

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda Item 10(a)

CRD21

ORIGINAL LANGUAGE

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME
CODEX COMMITTEE ON CONTAMINANTS IN FOODS

14th Session
(virtual)
3-7 and 13 May 2021
Comments of WFP

Subject: Codex Proposed Limits for Total Aflatoxins in Certain Cereals And Cereal-Based Products Including Foods For Infants And Young Children

WFP Kenya appreciates the concrete actions taken by the Codex Committee to further the guidance on Maximum Residue Levels for aflatoxins as described in the table below. We strongly believe that this will augment global efforts to reduce exposure to aflatoxins in human diets.

Food category	Proposal 1		Proposal 2	
	ML	Sample rejection (%)	ML	Sample rejection (%)
Maize grain, destined for further processing ^{ab}	20 µg/kg	4.5	15 µg/kg	5.4
Flour, meal, semolina and flakes derived from maize	15 µg/kg	1.1	10 µg/kg	1.5
Husked rice	20 µg/kg	2.1	15 µg/kg	2.7
Polished rice	8 µg/kg	0.4	4 µg/kg	1.2
Sorghum grain, destined for further processing ^a	10 µg/kg	2.0	8 µg/kg	2.7
Cereal-based Food for infants and young children ^c	2 µg/kg	0.2	1 µg/kg	7.9

WFP Kenya sources its super cereals from Equitorial Nuts (Muranga, Kenya) and Africa Improved Foods (Rwanda) and is currently assessing other local suppliers. These foods are viable and efficient component of programmes to treat and prevent undernutrition.

WFP has noticed that the proposed maximum limits are more stringent than the current country standards for the cereal based infant foods. Whilst we acknowledge the great move to enhance the standard and protect/uphold public health, it may be challenging for Kenyan suppliers and local manufacturers to source for raw materials that meet the requirements. These limits, if endorsed, can become trade barriers and limit WFP's capacity to purchase in the country and distribute foods to the most vulnerable populations. Consequently, WFP would like to offer its internally generated data for aflatoxin in various foods, conveyed by regions, and suggests that the committee considers the data from locations in which prevalence of aflatoxin is higher in defining the limits that will include the impact on food security as well as food safety.

In addition, WFP would like to ask Codex to consider coordinating the relevant stakeholder that would have to be instrumental in the development and implementation of the mitigation actions to prevent aflatoxin contamination through the supply chain.

We look forward to working together in our efforts to implement mechanisms to prevent aflatoxin contamination in Kenya.