

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of
the United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda Item 2

CX/MAS 11/32/2

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX COMMITTEE ON METHODS OF ANALYSIS AND SAMPLING

Thirty-second Session

Budapest, Hungary, 7 - 11 March 2011

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

A. DECISIONS OF THE COMMISSION RELATED TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

Proposed Draft Revised Guidelines for Measurement Uncertainty¹

1. The Commission adopted the Guidelines at Step 5 as proposed.

Methods of Analysis in Codex Standards at different steps, including methods of analysis for natural mineral waters²

2. The Delegation of Malaysia, referring to its comments in CRD 12, proposed to insert several additional methods of analysis for the determination of health-related substances in mineral waters. The Commission adopted the methods as proposed by the Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling and noted that additional methods for natural mineral waters could be proposed for consideration by the next session of the Committee. The Commission, noting the comments of Argentina, agreed to correct the reference to the AOAC method for the determination of PCBs and Pesticides.

3. This question will be considered under **Agenda Item 4**.

B. MATTERS ARISING FROM OTHER COMMITTEES

Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission

Study on the Speed of the Codex Standard-Setting Process³

4. The Committee noted that the CCMAS used the general criteria for the establishment of work priorities. In some cases work on general guidance to members such as in the general guidelines on sampling had taken longer due to the complexity of the work.

5. The CCMAS has used electronic working groups and working groups held immediately prior to the session or in-session, but no physical working groups between the sessions. The electronic working group on the *Proposed Draft Guidelines on Performance Criteria and Validation of Methods for Detection, Identification and Quantification of Specific DNA Sequences and Specific Proteins in Foods* used a new process to carry out its work, through a web-based platform at the initiative of Argentina (one of the co-chairs of the working group) which greatly facilitated the work on the development of a complex document and its timely availability for comments.

6. The work of other committees has also an impact on the work management in the case of CCMAS, as for other committees responsible for endorsement. To facilitate endorsement and reduce the number of methods to be endorsed the CCMAS has developed the criteria approach contained in the Procedural Manual and it would be useful if all committees concerned could follow this approach closely which is not always the case and may lengthen the endorsement process.

¹ ALINORM 10/33/REP Appendix IV

² ALINORM 10/33/REP para. 38

³ ALINORM 10/33/3A paras 104 – 107

7. The Committee recommended that other Committees should: consider the use of the web-based platform for electronic working groups; consider the use of pre-session working groups and follow the guidelines of the CCMAS when sending provisions for endorsement.

Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods

Proposed Draft Maximum Levels for Melamine in Food and Feed⁴

8. In relation to methods of analysis for verification of compliance with the MLs, it was agreed to request the Committee on Methods and Sampling (CCMAS) to identify appropriate methods for the measurement of melamine in powdered infant formula and foods (other than infant formula) and feeds. This question will be considered under **Agenda Item 4**.

Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables

Application of Sampling Plans (AQL of 6.5) to lot acceptance in Codex Standards for Processed Fruits and Vegetables⁵

9. The Committee noted that the 30th Session of the Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (2009) could not identify the purpose of the sampling plans in the annexes of the Standard for Jams, Jellies and Marmalades (CODEX STAN 296-2009) and the Standard for Certain Canned Vegetables (CODEX STAN 297-2009) therefore requested the Committee to clarify which provisions in these standards the sampling plans applied to.

10. The Committee clarified that provisions for lot acceptance (sampling plans with an AQL of 6.5) in the Standard for Jams, Jellies and Marmalades and in the Standard for Certain Canned Vegetables applied to provisions falling under the quality criteria (section 3.3 for jams, jellies and marmalades and section 3.2 for canned vegetables) and the minimum fill (section 7.1 for jams, jellies and marmalades and sections 7.1.1 – 7.1.2 for canned vegetables).

Determination of mineral impurities (sand) in the Standard for Certain Canned Vegetables (palmito)⁶

11. The Committee noted that the 30th Session of the Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling agreed to seek clarification as to whether ISO 762:1982 for the determination of mineral impurities in canned palmito should be retained in view of the endorsement of AOAC 971.33 for the determination of mineral impurities in canned vegetables as Type I.

12. The Committee acknowledged that both methods were equivalent and should be retained in the Standard for Certain Canned Vegetables. The Committee agreed to keep AOAC 971.33 as the general Codex method for the determination of mineral impurities (sand) in processed fruits and vegetables (Type I) and to retain ISO 762:1982 as an alternative method.

Determination of drained weight for preserved tomatoes (crushed style)⁷

13. The Committee recalled that at its 24th Session (2008) it had requested the Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling to endorse AOAC 968.30 as the method for “crushed style” preserved tomatoes with a footnote “Use a No.14 screen instead of a ‘7/16’ or No.8”. The 31st Session of CCMAS (2010) agreed to this request but requested clarification from the Committee as to the change in the size of the sieve as compared with the original AOAC method.

14. The Committee agreed to inform CCMAS that the AOAC 968.30 method mentioned a No. 8 sieve for canned vegetables and a 7/16” sieve screen for canned tomatoes, but due to the nature of crushed style preserved tomatoes, a smaller screen size of No. 14 sieve was needed to measure the drained weight and that this was based on empirical data.

⁴ ALINORM 10/33/41 para. 66

⁵ REP 11/PFV paras 9, 10

⁶ REP 11/PFV paras 12, 13

⁷ REP 11/PFV paras 14, 15

Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses***Method of Analysis of Dietary Fibre***⁸

15. The Committee recalled that the 31st Session of CCMAS had indicated that most of the methods of analysis for dietary fibre were empirical and some of them might be overlapping, and therefore had agreed that they could be endorsed as Type IV in order to make them available as Codex methods and asked the CCNFSU to define their scope more precisely.

16. The Committee agreed to change the provisions for six general methods of analysis to describe them more precisely and proposed them as Type I methods. Regarding eight methods that measure individual specific components, the Committee agreed to propose them as Type I methods. Regarding the three “other methods”, the Committee agreed to propose that they should be maintained as Type IV methods (See Appendix VI). Some delegations indicated that they were unable to comment at this stage and would make their comments to the CCMAS.

17. In reply to the proposal of CCMAS to delete the AOAC 2001.03 method, the Committee agreed to keep it because it was applicable when resistant starches are not present and AOAC 2009.01 was applicable to food that may, or may not, contain resistant starches.

18. This question will be considered under **Agenda Item 4**.

⁸ REP 11/NFSU paras 14 – 16