



JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD HYGIENE

Fifty-second Session

Virtual

28 February – 4 March and 9 March 2022

MATTERS REFERRED BY THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND/OR OTHER CODEX SUBSIDIARY BODIES TO THE FOOD HYGIENE COMMITTEE

A MATTERS ARISING FROM THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION (CAC43, 44)

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

Adoption of standards at Step 8¹

Code of Practice on Food Allergen Management for Food Business Operators

1. CAC43 adopted the draft Code of Practice on Food Allergen Management for Food Business Operators at Step 8 noting that the Code of Practice could be revised in future following scientific advice from FAO/WHO and completion of the work on guidance on precautionary allergen labelling in CCFL.

Revision of the General Principles of Food Hygiene and its HACCP annex (GPFH)

2. CAC43 adopted the revised GPFH at Step 5/8 and noted that:

- work on the decision tree to identify critical control points (CCPs) would continue in CCFH so that once completed it could be included in the GPFH as an annex;
- Spanish translation corrections would be made prior to the publication of the GPFH; and
- the GPFH could be revised in future following experience with its implementation.

Adoption of standards at Step 5²

Guidance for the Management of Biological Foodborne Outbreaks

3. CAC43 adopted the Guidance at Step 5.

New work³

Development of Guidelines for the Safe Use and Reuse of Water in Food Production

4. CAC43 approved the new work proposal.

Procedural aspects and meetings of subsidiary committees⁴

5. CAC43 recommended:

- that CCEXEC80⁵ share its recommendations based on the report of the sub-committee on Codex and the Pandemic – Strategic Challenges and Opportunities with all subsidiary bodies for their information and further consideration as appropriate;
- to all subsidiary bodies and Members and Observers to make full use of existing remote working mechanisms such as Electronic Working Groups (EWGs) and Circular Letters (CLs) and to plan their virtual committee meetings in such a manner as to optimize the possibility to complete their agendas.

¹ REP20/CAC, paras. 69-75, Appendix II

² REP20/CAC, para. 76, Appendix III

³ REP20/CAC, para. 77, Appendix V.

⁴ REP20/CAC, para 20 (i-ii), 31(ii) and 32

⁵ REP21/EXEC1, para 35-36

Codex and the pandemic⁶

6. CAC44 recommended that Rule XI (7) and (8) continue to be interpreted in a manner that includes a virtual setting with respect to sessions of Codex Subsidiary Bodies including CCEXEC and that application of this should take into consideration the criteria outlined by CCEXEC80.

60th Anniversary of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (1963-2023)⁷

7. CAC44 agreed that the celebration of the Codex 60th Anniversary would be a wonderful occasion to raise awareness about food safety and quality and encouraged all Members and Observers to use the opportunity of the Codex 60th Anniversary to plan and implement activities to build awareness of Codex and to engage high level political support for Codex work.

Dissolution of TFAMR⁸

8. CAC44, noting that TFAMR had completed its mandate, agreed to dissolve the task force.

B MATTERS ARISING FROM OTHER CODEX SUBSIDIARY BODIES**MATTERS FOR INFORMATION****EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION (CCEXEC78, 80, 81)*****Implementation of CAC42: Feedback on Changes and Proposals for Further Improvements⁹***

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

Regular Review of Codex Work Management 2018-2019: Critical Review Process¹⁰

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

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

Follow-Up to Regular Review of Codex Work Management 2017-2018: Periodic Review of Codex Standards¹¹

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

Follow-up to Regular Review of Codex Work Management 2017-2018: Use of References in Codex Texts¹²

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

Report of the CCEXEC Sub-Committee on Codex and the Pandemic - Strategic Challenges and Opportunities¹³

⁶ REP21/CAC, para 12(iii)

⁷ REP21/CAC, para 150

⁸ REP21/CAC, para 101

⁹ REP20/EXEC1, paras. 25-30

¹⁰ REP20/EXEC1, paras. 42, 46

¹¹ REP 20/EXEC1, paras. 54-56

¹² REP20/EXEC1, para. 64

¹³ REP21/EXEC1, paras. 35-36

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

Codex and the Pandemic - progress on implementation of recommendations of CAC43 and CCEXEC 80 and issues for consideration for 2022¹⁴

15. CCEXEC81 commended the huge efforts of the Codex family to deliver the 2021 work programme and in moving forward recommended that: Chairpersons and Host Secretariats collaborate closely with the Codex Secretariat in their efforts to establish a meeting schedule that is realistic to implement and ensures adequate time between meetings and that the Codex Secretariat together with Chairpersons and the larger membership further consider how EWGs and/or other inclusive and transparent mechanisms can continue to be strengthened, playing an even more fundamental role in Codex as a flexible mechanism to prepare work and ensure that discussions in subsidiary bodies is only held when there is a need for guidance or the work it is ready for progression in the step process. In addition CCEXEC81 agreed to establish and lead a process to develop the blueprint for the future of Codex for consideration by CAC on its 60th anniversary in 2023. The process should include communication and outreach to Members and observers to collect general views on what a future Codex should look like.

16. CCEXEC81 has also established a sub-committee to investigate potential mechanisms to address cross-cutting, overarching and emerging issues in Codex such as new food sources.

Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (41st Session)

Review / update of methods of analysis in the General Standard for Methods of Analysis and Sampling¹⁵

17. CCMAS41 confirmed its continued liaison with other Codex committees on the use of the *General Standard on Methods of Analysis and Sampling* (CXS 234-1999) as the single reference for methods of analysis and sampling.

Revision of the General Guidelines on Sampling (CXG 50-2004)¹⁶

18. CCMAS41 agreed to inform other relevant Codex Committees of the ongoing work on the revision of the *General Guidelines on Sampling* and invite any comments as relevant.

Recommendations

19. CCFH is invited to:

- note the information provided in paragraphs 1–17; and in relation to the 60th anniversary, encourage members and observers to plan and implement activities to build awareness of Codex and to engage high level political support for Codex work; and to actively engage in opportunities to contribute to the discussions on the future of Codex and on how to address cross-cutting, overarching and emerging issues in Codex.
- encourage members and observers to provide relevant comments on the revision to the *General Guidelines on Sampling* (CXG 50-2004) as described in paragraph 18.

¹⁴ REP21/EXEC2, paras 83-85

¹⁵ REP21/MAS, para 6

¹⁶ REP21/MAS, para 110(iv)