

# CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



World Health  
Organization

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Agenda Item 2

CRD35

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

13<sup>th</sup> Session

Yogyakarta, Indonesia, 29 April - 3 May 2019

### MATTERS REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE BY THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND/OR ITS SUBSIDIARY BODIES

*Outcomes of the informal working group to address comments submitted on the sampling plan for methylmercury in fish*

1. An informal working group was convened by New Zealand to consider the proposed draft sampling plan for methylmercury contamination in fish (CF/CRD15).
2. The working group also discussed whether further considerations were required regarding the two questions that CCMAS were unable to respond to:
  - a. Whether there is evidence that methylmercury can vary widely between individual fish sampled at the same time?
  - b. Whether the whole fish should be analysed or only specific fractions of edible portions?
3. The working group identified areas of inconsistency with other sampling plans in the General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed (CXS 193-1995). These included the duplication of definitions for the method of analysis over those already in CAC/GL 72-2009 and retention of an equation to calculate maximum standard measurement uncertainty. Further amendment of the sampling plan would be required to ensure consistency with the General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed.
4. Regarding the two remaining questions it was proposed that these could be addressed through a consideration of contemporary scientific literature and national monitoring data. A review of these aspects, and amendments to ensure consistency of the sampling plan with the General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed, could be undertaken through an electronic working group with findings presented for consideration at CCCF 14.
5. Should an electronic working group to identify further fish species for establishment of MLs be reconvened the sampling plan review could be undertaken at the same time.