977
24th	Rome, Italy, 13-14 April 1978
25th	Geneva, Switzerland, 10-13 July 1979
26th	Rome, Italy, 26-27 November 1979
27th	Geneva, Switzerland, 13-17 October 1980
28th	Geneva, Switzerland, 25-26 June 1981
29th	Geneva, Switzerland, 12-16 July 1982
30th	Rome, Italy, 30 June – 1 July 1983
31st	Geneva, Switzerland, 25-29 June 1984
32nd	Geneva, Switzerland, 27-28 June 1985
33rd	Rome, Italy, 30 June – 4 July 1986

SESSION	PLACE AND DATES
34th	Rome, Italy, 25-26 June 1987
35th	Geneva, Switzerland, 4-8 July 1988
36th	Geneva, Switzerland, 29-30 June 1989
37th	Rome, Italy, 3-6 July 1990
38th	Rome, Italy, 27-28 June 1991
39th	Geneva, Switzerland, 30 June-3 July 1992
40th	Geneva, Switzerland, 24-25 June 1993
41st	Rome, Italy, 28-30 June 1994
42nd	Rome, Italy, 28-30 June 1995
43rd	Geneva, Switzerland, 4-7 June 1996
44th	Geneva, Switzerland, 19-20 June 1997
45th	Rome, Italy, 3-5 June 1998
46th	Rome, Italy, 24-25 June 1999
47th	Geneva, Switzerland, 28-30 June 2000
48th	Geneva, Switzerland, 28-29 June 2001
49th	Geneva, Switzerland, 26-27 September 2001[35]
50th	Rome, Italy, 26-28 June 2002
51st	Geneva, Switzerland, 10-11 February 2003[35]
52nd	Rome, Italy, 26-27 June 2003
53rd	Geneva, Switzerland, 4-6 February 2004
54th	Geneva, Switzerland, 24-26 June 2004
55th	Rome, Italy, 9-11 February 2005
56th	Rome, Italy, 30 June-2 July 2005
57th	Geneva, Switzerland, 6-9 December 2005
58th	Rome, Italy, 28 June – 1 July 2006

[35] Extraordinary session.

SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

SUBSIDIARY BODY UNDER RULE XI.1(a)

JOINT FAO/WHO COMMITTEE OF GOVERNMENT EXPERTS ON THE CODE OF PRINCIPLES CONCERNING MILK AND MILK PRODUCTS (CX-703)

Established by FAO and WHO in 1958 and integrated into the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme in 1962 as a subsidiary body of the Codex Alimentarius Commission under Rule XI.1(a). Re-named "Codex Committee on Milk and Milk Products" in 1993 and re-established as a subsidiary body under Rule XI.1(b)(i) (see *Rules of Procedure* in Section I).

Sessions

1st	Rome, Italy, 8-12 September 1958
2nd	Rome, Italy, 13-17 April 1959
3rd	Rome, Italy, 22-26 February 1960
4th	Rome, Italy, 6-10 March 1961
5th	Rome, Italy, 2-6 April 1962
6th	Rome, Italy, 17-21 June 1963
7th	Rome, Italy, 4-8 May 1964
8th	Rome, Italy, 24-29 May 1965
9th	Rome, Italy, 20-25 June 1966
10th	Rome, Italy, 25-31 August 1967
11th	Rome, Italy, 10-15 June 1968
12th	Rome, Italy, 7-12 July 1969
13th	Rome, Italy, 15-20 June 1970
14th	Rome, Italy, 6-11 September 1971
15th	Rome, Italy, 25-30 September 1972
16th	Rome, Italy, 10-15 September 1973
17th	Rome, Italy, 14-19 April 1975
18th	Rome, Italy, 13-18 September 1976
19th	Rome, Italy, 12-17 June 1978
20th	Rome, Italy, 26-30 April 1982
21st	Rome, Italy, 2-6 June 1986
22nd	Rome, Italy, 5-9 November 1990

Terms of Reference:

To establish international codes and standards concerning milk and milk products.

SUBSIDIARY BODIES UNDER RULE XI.1(b)(i)

CODEX COMMITTEE ON GENERAL PRINCIPLES (CX-716)

Host Government: France

Sessions:

1st	Paris, 4-8 October 1965
2nd	Paris, 16-19 October 1967
3rd	Paris, 9-13 December 1968
4th	Paris, 4-8 March 1974
5th	Paris, 19-23 January 1976
6th	Paris, 15-19 October 1979
7th	Paris, 6-10 April 1981
8th	Paris, 24-28 November 1986
9th	Paris, 24-28 April 1989
10th	Paris, 7-11 September 1992
11th	Paris, 25-29 April 1994
12th	Paris, 25-28 November 1996
13th	Paris, 7-11 September 1998
14th	Paris, 19-23 April 1999
15th	Paris, 10-14 April 2000
16th	Paris, 23-27 April 2001
17th	Paris, 15-19 April 2002
18th	Paris, 7-11 April 2003
19th	Paris, 17–21 November 2003[36]
20th	Paris, 3-7 May 2004
21st	Paris, 8-12 November 2004[36]
22nd	Paris, 11-15 April 2005
23rd	Paris, 10-14 April 2006

Terms of Reference:

To deal with such procedural and general matters as are referred to it by the Codex Alimentarius Commission. Such matters have included the

[36] Extraordinary Session

establishment of the General Principles which define the purpose and scope of the Codex Alimentarius, the nature of Codex standards and the forms of acceptance by countries of Codex standards; the development of Guidelines for Codex Committees; the development of a mechanism for examining any economic impact statements submitted by governments concerning possible implications for their economies of some of the individual standards or some of the provisions thereof; the establishment of a Code of Ethics for the International Trade in Food.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD ADDITIVES (CX-711)

Renamed as Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants by the 17th Session of the Commission; renamed again by the 29th Session of the Commission as Codex Committee on Food Additives, due to the creation of a Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CX-735)

Host Government: China (since 39th Session), Netherlands (1st to 38th Sessions)

Sessions:

1st	The Hague, 19-22 May 1964
2nd	The Hague, 10-14 May 1965
3rd	The Hague, 9-13 May 1966
4th	The Hague, 11-15 September 1967
5th	Arnhem, 18-22 March 1968
6th	Arnhem, 15-22 October 1969
7th	The Hague, 12-16 October, 1970
8th	Wageningen, 29 May - 2 June 1972
9th	Wageningen, 10-14 December 1973
10th	The Hague, 2-7 June 1975
11th	The Hague, 31 May - 6 June 1977
12th	The Hague, 10-16 October 1978
13th	The Hague, 11-17 September 1979
14th	The Hague, 25 Nov. - 1 Dec. 1980
15th	The Hague, 16-22 March 1982
16th	The Hague, 22-28 March 1983
17th	The Hague, 10-16 April 1984
18th	The Hague, 5-11 November 1985
19th	The Hague, 17-23 March 1987
20th	The Hague, 7-12 March 1988
21st	The Hague, 13-18 March 1989
22nd	The Hague, 19-24 March 1990
23rd	The Hague, 4-9 March 1991
24th	The Hague, 23-28 March 1992

25th	The Hague, 22-26 March 1993
26th	The Hague, 7-11 March 1994
27th	The Hague, 20-24 March 1995
28th	Manila, Philippines, 18-22 March 1996
29th	The Hague, 17-21 March 1997
30th	The Hague, 9-13 March 1998
31st	The Hague, 22-26 March 1999
32nd	Beijing, China, 20-24 March 2000
33rd	The Hague, 12-16 March 2001
34th	Rotterdam, 11-15 March 2002
35th	Arusha, Tanzania, 17-21 March 2003
36th	Rotterdam, 22-26 March 2004
37th	The Hague, 25-29 April 2005
38th	The Hague, 24-28 April 2006

Terms of reference:

(a) to establish or endorse permitted maximum levels for individual food additives;

(b) to prepare priority lists of food additives for risk assessment by the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives;

(c) to assign functional classes to individual food additives;

(d) to recommend specifications of identity and purity for food additives for adoption by the Commission;

(e) to consider methods of analysis for the determination of additives in food; and

(f) to consider and elaborate standards or codes for related subjects such as the labelling of food additives when sold as such.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON CONTAMINANTS IN FOODS (CX-735)

Host Government: Netherlands

Terms of reference:

(a) to establish or endorse permitted maximum levels or guidelines levels for contaminants and naturally occurring toxicants in food and feed;

(b) to prepare priority lists of contaminants and naturally occurring toxicants for risk assessment by the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives;

(c) to consider methods of analysis and sampling for the determination of contaminants and naturally occurring toxicants in food and feed;

(d) to consider and elaborate standards or codes of practice for related subjects; and

(e) to consider other matters assigned to it by the Commission in relation to contaminants and naturally occurring toxicants in food and feed.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD HYGIENE (CX-712)

Host Government: U.S.A.

Sessions:

1st	Washington D.C., 27-28 May 1964
2nd	Rome, 14-16 June 1965
3rd	Rome, 31 May - 3 June 1966
4th	Washington D.C., 12-16 June 1967
5th	Washington D.C., 6-10 May 1968
6th	Washington D.C., 5-9 May 1969
7th	Washington D.C., 25-29 May 1970
8th	Washington D.C., 14-18 June 1971
9th	Washington D.C., 19-23 June 1972
10th	Washington D.C., 14-18 May 1973
11th	Washington D.C., 10-14 June 1974
12th	Washington D.C., 12-16 May 1975
13th	Rome, 10-14 May 1976
14th	Washington D.C., 29 August - 2 September 1977
15th	Washington D.C., 18-22 September 1978
16th	Washington D.C., 23-27 July 1979
17th	Washington D.C., 17-21 November 1980
18th	Washington D.C., 22-26 February 1982
19th	Washington D.C., 26-30 September 1983
20th	Washington D.C., 1-5 October 1984
21st	Washington D.C., 23-27 September 1985
22nd	Washington D.C., 20-24 October 1986
23rd	Washington D.C., 21-25 March 1988
24th	Washington D.C., 16-20 October 1989
25th	Washington D.C., 28 October - 1 November 1991
26th	Washington D.C., 1-5 March 1993
27th	Washington D.C., 17-21 October 1994

28th	Washington D.C., 27 November - 1 December 1995
29th	Washington D.C., 21-25 October 1996
30th	Washington D.C., 20-24 October 1997
31st	Orlando, Florida, 26-30 October 1998
32nd	Washington D.C., 29 November - 4 December 1999
33rd	Washington D.C., 23-28 October 2000
34th	Bangkok, Thailand, 8-13 October 2001
35th	Orlando, Florida, 27 January-1 February 2003
36th	Wahsington D.C., 29 March-3 April 2004
37th	Buenos Aires, Argentina, 14-19 March 2005
38th	Houston, United States, 4-9 December 2006

Terms of reference:

(a) to draft basic provisions on food hygiene applicable to all food[37];

(b) to consider, amend if necessary and endorse provisions on hygiene prepared by Codex commodity committees and contained in Codex commodity standards, and

(c) to consider, amend if necessary, and endorse provisions on hygiene prepared by Codex commodity committees and contained in Codex codes of practice unless, in specific cases, the Commission has decided otherwise, or

(d) to draft provisions on hygiene applicable to specific food items or food groups, whether coming within the terms of reference of a Codex commodity committee or not;

(e) to consider specific hygiene problems assigned to it by the Commission;

(f) to suggest and prioritize areas where there is a need for microbiological risk assessment at the international level and to develop questions to be addressed by the risk assessors;

(g) to consider microbiological risk management matters in relation to food hygiene, including food irradiation, and in relation to the risk assessment of FAO and WHO.

[37] The term "hygiene" includes, where necessary, microbiological specifications for food and associated methodology.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD LABELLING (CX-714)

Host Government: Canada

Sessions:

1st	Ottawa, 21-25 June 1965
2nd	Ottawa, 25-29 July 1966
3rd	Ottawa, 26-30 June 1967
4th	Ottawa, 23-28 September 1968
5th	Rome, 6 April 1970
6th	Geneva, 28-29 June 1971
7th	Ottawa, 5-10 June 1972
8th	Ottawa, 28 May - 1 June 1973
9th	Rome, 26-27 June 1974
10th	Ottawa, 26-30 May 1975
11th	Rome, 25-26 March 1976
12th	Ottawa, 16-20 May 1977
13th	Ottawa, 16-20 July 1979
14th	Rome, 28-30 November 1979
15th	Ottawa, 10-14 November 1980
16th	Ottawa, 17-21 May 1982
17th	Ottawa, 12-21 October 1983
18th	Ottawa, 11-18 March 1985
19th	Ottawa, 9-13 March 1987
20th	Ottawa, 3-7 April 1989
21st	Ottawa, 11-15 March 1991
22nd	Ottawa, 26-30 April 1993
23rd	Ottawa, 24-28 October 1994
24th	Ottawa, 14-17 May 1996
25th	Ottawa, 15-18 April 1997
26th	Ottawa, 26-29 May 1998
27th	Ottawa, 27-30 April 1999
28th	Ottawa, 5-9 May 2000
29th	Ottawa, 1-4 May 2001
30th	Halifax, 6-10 May 2002
31st	Ottawa, 28 April - 2 May 2003
32nd	Montréal, 10-14 May 2004
33rd	Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia, 9-13 May 2005
34th	Ottawa, 1 to 5 May 2006

Terms of reference:

(a) to draft provisions on labelling applicable to all foods;

(b) to consider, amend if necessary, and endorse draft specific provisions on labelling prepared by the Codex Committees drafting standards, codes of practice and guidelines;

(c) to study specific labelling problems assigned to it by the Commission;

(d) to study problems associated with the advertisement of food with particular reference to claims and misleading descriptions.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON METHODS OF ANALYSIS AND SAMPLING (CX-715)

Host Government: Hungary (since the 7th session), Federal Republic of Germany (1st to 6th sessions)

Sessions:

1st	Berlin, 23-24 September 1965
2nd	Berlin, 20-23 September 1966
3rd	Berlin, 24-27 October 1967
4th	Berlin, 11-15 November 1968
5th	Cologne, 1-6 December 1969
6th	Bonn Bad Godesberg, 24-28 January 1971
7th	Budapest, 12-18 September 1972
8th	Budapest, 3-7 September 1973
9th	Budapest, 27-31 October 1975
10th	Budapest, 24-28 October 1977
11th	Budapest, 2-6 July 1979
12th	Budapest, 11-15 May 1981
13th	Budapest, 29 November - 3 December 1982
14th	Budapest, 26-30 November 1984
15th	Budapest, 10-14 November 1986
16th	Budapest, 14-19 November 1988
17th	Budapest, 8-12 April 1991
18th	Budapest, 9-13 November 1992
19th	Budapest, 21-25 March 1994
20th	Budapest, 2-6 October 1995
21st	Budapest, 10-14 March 1997
22nd	Budapest, 23-27 November 1998
23rd	Budapest, 26 February – March 2001
24th	Budapest, 18-22 November 2002
25th	Budapest, 8-12 March 2004

26th	Budapest, 4-8 April 2005
27th	Budapest, 15-19 May 2006

Terms of reference:

(a) to define the criteria appropriate to Codex Methods of Analysis and Sampling;

(b) to serve as a coordinating body for Codex with other international groups working in methods of analysis and sampling and quality assurance systems for laboratories;

(c) to specify, on the basis of final recommendations submitted to it by the other bodies referred to in (b) above, Reference Methods of Analysis and Sampling appropriate to Codex Standards which are generally applicable to a number of foods;

(d) to consider, amend, if necessary, and endorse, as appropriate, methods of analysis and sampling proposed by Codex (Commodity) Committees, except that methods of analysis and sampling for residues of pesticides or veterinary drugs in food, the assessment of micro biological quality and safety in food, and the assessment of specifications for food additives, do not fall within the terms of reference of this Committee;

(e) to elaborate sampling plans and procedures, as may be required;

(f) to consider specific sampling and analysis problems submitted to it by the Commission or any of its Committees;

(g) to define procedures, protocols, guidelines or related texts for the assessment of food laboratory proficiency, as well as quality assurance systems for laboratories.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON PESTICIDE RESIDUES (CX-718)

Host Government: China (since 37th Session), Netherlands (1st to 37th Sessions)

Sessions:

1st	The Hague, 17-21 January 1966
2nd	The Hague, 18-22 September 1967
3rd	Arnhem, 30 September-4 October 1968
4th	Arnhem, 6-14 October 1969
5th	The Hague, 28 September - 6 October 1970
6th	The Hague, 16-23 October 1972

7th	The Hague, 4-9 February 1974
8th	The Hague, 3-8 March 1975
9th	The Hague, 14-21 February 1977
10th	The Hague, 29 May - 5 June 1978
11th	The Hague, 11-18 June 1979
12th	The Hague, 2-9 June 1980
13th	The Hague, 15-20 June 1981
14th	The Hague, 14-21 June 1982
15th	The Hague, 3-10 October 1983
16th	The Hague, 24 May - 4 June 1984
17th	The Hague, 25 March - 1 April 1985
18th	The Hague, 21-28 April 1986
19th	The Hague, 6-13 April 1987
20th	The Hague, 18-25 April 1988
21st	The Hague, 10-17 April 1989
22nd	The Hague, 23-30 April 1990
23rd	The Hague, 15-22 April 1991
24th	The Hague, 6-13 April 1992
25th	Havana, Cuba, 19-26 April 1993
26th	The Hague, 11-18 April 1994
27th	The Hague, 24 April-1 May 1995
28th	The Hague, 15-20 April 1996
29th	The Hague, 7-12 April 1997
30th	The Hague, 20-25 April 1998
31st	The Hague, 12-17 April 1999
32nd	The Hague, 1-8 May 2000
33rd	The Hague, 2-7 April 2001
34th	The Hague, 13-18 May 2002
35th	Rotterdam, 31 March - 5 April 2003
36th	New Delhi, India, 19-24 April 2004
37th	The Hague, 18-23 April 2005
38th	Fortaleza, Brazil, 3-8 April 2006

Terms of reference:

(a) to establish maximum limits for pesticide residues in specific food items or in groups of food;

(b) to establish maximum limits for pesticide residues in certain animal feeding stuffs moving in international trade where this is justified for reasons of protection of human health;

(c) to prepare priority lists of pesticides for evaluation by the Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPR);

(d) to consider methods of sampling and analysis for the determination of pesticide residues in food and feed;

(e) to consider other matters in relation to the safety of food and feed containing pesticide residues; and

(f) to establish maximum limits for environmental and industrial contaminants showing chemical or other similarity to pesticides, in specific food items or groups of food.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON RESIDUES OF VETERINARY DRUGS IN FOODS (CX-730)

Host Government: United States of America

Sessions:

1st	Washington, D.C. 27-31 October, 1986
2nd	Washington, D.C. 30 November - 4 December 1987
3rd	Washington, D.C. 31 October - 4 November 1988
4th	Washington, D.C. 24-27 October 1989
5th	Washington, D.C. 16-19 October 1990
6th	Washington, D.C. 22-25 October 1991
7th	Washington, D.C., 20-23 October 1992
8th	Washington, D.C., 7-10 June 1994
9th	Washington, D.C., 5-8 December 1995
10th	San José (Costa Rica), 29 October - 1 November 1996
11th	Washington D.C., 15-18 September 1998
12th	Washington, D.C., 28-31 March 2000
13th	Charleston, South Carolina, 4 - 7 December 2001
14th	Arlington, Virginia, 4-7 March 2003
15th	Alexandria, Virginia, 26-29 October 2004
16th	Cancun, Mexico, 8-12 May 2006

Terms of reference:

(a) to determine priorities for the consideration of residues of veterinary drugs in foods;

(b) to recommend maximum levels of such substances;

(c) to develop codes of practice as may be required;

(d) to consider methods of sampling and analysis for the determination of veterinary drug residues in foods.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD IMPORT AND EXPORT CERTIFICATION AND INSPECTION SYSTEMS (CX-733)

Host Government, Australia

Sessions:

1st	Canberra, 21-25 September 1992
2nd	Canberra, 29 November-3 December 1993
3rd	Canberra, 27 February-3 March 1995
4th	Sydney, 19-23 February 1996
5th	Sydney, 17-21 February 1997
6th	Melbourne, 23-27 February 1998
7th	Melbourne, 22-26 February 1999
8th	Adelaide, 21-25 February 2000
9th	Perth, 11-15 December 2000
10th	Brisbane, 25 February-1 March 2002
11th	Adelaide, 2-6 December 2002
12th	Brisbane, 1-5 December 2003
13th	Melbourne, 6-10 December 2004
14th	Melbourne, 28 November – 2 December 2005
15th	Mar del Plata, Argentina, 6 – 10 November 2006

Terms of reference:

(a) to develop principles and guidelines for food import and export inspection and certification systems with a view to harmonising methods and procedures which protect the health of consumers, ensure fair trading practices and facilitate international trade in foodstuffs;

(b) to develop principles and guidelines for the application of measures by the competent authorities of exporting and importing countries to provide assurance where necessary that foodstuffs comply with requirements, especially statutory health requirements;

(c) to develop guidelines for the utilisation, as and when appropriate, of quality assurance systems[38] to ensure that foodstuffs conform with requirements and to promote the recognition of these systems in facilitating trade in food products under bilateral/multilateral arrangements by countries;

(d) to develop guidelines and criteria with respect to format, declarations and language of such official certificates as countries may require with a view towards international harmonization;

(e) to make recommendations for information exchange in relation to food import/export control;

(f) to consult as necessary with other international groups working on matters related to food inspection and certification systems;

(g) to consider other matters assigned to it by the Commission in relation to food inspection and certification systems.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON NUTRITION AND FOODS FOR SPECIAL DIETARY USES (CX-720)

Host Government: Federal Republic of Germany

Sessions:

1st	Freiburg in Breisgau, 2-5 May 1966
2nd	Freiburg in Breisgau, 6-10 November 1967
3rd	Cologne, 14-18 October 1968
4th	Cologne, 3-7 November 1969
5th	Bonn, 30 November-4 December 1970
6th	Bonn, 6-10 December 1971
7th	Cologne, 10-14 October 1972
8th	Bonn Bad Godesberg, 9-14 September 1974
9th	Bonn, 22-26 September 1975
10th	Bonn, 28 February - 4 March 1977
11th	Bonn Bad Godesberg, 23-27 October 1978
12th	Bonn Bad Godesberg, 29 September - 3 October 1980
13th	Bonn Bad Godesberg, 20-24 September 1982
14th	Bonn Bad Godesberg, 24 January - 1 February 1985
15th	Bonn Bad Godesberg, 12-16 January 1987

[38] ***Quality assurance*** means all those planned and systematic actions necessary to provide adequate confidence that a product or service will satisfy given requirements for quality (ISO-8402 Quality - Vocabulary)

16th	Bonn Bad Godesberg, 29 September - 7 October 1988
17th	Bonn Bad Godesberg, 18-22 February 1991
18th	Bonn Bad Godesberg, 28 September - 2 October 1992
19th	Bonn Bad Godesberg, 27-31 March 1995
20th	Bonn Bad Godesberg, 7-11 October 1996
21st	Berlin, 21-25 September 1998
22nd	Berlin, 19-23 June 2000
23rd	Berlin, 26-30 November 2001
24th	Berlin, 4-8 November 2002
25th	Bonn, 3-7 November 2003
26th	Bonn, 1-5 November 2004
27th	Bonn, 21-25 November 2005
28th	Chiang Mai, Thailand, 30 October – 3 November 2006

Terms of reference:

(a) to study specific nutritional problems assigned to it by the Commission and advise the Commission on general nutrition issues;

(b) to draft general provisions, as appropriate, concerning the nutritional aspects of all foods;

(c) to develop standards, guidelines or related texts for foods for special dietary uses, in cooperation with other committees where necessary;

(d) to consider, amend if necessary, and endorse provisions on nutritional aspects proposed for inclusion Codex standards, guidelines and related texts.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON COCOA PRODUCTS AND CHOCOLATE (CX-708)

Host Government: Switzerland

Sessions:

1st	Neuchâtel, 5-6 November 1963
2nd	Montreux, 22-24 April 1964
3rd	Zürich, 10-12 March 1965
4th	Berne, 15-17 March 1966
5th	Lugano, 9-12 May 1967
6th	Montreux, 2-5 July 1968
7th	Horgen, (Zürich), 23-27 June 1969
8th	Lucerne, 29 June - 3 July 1970
9th	Neuchâtel, 27 September - 1 October 1971

10th Lausanne, 7-11 May 1973
11th Zürich, 2-6 December 1974
12th Bienne, 1-5 November 1976
13th Aarau, 2-6 April 1979
14th Lausanne, 21-25 April 1980
15th Neuchâtel, 29 March - 2 April 1982
16th Thun, 30 September - 2 October 1996
17th Berne, 16-18 November 1998
18th Fribourg, 2-4 November 2000
19th Fribourg, 3-5 October 2001

Adjourned *sine die*

Terms of reference:

To elaborate world wide standards for cocoa products and chocolate.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON SUGARS (CX-710)

Host Government: United Kingdom

Sessions:

1st London, 3-5 March 1964
2nd London, 2-4 March 1965
3rd London, 1-3 March 1966
4th London, 18-21 April 1967
5th London, 10-12 September 1968
6th London, 19-22 March 1974
7th London, 9-11 February 2000

Adjourned *sine die*

Terms of reference:

To elaborate world wide standards for all types of sugars and sugar products.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON PROCESSED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES (CX-713)

Host Government: United States of America

Sessions:

1st Washington, D.C., 29-30 May 1964
2nd Rome, 8-11 June 1965

3rd	Rome, 6-10 June 1966
4th	Washington, D.C., 19-23 June 1967
5th	Washington, D.C., 13-17 May 1968
6th	Washington, D.C., 12-16 May 1969
7th	Washington, D.C., 1-5 June 1970
8th	Washington, D.C., 7-11 June 1971
9th	Washington, D.C., 12-16 June 1972
10th	Washington, D.C., 21-25 May 1973
11th	Washington, D.C., 3-7 June 1974
12th	Washington, D.C., 19-23 May 1975
13th	Washington, D.C., 9-13 May 1977
14th	Washington, D.C., 25-29 September 1978
15th	Washington, D.C., 17-21 March 1980
16th	Washington, D.C., 22-26 March 1982
17th	Washington, D.C., 13-17 February 1984
18th	Washington, D.C., 10-14 March 1986
19th	Washington, D.C., 16-20 March 1998
20th	Washington, D.C., 11-15 September 2000
21st	San Antonio, Texas, 23-27 September 2002
22nd	Washington, D.C., 27 September-1 October 2004
23rd	Arlington, Virginia, 16-21 October 2006

Terms of reference:

To elaborate world wide standards for all types of processed fruits and vegetables including dried products, canned dried peas and beans, jams and jellies, but not dried prunes, or fruit and vegetable juices. The Commission has also allocated to this Committee the work of revision of standards for quick frozen fruits and vegetables.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FATS AND OILS (CX-709)

Host Government: United Kingdom

Sessions:

1st	London, 25-27 February 1964
2nd	London, 6-8 April 1965
3rd	London, 29 March - 1 April 1966
4th	London, 24-28 April 1967
5th	London, 16-20 September 1968

6th	Madrid, 17-20 November 1969
7th	London, 25-29 March 1974
8th	London, 24-28 November 1975
9th	London, 28 November - 2 December 1977
10th	London, 4-8 December 1978
11th	London, 23-27 June 1980
12th	London, 19-23 April 1982
13th	London, 23-27 February 1987
14th	London, 27 September - 1 October 1993
15th	London, 4-8 November 1996
16th	London, 8-12 March 1999
17th	London, 19-23 February 2001
18th	London, 3-7 February 2003
19th	London, 21-25 February 2005

Terms of reference:

To elaborate world wide standards for fats and oils of animal, vegetable and marine origin including margarine and olive oil.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON MEAT (CX-717)

Host Government: Federal Republic of Germany

Sessions:

1st	Kulmbach, 28-30 October 1965
2nd	Kulmbach, 5-8 July 1966
3rd	Kulmbach, 15-17 November 1967
4th	Kulmbach, 18-20 June 1969
5th	Bonn, 16-20 November 1970
6th	Kulmbach, 1-5 November 1971
7th	Kulmbach, 25-29 June 1973

Dissolved by the 16th Session of the Commission (1985).

Terms of reference:

To elaborate world wide standards and/or descriptive texts and/or codes of practice as may seem appropriate for the classification, description and grading of carcasses and cuts of beef, veal, mutton, lamb and pork.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON MEAT HYGIENE (CX-723)

Established as the Codex Committee on Meat Hygiene by the 8th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (1971). The terms of reference and the name of the Committee were amended by the 24th Session of the Commission (2001) to include poultry. The specific reference to poultry in the name and terms of reference was removed by the 26th Session of the Commission (2003).

Host Government: New Zealand

Sessions:

1st	London, 10-15 April 1972
2nd	London, 18-22 June 1973
3rd	London, 25-29 November 1974
4th	London, 18-22 May 1981
5th	London, 11-15 October 1982
6th	Rome, 14-18 October 1991
7th	Rome, 29 March - 2 April 1993
8th	Wellington, 18-22 February 2002
9th	Wellington, 17-21 February 2003
10th	Auckland, 16-20 February 2004
11th	Christchurch, 14-17 February 2005

Adjourned sine *die*.

Terms of reference:

To elaborate world-wide standards and/or codes of practice as appropriate for meat hygiene.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON PROCESSED MEAT AND POULTRY PRODUCTS (CX-721)

Host Government: Denmark

Sessions:

1st	Kulmbach, 4-5 July 1966
2nd	Copenhagen, 2-6 October 1967
3rd	Copenhagen, 24-28 June 1968
4th	Copenhagen, 9-13 June 1969
5th	Copenhagen, 23-27 November 1970
6th	Copenhagen, 17-21 April 1972

7th	Copenhagen, 3-7 December 1973
8th	Copenhagen, 10-14 March 1975
9th	Copenhagen, 29 November - 3 December 1976
10th	Copenhagen, 20-24 November 1978
11th	Copenhagen, 22-26 September 1980
12th	Copenhagen, 4-8 October 1982
13th	Copenhagen, 23-26 October 1984
14th	Copenhagen, 12-16 September 1988
15th	Copenhagen, 8-12 October 1990

Abolished by the 23rd Session of the Commission (1999).

Terms of reference:

To elaborate world wide standards for processed meat products, including consumer packaged meat, and for processed poultry meat products.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FISH AND FISHERY PRODUCTS (CX-722)

Host Government: Norway

Sessions:

1st	Bergen, 29 August - 2 September 1966
2nd	Bergen, 9-13 October 1967
3rd	Bergen, 7-11 October 1968
4th	Bergen, 29 September 8 - October 1969
5th	Bergen, 5-10 October 1970
6th	Bergen, 4-8 October 1971
7th	Bergen, 2-7 October 1972
8th	Bergen, 1-6 October 1973
9th	Bergen, 30 September - 5 October 1974
10th	Bergen, 29 September - 4 October 1975
11th	Bergen, 27 September - 2 October 1976
12th	Bergen, 3-8 October 1977
13th	Bergen, 7-11 May 1979
14th	Bergen, 5-10 May 1980
15th	Bergen, 3-8 May 1982
16th	Bergen, 7-11 May 1984
17th	Oslo, 5-9 May 1986
18th	Bergen, 2-6 May 1988

19th	Bergen, 11-15 June 1990
20th	Bergen, 1-5 June 1992
21st	Bergen, 2-6 May 1994
22nd	Bergen, 6-10 May 1996
23rd	Bergen, 8-12 June 1998
24th	Ålesund, 5-9 June 2000
25th	Ålesund, 3-7 June 2002
26th	Ålesund, 13-17 October 2003
27th	Cape Town, South Africa, 28 February-4 March 2005
28th	Beijing, China, 18-22 September 2006

Terms of reference:

To elaborate world wide standards for fresh, frozen (including quick frozen) or otherwise processed fish, crustaceans and molluscs.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON EDIBLE ICES (CX-724)

Host Government: Sweden

Sessions:

1st	Stockholm, 18-22 February 1974
2nd	Stockholm, 23-27 June 1975
3rd	Stockholm, 11-15 October 1976

Abolished by the 22nd Session of the Commission (1997).

Terms of reference:

To elaborate world wide standards as appropriate for all types of edible ices, including mixes and powders used for their manufacture.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON SOUPS AND BROTHS (CX-726)

Host Government: Switzerland

Sessions:

1st	Berne, 3-7 November 1975
2nd	St. Gallen, 7-11 November 1977

Abolished by the 24th Session of the Commission (2001).

Terms of reference:

To elaborate world wide standards for soups, broths, bouillons and consommés.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON CEREALS, PULSES AND LEGUMES (CX-729)

Host Government: United States of America

Sessions:

1st	Washington, D.C., 24-28 March 1980
2nd	Washington, D.C., 27 April - 1 May 1981
3rd	Washington, D.C., 25-29 October 1982
4th	Washington, D.C., 24-28 September 1984
5th	Washington, D.C., 17-21 March 1986
6th	Washington, D.C., 24-28 October 1988
7th	Washington, D.C., 22-26 October 1990
8th	Washington, D.C., 26-30 October 1992
9th	Washington, D.C., 31 October - 4 November 1994

Adjourned *sine die*.

Terms of reference:

To elaborate world wide standards and/or codes of practice as may be appropriate for cereals, pulses, legumes and their products.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON VEGETABLE PROTEINS (CX-728)

Host Government: Canada

Sessions:

1st	Ottawa, 3-7 November 1980
2nd	Ottawa, 1-5 March 1983
3rd	Ottawa, 6-10 February 1984
4th	Havana, 2-6 February 1987
5th	Ottawa, 6-10 February 1989

Adjourned *sine die*.

Terms of reference:

To elaborate definitions and world wide standards for vegetable protein products deriving from any member of the plant kingdom as they come into use

for human consumption, and to elaborate guidelines on utilization of such vegetable protein products in the food supply system, on nutritional requirements and safety, on labelling and on other aspects as may seem appropriate.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES (CX-731)

Established by the 17th Session of the Commission (1987) as the Codex Committee on Tropical Fresh Fruits and Vegetables. Its name and Terms of Reference were amended by the 21st Session of the Commission (1995).

Host Government: Mexico

Sessions:

1st	Mexico City, 6-10 June 1988
2nd	Mexico City, 5-9 March 1990
3rd	Mexico City, 23-27 September 1991
4th	Mexico City, 1-5 February 1993
5th	Mexico City, 5-9 September 1994
6th	Mexico City, 29 January - 2 February 1996
7th	Mexico City, 8-12 September 1997
8th	Mexico City, 1-5 March 1999
9th	Mexico City, 9-13 October 2000
10th	Mexico City, 10-14 June 2002
11th	Mexico City, 8-12 September 2003
12th	Mexico City, 16-20 May 2005
13th	Mexico City, 25-29 September 2006

Terms of Reference:

(a) to elaborate world wide standards and codes of practice as may be appropriate for fresh fruits and vegetables;

(b) to consult with the UNECE Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards in the elaboration of world wide standards and codes of practice with particular regard to ensuring that there is no duplication of standards or codes of practice and that they follow the same broad format[39];

[39] The Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe:

(c) to consult, as necessary, with other international organizations which are active in the area of standardization of fresh fruits and vegetables.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON MILK AND MILK PRODUCTS (CX-703)

Host Government: New Zealand

Sessions:

1st	Rome, 28 November - 2 December 1994
2nd	Rome, 27-31 May 1996
3rd	Montevideo (Uruguay), 18-22 May 1998
4th	Wellington, 28 February - 3 March 2000
5th	Wellington, 8-12 April 2002
6th	Auckland, 26-30 April 2004
7th	Queenstown, 27 March – 1 April 2006

Terms of reference:

To elaborate world-wide standards, codes and related texts for milk and milk products.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON NATURAL MINERAL WATERS (CX-719)

The Committee was established by the Commission as a Regional (European) Codex Committee, but has since been allocated the task of elaborating world-

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1. may recommend that a world wide Codex standard for fresh fruits and vegetables should be elaborated and submit its recommendation either to the Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables for consideration or to the Commission for approval;

2. may prepare "proposed draft standards" for fresh fruits or vegetables at the request of the Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables or of the Commission for distribution by the Codex Secretariat at Step 3 of the Codex Procedure, and for further action by the Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables;

3. may wish to consider "proposed draft standards" and "draft standards" for fresh fruits and vegetables and transmit comments on them to the Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables at Steps 3 and 6 of the Codex Procedure; and

4. may perform specific tasks in relation to the elaboration of standards for fresh fruits and vegetables at the request of the Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables.

Codex "proposed draft standards" and "draft standards" for fresh fruits and vegetables at Steps 3 and 6 of the Codex Procedure should be submitted to the UN/ECE Secretariat for obtaining comments.

wide standards for natural mineral waters and bottled (packaged) water other than natural mineral water.

Host Government: Switzerland

Sessions:

1st	Baden, Aargau, 24-25 February 1966
2nd	Montreux, 6-7 July 1967
3rd	Bad Ragaz, - 9 May 1968
4th	Vienna, 12-13 June 1972
5th	Thun, 3-5 October 1996
6th	Berne, 19-21 November 1998
7th	Fribourg, 30 October – 1 November 2000

Adjourned *sine die*.

Terms of reference:

To elaborate regional standards for natural mineral waters.

AD HOC CODEX INTERGOVERNMENTAL TASK FORCE ON FRUIT AND VEGETABLE JUICES (CX-801)

Host Government: Brazil

Sessions:

1st	Brasília, 18-22 September 2000
2nd	Rio de Janeiro, 23-26 April 2002
3rd	Salvador (Bahia), 6 - 10 May 2003
4th	Fortaleza, 11-15 October 2004

Dissolved by the 28th Session of the Commission (2005) upon completion of its mandate.

Terms of Reference:

The *ad hoc* Task Force shall:

(a) revise and consolidate the existing Codex standards and guidelines for fruit and vegetable juices and related products, giving preference to general standards;

(b) revise and up-date the methods of analysis and sampling for these products;

(c) complete its work prior to the 28th Session of the Commission (2005).

AD HOC CODEX INTERGOVERNMENTAL TASK FORCE ON FOODS DERIVED FROM BIOTECHNOLOGY (CX-802)

Host Government: Japan

Sessions:

1st	Chiba, 14-17 March 2000
2nd	Chiba, 25-29 March 2001
3rd	Yokohama, 4-8 March 2002
4th	Yokohama, 11-14 March 2003
5th	Chiba, 19-23 September 2005
6th	Chiba, 27 November – 1 December 2006

The *ad hoc* Codex Intergovernmental Task Force on Foods Derived from Biotechnology was dissolved by the 26th Session of the Commission (2003) upon completion of its initial mandate. The Task Force was re-established by the 27th Session of the Commission (2004).

Objectives (1999-2003)

To develop standards, guidelines or recommendations, as appropriate, for foods derived from biotechnology or traits introduced into foods by biotechnology, on the basis of scientific evidence, risk analysis and having regard, where appropriate, to other legitimate factors relevant to the health of consumers and the promotion of fair trade practices.

Terms of Reference (1999-2003)

(a) To elaborate standards, guidelines, or other principles, as appropriate, for foods derived from biotechnology;

(b) To coordinate and closely collaborate, as necessary, with appropriate Codex Committees within their mandate as relates to foods derived from biotechnology; and

(c) To take full account of existing work carried out by national authorities, FAO, WHO, other international organizations and other relevant international fora.

Objectives (2004-)

To develop standards, guidelines or recommendations, as appropriate, for foods derived from modern biotechnology or traits introduced into foods by modern biotechnology, on the basis of scientific evidence, risk analysis and having regard, where appropriate, to other legitimate factors relevant to the health of consumers and the promotion of fair practices in the food trade.

Time frame (2004-)

The Task Force shall complete its work within four years. The Task Force should submit a full report in 2009.

Terms of Reference (2004-)

(a) To elaborate standards, guidelines, or other principles, as appropriate, for foods derived from modern biotechnology, taking account, in particular, of the Principles for the Risk Analysis of Foods derived from Modern Biotechnology;

(b) To coordinate and closely collaborate, as necessary, with appropriate Codex Committees within their mandate as relates to foods derived from modern biotechnology; and

(c) To take account of existing work carried out by national authorities, FAO, WHO, other international organizations and other relevant international fora.

AD HOC CODEX INTERGOVERNMENTAL TASK FORCE ON ANIMAL FEEDING (CX-803)

Host Government: Denmark

Sessions:

1st	Copenhagen, 13-15 June 2000
2nd	Copenhagen, 19-21 March 2001
3rd	Copenhagen, 17-20 June 2002
4th	Copenhagen, 25-28 March 2003
5th	Copenhagen, 17-20 May 2004

Dissolved by the 27th Session of the Commission (2004) upon completion of its mandate.

Objectives

With the aim of ensuring the safety and quality of foods of animal origin, the Task Force should develop guidelines or standards as appropriate on Good Animal Feeding practices.

Terms of Reference

(a) To complete and extend the work already done by relevant Codex Committees on the Draft Code of Practice for Good Animal Feeding.

(b) To address other aspects which are important for food safety, such as problems related to toxic substances, pathogens, microbial resistance, new technologies, storage, control measures, traceability, etc.

(c) To take full account of and collaborate with, as appropriate, work carried out by relevant Codex Committees, and other relevant international bodies, including FAO, WHO, OIE and IPPC.

AD HOC CODEX INTERGOVERNMENTAL TASK FORCE ON ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE (CX-804)

Host Government: Republic of Korea

Objectives

To develop science based guidance, taking full account of its risk analysis principles and the work and standards of other relevant international Organizations, such as FAO, WHO and OIE. The intent of this guidance is to assess the risks to human health associated with the presence in food and feed including aquaculture and the transmission through food and feed of antimicrobial resistant microorganisms and antimicrobial resistance genes and to develop appropriate risk management advice based on that assessment to reduce such risk.

Terms of reference

To develop guidance on methodology and processes for risk assessment, its application to the antimicrobials used in human and veterinary medicine as provided by FAO/WHO through JEMRA, and in close cooperation with OIE, with subsequent consideration of risk management options. In this process work undertaken in this field at national, regional and international levels should be taken into account.

Time frame

The Task Force shall complete its work within four sessions, starting in 2007.

AD HOC CODEX INTERGOVERNMENTAL TASK FORCE ON THE PROCESSING AND HANDLING OF QUICK FROZEN FOODS (CX-805)

Host Government: Thailand

Objectives

To finalize the International Code of Practice for the Processing and Handling of Quick Frozen Foods.

Terms of Reference

To resolve all outstanding issues including quality and safety provisions with a view to the advancement of the Code to Step 8.

Time frame

The Task Force shall complete its work within two (2) years, with one (1) Session of the Task Force.

SUBSIDIARY BODIES UNDER RULE XI.1(b)(ii)

FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA (CX-707)

Membership:

Membership of the Committee is open to all Member Nations and Associate Members of FAO and/or WHO which are members of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, within the geographic location of Africa.

Terms of reference:

(a) defines the problems and needs of the region concerning food standards and food control;

(b) promotes within the Committee contacts for the mutual exchange of information on proposed regulatory initiatives and problems arising from food control and stimulates the strengthening of food control infrastructures;

(c) recommends to the Commission the development of world wide standards for products of interest to the region, including products considered by the Committee to have an international market potential in the future;

(d) develops regional standards for food products moving exclusively or almost exclusively in intra regional trade;

(e) draws the attention of the Commission to any aspects of the Commission's work of particular significance to the region;

(f) promotes coordination of all regional food standards work undertaken by international governmental and non-governmental organizations within the region;

(g) exercises a general coordinating role for the region and such other functions as may be entrusted to it by the Commission;

(h) promotes the use of Codex standards and related texts by members.

1st	Rome, Italy, 24-27 June 1974
2nd	Accra, 15-19 September 1975
3rd	Accra, 26-30 September 1977
4th	Dakar, 3-7 September 1979
5th	Dakar, 25-29 May 1981
6th	Nairobi, 31 October - 5 November 1983
7th	Nairobi, 12-18 February 1985
8th	Cairo, 29 November - 3 December 1988
9th	Cairo, 3-7 December 1990
10th	Abuja, 3-6 November 1992
11th	Abuja, 8-11 May 1995
12th	Harare, 19-22 November 1996
13th	Harare, 3-6 November 1998
14th	Kampala, 27-30 November 2000
15th	Kampala, 26-29 November 2002
16th	Rome, Italy, 25-28 January 2005
17th	Rabat, Morocco, 23-26 January 2007

FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR ASIA (CX-727)

Membership:

Membership of the Committee is open to all Member Nations and Associate Members of FAO and/or WHO which are members of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, within the geographic location of Asia.

Terms of reference:

(a) defines the problems and needs of the region concerning food standards and food control;

(b) promotes within the Committee contacts for the mutual exchange of information on proposed regulatory initiatives and problems arising from food control and stimulates the strengthening of food control infrastructures;

(c) recommends to the Commission the development of world wide standards for products of interest to the region, including products considered by the Committee to have an international market potential in the future;

(d) develops regional standards for food products moving exclusively or almost exclusively in intra regional trade;

(e) draws the attention of the Commission to any aspects of the Commission's work of particular significance to the region;

(f) promotes coordination of all regional food standards work undertaken by international governmental and non-governmental organizations within the region;

(g) exercises a general coordinating role for the region and such other functions as may be entrusted to it by the Commission;

(h) promotes the use of Codex standards and related texts by members.

Sessions:

1st	New Delhi, 10-16 January 1977
2nd	Manila, 20-26 March 1979
3rd	Colombo, 2-8 February 1982
4th	Phetchburi, 28 February - 5 March 1984
5th	Yogyakarta, 8-14 April 1986
6th	Denpasar, 26 January - 1 February 1988
7th	Chiang-Mai, 5-12 February 1990
8th	Kuala Lumpur, 27-31 January 1992
9th	Beijing, 24-27 May 1994
10th	Tokyo, 5-8 March 1996
11th	Chiang Rai, 16-19 December 1997
12th	Chaing-Mai, 23-26 November 1999
13th	Kuala Lumpur, 17-20 September 2002
14th	Jeju, 7-10 September 2004
15th	Seoul, 21-24 November 2006

FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR EUROPE (CX-706)

Membership:

This Committee is open to all Member Governments of FAO and/or WHO within the geographic area of Europe, including Israel, Turkey and the Russian Federation and its Chairperson is, ex officio, the Coordinator for Europe.

Terms of reference:

(a) defines the problems and needs of the region concerning food standards and food control;

(b) promotes within the Committee contacts for the mutual exchange of information on proposed regulatory initiatives and problems arising from food control and stimulates the strengthening of food control infrastructures;

(c) recommends to the Commission the development of world wide standards for products of interest to the region, including products considered by the Committee to have an international market potential in the future;

(d) develops regional standards for food products moving exclusively or almost exclusively in intra regional trade;

(e) draws the attention of the Commission to any aspects of the Commission's work of particular significance to the region;

(f) promotes coordination of all regional food standards work undertaken by international governmental and non-governmental organizations within the region;

(g) exercises a general coordinating role for the region and such other functions as may be entrusted to it by the Commission;

(h) promotes the use of Codex standards and related texts by members.

Sessions:

1st	Berne, 1-2 July 1965
2nd	Rome, 20 October 1965
3rd	Vienna, 24-27 May 1966
4th	Rome, 8 November 1966
5th	Vienna, 6-8 September 1967
6th	Vienna, 4-8 November 1968
7th	Vienna, 7-10 October 1969
8th	Vienna, 27-29 October 1971
9th	Vienna, 14-16 June 1972
10th	Vienna, 13-17 June 1977
11th	Innsbruck, 28 May - 1 June 1979
12th	Innsbruck, 16-20 March 1981
13th	Innsbruck, 27 September -1 October 1982
14th	Thun, 4-8 June 1984
15th	Thun, 16-20 June 1986
16th	Vienna, 27 June - 1 July 1988

17th	Vienna, 28 May - 1 June 1990
18th	Stockholm, 11-15 May 1992
19th	Stockholm, 16-20 May 1994
20th	Uppsala, 23-26 April 1996
21st	Madrid, 5-8 May 1998
22nd	Madrid, 3-6 October 2000
23rd	Bratislava, 10-13 September 2002
24th	Bratislava, 20-23 September 2004
25th	Vilnius, Lithuania, 15-18 January 2007

FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (CX-725)

Membership:

Membership of the Committee is open to all Member Nations and Associate Members of FAO and/or WHO which are members of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, within the geographic location of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Terms of reference:

(a) defines the problems and needs of the region concerning food standards and food control;

(b) promotes within the Committee contacts for the mutual exchange of information on proposed regulatory initiatives and problems arising from food control and stimulates the strengthening of food control infrastructures;

(c) recommends to the Commission the development of world wide standards for products of interest to the region, including products considered by the Committee to have an international market potential in the future;

(d) develops regional standards for food products moving exclusively or almost exclusively in intra regional trade;

(e) draws the attention of the Commission to any aspects of the Commission's work of particular significance to the region;

(f) promotes coordination of all regional food standards work undertaken by international governmental and non-governmental organizations within the region;

(g) exercises a general coordinating role for the region and such other functions as may be entrusted to it by the Commission;

(h) promotes the use of Codex standards and related texts by members.

Sessions:

1st	Rome, 25-26 March 1976
2nd	Montevideo, 9-15 December 1980
3rd	Havana, 27 March - 2 April 1984
4th	Havana, 17-22 April 1985
5th	Havana, 11-16 February 1987
6th	San José, 20-24 February 1989
7th	San José, 1-10 July 1991
8th	Brasília, 16-20 March 1993
9th	Brasília, 3-7 April 1995
10th	Montevideo, 25-28 February 1997
11th	Montevideo, 8-11 December 1998
12th	Santo Domingo, 13-16 February 2001
13th	Santo Domingo, 9-13 December 2002
14th	Buenos Aires, 29 November-3 December 2004
15th	Mar del Plata, 13-17 November 2006

FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR THE NEAR EAST (CX-734)

Membership:

Membership of the Committee is open to all Member Nations and Associate Members of FAO and/or WHO that are members of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, within the geographic locations of the Near East as defined by FAO or the Eastern Mediterranean by WHO.

Terms of reference:

(a) defines the problems and needs of the region concerning food standards and food control;

(b) promotes within the Committee contacts for the mutual exchange of information on proposed regulatory initiatives and problems arising from food control and stimulates the strengthening of food control infrastructures;

(c) recommends to the Commission the development of world wide standards for products of interest to the region, including products considered by the Committee to have an international market potential in the future;

(d) develops regional standards for food products moving exclusively or almost exclusively in intra regional trade;

(e) draws the attention of the Commission to any aspects of the Commission's work of particular significance to the region;

(f) promotes coordination of all regional food standards work undertaken by international governmental and non-governmental organizations within the region;

(g) exercises a general coordinating role for the region and such other functions as may be entrusted to it by the Commission;

(h) promotes the use of Codex standards and related texts by members.

Sessions:

1st	Cairo, 29 January - 1 February 2001
2nd	Cairo, 20-23 January 2003
3rd	Amman, 7-10 March 2005

FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR NORTH AMERICA AND THE SOUTH WEST PACIFIC (CX-732)

Membership:

Membership of the Committee is open to all Member Nations and Associate Members of FAO and/or WHO which are members of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, with the geographic locations of North America and the South West Pacific.

Terms of reference:

(a) defines the problems and needs of the region concerning food standards and food control;

(b) promotes within the Committee contacts for the mutual exchange of information on proposed regulatory initiatives and problems arising from food control and stimulates the strengthening of food control infrastructures;

(c) recommends to the Commission the development of world wide standards for products of interest to the region, including products considered by the Committee to have an international market potential in the future;

(d) develops regional standards for food products moving exclusively or almost exclusively in intra regional trade;

(e) draws the attention of the Commission to any aspects of the Commission's work of particular significance to the region;

(f) promotes coordination of all regional food standards work undertaken by international governmental and non-governmental organizations within the region;

(g) exercises a general coordinating role for the region and such other functions as may be entrusted to it by the Commission;

(h) promotes the use of Codex standards and related texts by members.

Sessions:

1st	Honolulu, 30 April - 4 May 1990
2nd	Canberra, 2-6 December 1991
3rd	Vancouver, 31 May - 3 June 1994
4th	Rotorua, 30 April - 3 May 1996
5th	Seattle, 6-9 October 1998
6th	Perth, 5-8 December 2000
7th	Vancouver, 29 October - 1 November 2002
8th	Apia, Samoa, 19-22 October 2004
9th	Apia, Samoa, 10-13 October 2006

OTHER SUBSIDIARY BODIES

JOINT UNECE/CODEX ALIMENTARIUS GROUPS OF EXPERTS ON STANDARDIZATION[40]

Quick Frozen Foods (CX-705)

Sessions:

1st	Geneva, 6-10 September 1965
2nd	Geneva, 5-9 September 1966
3rd	Rome, 18-22 September 1967
4th	Geneva, 2-6 September 1968
5th	Rome, 22-26 September 1969
6th	Rome, 27-31 July 1970
7th	Geneva, 6-10 December 1971
8th	Geneva, 30 April - 4 May 1973
9th	Rome, 7-11 October 1974
10th	Geneva, 6-10 October 1975
11th	Geneva, 14-18 March 1977
12th	Rome, 30 October - 6 November 1978
13th	Rome, 15-19 September 1980

[40] These Joint UNECE/Codex Alimentarius groups of experts were not subsidiary bodies under any specific rule of the Codex Alimentarius Commission but followed the same procedure as Codex Commodity Committees for the elaboration of Codex standards.

Abolished by the 23rd Session of the Commission (1999). The work of the Joint Group of Experts was transferred to the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables (see the Terms of Reference of that Committee).

Terms of reference:

The Joint UNECE/Codex Alimentarius Group of Experts on the Standardization of Quick Frozen Foods will be responsible for the development of standards for quick frozen foods in accordance with the General Principles of the Codex Alimentarius. The Joint Group will be responsible for general considerations, definitions, a framework of individual standards for quick frozen food products and for the actual elaboration of standards for quick frozen food products not specifically allotted by the Commission to another Codex Committee, such as Fish and Fishery Products, Meat, Processed Meat and Poultry Products. Standards drawn up by Codex commodity committees for quick frozen foods should be in accordance with the general standard laid down by the Joint ECE/Codex Alimentarius Group of Experts on the Standardization of Quick Frozen Foods and should, at an appropriate stage, be referred to it for coordination purposes.

Fruit Juices (CX-704)

Sessions:

1st	Geneva, 6-10 April 1964
2nd	Geneva, 29 March - 2 April 1965
3rd	Geneva, 21-25 February 1966
4th	Geneva, 10-14 April 1967
5th	Rome, 25-29 March 1968
6th	Geneva, 27-31 October 1969
7th	Rome, 20-24 July 1970
8th	Geneva, 8-12 March 1971
9th	Rome, 20-24 March 1972
10th	Geneva, 16-20 July 1973
11th	Rome, 14-18 October 1974
12th	Geneva, 19-23 July 1976
13th	Geneva, 26-30 June 1978
14th	Geneva, 9-13 June 1980
15th	Rome, 8-12 February 1982
16th	Geneva, 30 April - 4 May 1984
17th	Rome, 26-30 May 1986
18th	Geneva, 16-20 May 1988

19th Rome, 12-16 November 1990

Abolished by the 23rd Session of the Commission (1999). The work of the Joint Group was transferred to the Codex *ad hoc* Intergovernmental Task Force on Fruit Juices.

Terms of reference:

To elaborate world wide standards for fruit juices, concentrated fruit juices and nectars.

JOINT CODEX/IOOC MEETING ON THE STANDARDIZATION OF TABLE OLIVES[41]

Sessions:

1st Madrid, 13-16 December 1971
2nd Madrid, 24-27 April 1973

As approved by the 18th Session of the Commission, the Joint Codex/IOOC meeting was held on an ad hoc basis in order to elaborate a Standard for Table Olives.

41 The meeting was not a subsidiary body under any specific rule of the Codex Alimentarius Commission but followed the same procedure as Codex Commodity Committees for the elaboration of Codex standards.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

(AS OF 30 OCTOBER 2006)

MEMBER COUNTRIES

Africa

1. Angola
2. Benin
3. Botswana
4. Burkina Faso
5. Burundi
6. Cameroon
7. Cape Verde
8. Central African Republic
9. Chad
10. Congo, Democratic Rep.
11. Congo, Republic of
12. Côte d'Ivoire
13. Equatorial Guinea
14. Eritrea
15. Ethiopia
16. Gabon
17. Gambia
18. Ghana
19. Guinea
20. Guinea Bissau
21. Kenya
22. Lesotho
23. Liberia
24. Madagascar
25. Malawi
26. Mali
27. Mauritania
28. Mauritius
29. Morocco
30. Mozambique
31. Namibia
32. Niger
33. Nigeria
34. Rwanda
35. Senegal
36. Seychelles
37. Sierra Leone
38. South Africa
39. Swaziland
40. Togo
41. Uganda
42. United Republic of Tanzania
43. Zambia
44. Zimbabwe

Asia

45. Afghanistan
46. Bangladesh
47. Brunei Darussalam
48. Bhutan
49. Cambodia
50. China
51. Democratic People's Republic of Korea
52. India
53. Indonesia
54. Japan
55. Lao, People's Democratic Republic
56. Malaysia
57. Mongolia
58. Myanmar
59. Nepal
60. Pakistan
61. Philippines
62. Republic of Korea

63. Singapore
64. Sri Lanka
65. Thailand
66. Viet Nam

Europe

67. Albania
68. Armenia
69. Austria
70. Belarus
71. Belgium
72. Bulgaria
73. Croatia
74. Cyprus
75. Czech Republic
76. Denmark
77. Estonia
78. Finland
79. France
80. Georgia
81. Germany
82. Greece
83. Hungary
84. Iceland
85. Ireland
86. Israel
87. Italy
88. Kazakhstan
89. Kyrgyz Republic
90. Latvia
91. Lithuania
92. Luxembourg
93. Malta
94. Moldova
95. Netherlands
96. Norway
97. Poland
98. Portugal
99. Romania
100. Russian Federation
101. Serbia
102. Slovak Republic
103. Slovenia
104. Spain
105. Sweden
106. Switzerland
107. The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
108. Turkey
109. Ukraine
110. United Kingdom
111. Uzbekistan

Member Organization:
European Community

Latin America and the Caribbean

112. Antigua and Barbuda
113. Argentina
114. Bahamas
115. Barbados
116. Belize
117. Bolivia
118. Brazil
119. Chile
120. Colombia
121. Costa Rica
122. Cuba
123. Dominica
124. Dominican Republic
125. Ecuador
126. El Salvador
127. Grenada
128. Guatemala
129. Guyana
130. Haiti
131. Honduras
132. Jamaica
133. Mexico
134. Nicaragua
135. Panama
136. Paraguay
137. Peru
138. Saint Kitts and Nevis
139. Saint Lucia
140. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

141. Suriname
142. Trinidad and Tobago
143. Uruguay
144. Venezuela

Near East

145. Algeria
146. Bahrain
147. Egypt
148. Iran (Islamic Republic of)
149. Iraq
150. Jordan
151. Kuwait
152. Lebanon
153. Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
154. Oman
155. Qatar
156. Saudi Arabia
157. Sudan
158. Syrian Arab Republic
159. Tunisia
160. United Arab Emirates
161. Yemen

North America

162. Canada
163. United States of America

South-West Pacific

164. Australia
165. Cook Islands
166. Fiji
167. Kiribati
168. Micronesia, Federated States of
169. New Zealand
170. Papua New Guinea
171. Samoa
172. Solomon Islands
173. Tonga
174. Vanuatu

MEMBER ORGANIZATION

1. European Community

APPENDIX: GENERAL DECISIONS OF THE COMMISSION

STATEMENTS OF PRINCIPLE CONCERNING THE ROLE OF SCIENCE IN THE CODEX DECISION-MAKING PROCESS AND THE EXTENT TO WHICH OTHER FACTORS ARE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT[42]

1. The food standards, guidelines and other recommendations of Codex Alimentarius shall be based on the principle of sound scientific analysis and evidence, involving a thorough review of all relevant information, in order that the standards assure the quality and safety of the food supply.

2. When elaborating and deciding upon food standards Codex Alimentarius will have regard, where appropriate, to other legitimate factors relevant for the health protection of consumers and for the promotion of fair practices in food trade.

3. In this regard it is noted that food labelling plays an important role in furthering both of these objectives.

4. When the situation arises that members of Codex agree on the necessary level of protection of public health but hold differing views about other considerations, members may abstain from acceptance of the relevant standard without necessarily preventing the decision by Codex.

Criteria for the Consideration of the Other Factors Referred to in the Second Statement of Principle[43]

- when health and safety matters are concerned, the *Statements of Principle Concerning the Role of Science* and the *Statements of Principle Relating to the Role of Food Safety Risk Assessment* should be followed;
- other legitimate factors relevant for health protection and fair trade practices may be identified in the risk management process, and risk managers should indicate how these factors affect the selection of risk management options and the development of standards, guidelines and related texts;
- consideration of other factors should not affect the scientific basis of risk analysis; in this process, the separation between risk assessment and risk management should be respected, in order to ensure the scientific integrity of the risk assessment;

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42 Decision of the 21st Session of the Commission, 1995.

43 Decision of the 24th Session of the Commission, 2001.

- it should be recognized that some legitimate concerns of governments when establishing their national legislation are not generally applicable or relevant world-wide;[44]
- only those other factors which can be accepted on a world-wide basis, or on a regional basis in the case of regional standards and related texts, should be taken into account in the framework of Codex;
- the consideration of specific other factors in the development of risk management recommendations of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and its subsidiary bodies should be clearly documented, including the rationale for their integration, on a case-by-case basis;
- the feasibility of risk management options due to the nature and particular constraints of the production or processing methods, transport and storage, especially in developing countries, may be considered; concerns related to economic interests and trade issues in general should be substantiated by quantifiable data;
- the integration of other legitimate factors in risk management should not create unjustified barriers to trade[45]; particular attention should be given to the impact on developing countries of the inclusion of such other factors.

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[44] Confusion should be avoided between justification of national measures under the SPS and TBT Agreements and their validity at the international level.

[45] According to the WTO principles, and taking into account the particular provisions of the SPS and TBT Agreements.

STATEMENTS OF PRINCIPLE RELATING TO THE ROLE OF FOOD SAFETY RISK ASSESSMENT[46]

1. Health and safety aspects of Codex decisions and recommendations should be based on a risk assessment, as appropriate to the circumstances.

2. Food safety risk assessment should be soundly based on science, should incorporate the four steps of the risk assessment process, and should be documented in a transparent manner.

3. There should be a functional separation of risk assessment and risk management, while recognizing that some interactions are essential for a pragmatic approach.

4. Risk assessment should use available quantitative information to the greatest extent possible and risk characterizations should be presented in a readily understandable and useful form.

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46 Decision of the 22nd Session of the Commission, 1997.

MEASURES TO FACILITATE CONSENSUS[47]

The Codex Alimentarius Commission, desiring that every effort should be made to reach agreement on the adoption or amendment of standards by consensus, recommends the following measures to facilitate consensus:

- Refraining from submitting proposals in the step process where the scientific basis is not well established on current data and, where necessary, carry out further studies in order to clarify controversial issues;
- Providing for thorough discussions and documentation of the issues at meetings of the committees concerned;
- Organizing informal meetings of the parties concerned where disagreements arise, provided that the objectives of any such meetings are clearly defined by the Committee concerned and that participation is open to all interest delegations and observers in order to preserve transparency;
- Redefining, where possible, the scope of the subject matter being considered for the elaboration of standards in order to cut out issues on which consensus could not be reached;
- Providing that matters are not progressed from step to step until all relevant concerns are taken into account and adequate compromises worked out;
- Emphasizing to Committees and their Chairpersons that matters should not be passed on to the Commission until such time as consensus has been achieved at the technical level;
- Facilitating the increased involvement and participation of developing countries.

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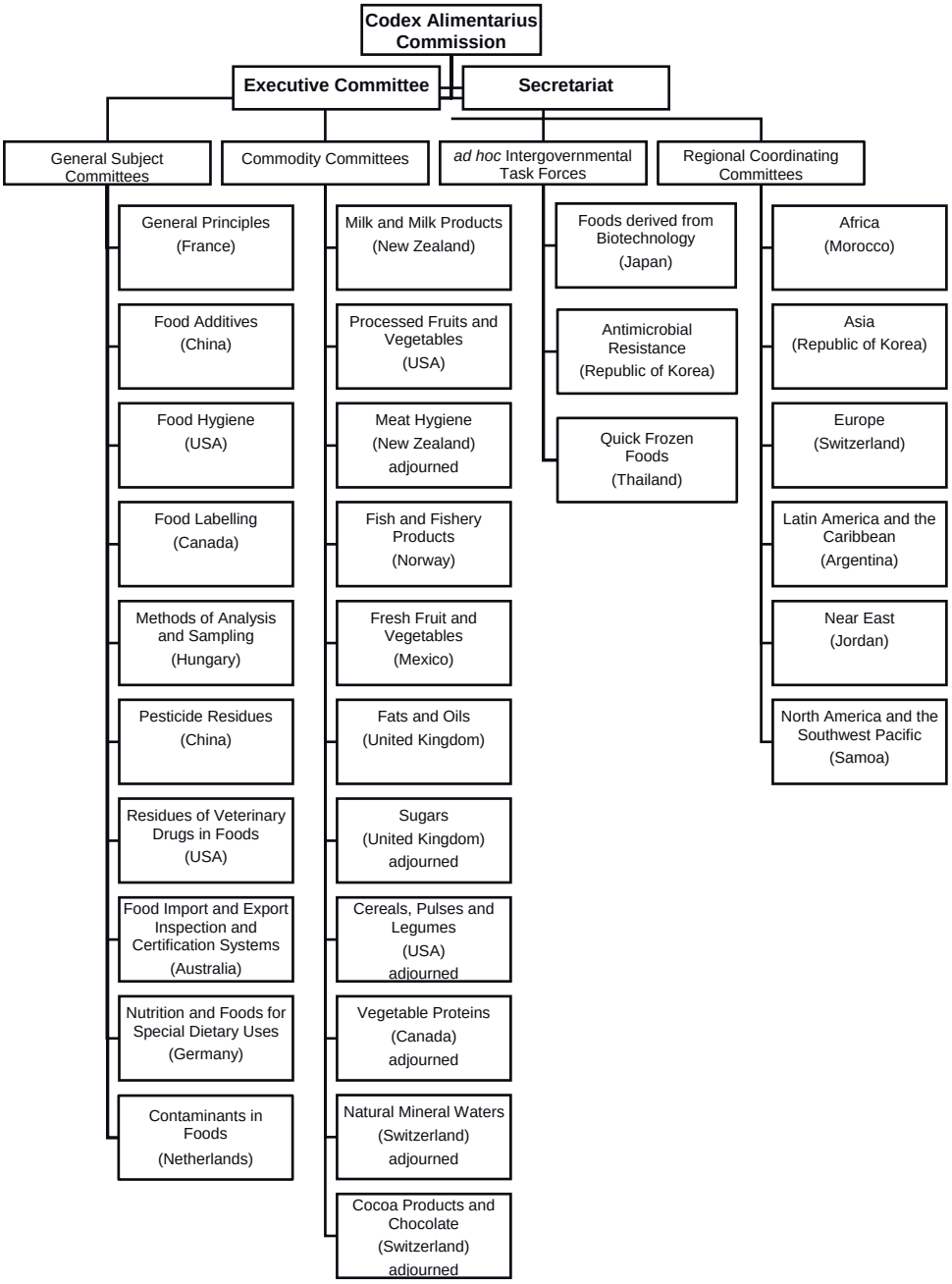
[47] Decision of the 26th Session of the Commission, 2003.

Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme



www.codexalimentarius.net

The Procedural Manual of the Codex Alimentarius Commission is intended to help Member Governments participate effectively in the work of the joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme. The manual is particularly useful for national delegations attending Codex meetings and for international organizations attending as observers. It sets out the basic Rules of Procedure, procedures for the elaboration of Codex standards and related texts, basic definitions and guidelines for the operation of Codex committees.
It also gives the membership of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

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