

# CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of  
the United Nations



World Health  
Organization

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Agenda Item 2

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## JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

### CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD HYGIENE

#### Forty-fifth Session

Hanoi, Viet Nam, 11 - 15 November 2013

#### MATTERS REFERRED BY THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND/OR OTHER CODEX COMMITTEES TO THE FOOD HYGIENE COMMITTEE

##### A. DECISIONS OF THE 36<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE COMMISSION RELATED TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

###### Standards and Related Texts adopted at Steps 5/8<sup>1</sup>

1. The Commission **adopted** the revised *Principles and Guidelines for the Establishment and Application of Microbiological Criteria* (CAC/GL21 – 1997); and the Annex on Berries to the *Code of Hygienic Practice for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables* (CAC/RCP 53-2003) with an amendment to section 2.1.

###### Proposals for the elaboration of new standards and related texts<sup>2</sup>

2. The Commission **approved** the development of the Code of Hygienic Practice for Low-Moisture Foods as new work.

##### B. OTHER MATTERS

###### Principles and Guidelines for the Conduct of Microbiological Risk Assessment (CAC/GL 30-1999)

3. The *Principles and Guidelines for the Conduct of Microbiological Risk Assessment* was adopted in 1999. At the time of adoption, several definitions for microbiological, chemical, or physical agents and Risk Management and Risk Communication, were those that had been adopted on an interim basis by the 22<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. The CAC had adopted those definitions on an interim basis because they were subject to modification in the light of developments in the science of risk analysis and as a result of efforts to harmonize similar definitions across various disciplines (CAC/GL 30 – 1999, Section 2).

4. The 26<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission adopted the final definitions of risk analysis terms related to food safety for inclusion in the Procedural Manual<sup>3</sup>.

5. The definitions in the *Principles and Guidelines for the Conduct of Microbiological Risk Assessment* were however never updated in line with the definitions of risk analysis terms of the Procedural Manual.

6. The Committee is **invited** to endorse the amendments to the Section 2 Definitions as presented in Annex 1 to this document.

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<sup>1</sup> REP13/CAC, Appendix III

<sup>2</sup> REP13/CAC, Appendix VI

<sup>3</sup> ALINORM 03/41, para. 146

## ANNEX I

**2. DEFINITIONS**

~~Where available the definitions are those adopted for microbiological, chemical, or physical agents and Risk Management and Risk Communication on an interim basis at the 22<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. The CAC adopted these definitions on an interim basis because they are subject to modification in the light of developments in the science of risk analysis and as a result of efforts to harmonize similar definitions across various disciplines.~~

~~**Hazard Characterization** – The qualitative and/or quantitative evaluation of the nature of the adverse health effects associated with the hazard. For the purpose of Microbiological Risk Assessment the concerns relate to microorganisms and/or their toxins.~~

~~The qualitative and/or quantitative evaluation of the nature of the adverse health effects associated with biological, chemical and physical agents which may be present in food. For chemical agents, a dose-response assessment should be performed. For biological or physical agents, a dose-response assessment should be performed if the data are obtainable.~~

~~**Risk Communication** – The interactive exchange of information and opinions concerning risk and risk management among risk assessors, risk managers, consumers and other interested parties.~~

~~The interactive exchange of information and opinions throughout the risk analysis process concerning risk, risk-related factors and risk perceptions, among risk assessors, risk managers, consumers, industry, the academic community and other interested parties, including the explanation of risk assessment findings and the basis of risk management decisions.~~

~~**Risk Estimate** – Output of Risk Characterization. The quantitative estimation of risk resulting from risk characterization.~~

~~**Risk Management** – The process of weighing policy alternatives in the light of the results of risk assessment and, if required, selecting and implementing appropriate control<sup>2</sup> options, including regulatory measures.~~

~~The process, distinct from risk assessment of weighing policy alternatives, in consultation with all interested parties, considering risk assessment and other factors relevant for the health protection of consumers and for the promotion of fair trade practices, and, if needed, selecting appropriate prevention and control options.~~

<sup>2</sup>~~control means prevention, elimination, or reduction of hazards and/or minimization of risks.~~