



## JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME CODEX COMMITTEE ON FISH AND FISHERY PRODUCTS

Thirty-fourth Session  
Ålesund, Norway  
19 – 24 October 2015

### MATTERS REFERRED BY THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND/OR OTHER CODEX COMMITTEES

#### A MATTERS ARISING FROM THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION (37<sup>th</sup> and 38<sup>th</sup> Sessions)

##### MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

##### *Standards and Related Texts Adopted at Step 8 and Step 5/8<sup>1</sup>*

1. CAC37 **adopted** the following:

- Standard for Fresh and Quick Frozen Raw Scallop Products<sup>2,3</sup>; and
- Food Additive Provisions in standards for fish and fishery products.

##### Standard for Live and Raw Bivalve Molluscs (Determination of Marine Biotoxins)<sup>4</sup>

2. CAC37 **adopted Section I-8.6.1<sup>5</sup>** (Performance Criteria for Methods for the Determination of Marine Biotoxins) in the *Standard for Live and Raw Bivalve Molluscs*, while returning section I-8.6.2 to CCMAS to review the typing of the methods included in this section<sup>6</sup>.

3. CAC38 **adopted Section I-8.6.2** as endorsed by CCMAS<sup>7</sup>.

4. A full record of the discussions in the 37<sup>th</sup> and 38<sup>th</sup> Sessions of the Commission can be found in REP14/CAC, paragraphs 53 - 60 and REP15/CAC, paragraph 127.

##### **Guidance on Information documents<sup>8</sup>**

5. CAC37 agreed to forward the guidance on information documents to all Committees as recommended by CCGP28. The guidance on information documents is attached as Appendix I to this document.

6. The Committee is **invited to note** the above information.

##### MATTERS FOR ACTION

##### *Draft Standards and Related Texts Adopted at Step 5<sup>9</sup>*

7. CAC37 **adopted** the Code of Practice for Processing of Fish Sauce at Step 5.

<sup>1</sup> REP14/CAC, Appendix III

<sup>2</sup> REP14/EXEC, para. 15, Recommendation from CCEXEC69.

<sup>3</sup> REP15/FL, para. 8, Labelling provisions endorsed by CCFL.

<sup>4</sup> REP14/EXEC, para. 14, Recommendation from CCEXEC69.

<sup>5</sup> The section on determination of biotoxins has been renumbered 1-8.5 in the *Standard for Live and Raw Bivalve Molluscs* (CODEX STAN 292-2008)

<sup>6</sup> REP 14/CAC, para 60, Appendix III

<sup>7</sup> REP15/CAC, para. 127

<sup>8</sup> REP14/CAC, para. 195; and REP14/GP, para. 86

<sup>9</sup> REP14/CAC, Appendix IV

8. The Committee is **invited to consider** the draft Code of Practice under Agenda Item 3.

#### **Codex Strategic Plan 2014 - 2019<sup>10</sup>**

9. CAC36 adopted the Strategic Plan 2014 – 2019.

10. CAC37 endorsed the conclusions and recommendations of the CCEXEC69 to establish a monitoring framework for the implementation of the Strategic Plan including mechanisms for systematic data collection (e.g. templates) to make assessing information from multiple committees easier where these were the main providers of monitoring information.

11. In order to monitor the implementation of the Strategic Plan, the Committee is **invited to provide replies** to the activities of relevance as indicated in the provisional template attached at Appendix II to this document.

### **B MATTERS ARISING FROM OTHER CODEX SUBSIDIARY BODIES**

#### **MATTERS FOR INFORMATION**

##### **Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS) (35<sup>th</sup> and 36<sup>th</sup> Sessions)**

Endorsement of methods for determination of marine biotoxins in the *Standard for Live and Raw Bivalve Molluscs* (CODEX STAN 292-2008)<sup>11</sup>

12. CCMAS35 endorsed the criteria for determination of toxin analogues by chemical methods (section I-8.6.1) as proposed by CCFFP.

13. CCMAS35 endorsed AOAC 959.08 as well as AOAC 2011.27 (receptor binding assay) as Type IV (section I-8.6.2 biological and functional methods to determine paralytic shellfish toxicity).

14. Following a request from CAC37 to review the typing of the biological and functional methods to determine paralytic shellfish toxicity, CCMAS36 maintained its endorsement of the methods as Type IV and agreed that the development of criteria for biological methods should be considered as a matter of urgency.<sup>12</sup>

##### **Committee on Food Additives (CCFA) (46<sup>th</sup> and 47<sup>th</sup> Sessions)**

15. CCFA46 further agreed to add a note to the provisions for phosphates in food category 09.2.2 “Frozen battered fish, fish fillets and fish products, including molluscs, crustaceans and echinoderms” of the GSFA to read: “At 400 mg/kg as phosphorous for use singly or in combination in breaded or batter coating in accordance with the *Standard for Quick Frozen Fish Sticks (Fish Fingers), Fish Portions and Fish Fillets – Breaded or in Batter* (CODEX STAN 166-1989).<sup>13</sup>

16. CCFA47 agreed to remind active commodity committees that it was their responsibility to consider the alignment of food additive provisions of standards with the GSFA for all commodity standards under its responsibility.<sup>14</sup>

17. The Committee is **invited to note** the information from CCMAS and CCFA above.

#### **MATTERS FOR ACTION**

##### **Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (70<sup>th</sup> Session)**

###### ***Monitoring of Standards Development***

###### *Work management*

18. The Executive Committee requested all committees to consider the need to develop an approach for the management of their work similar to that used by CCFH (while recognising the differences in topics, working procedures, etc. among various committees).<sup>15</sup>

19. The Committee is **invited to consider** the request from CCEXEC.

##### **Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS) (35<sup>th</sup> Session)**

Sampling plans in standards for fish and fishery products<sup>16</sup>

<sup>10</sup> REP 13/CAC, para. 177, Appendix IX, REP14/CAC, para. 119 and REP14/EXEC, para. 42

<sup>11</sup> REP14/MAS, paras 23 - 25 and Appendix II

<sup>12</sup> REP15/MAS, paras 44 – 59

<sup>13</sup> REP14/FA, para.30

<sup>14</sup> REP15/FA, para. 54

<sup>15</sup> REP15/EXEC, para. 22

20. CCMAS35 considered the request from CCFFP to provide guidance on what to consider in sampling plans for quality parameters or to propose sampling plans for consideration by CCFFP.
21. CCMAS35 agreed to propose sampling plans to CCFFP for the *Standard for Live Abalone and for Raw, Fresh Chilled or Frozen Abalone for Direct Consumption or for Further Processing* (CODEX STAN 312-2013); *Standard for Smoked Fish, Smoke-Flavoured Fish and Smoked-Dried Fish* (CODEX STAN 311-2013); and *Standard for Fresh and Quick Frozen Raw Scallop Products* (CODEX STAN 315-2014).
22. CCMAS35 clarified that a sampling plan in any standard should not be a simple reference to the *General Guidelines on Sampling* (CAC/GL 50-2004), but could be a reference to a specific table in the Guidelines accompanied by an AQL.
23. The Committee is **invited to consider** the recommendations from CCMAS which have been reproduced in Appendix III to this document.

**Committee on Food Additives (CCFA) (46<sup>th</sup> Session)**

24. CCFA46 endorsed the food additive provisions forwarded by CCFFP and noted that phosphates INS 342(i), (ii) and INS 343 (i) – (iii) in the *Standard for Fresh and Quick Frozen Raw Scallop Products* were associated with functions of humectants or sequestrant, which were not listed in CAC/GL 36-1989.<sup>17</sup>
25. The Committee is **requested to clarify** the use of these phosphates.

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<sup>16</sup> REP14/MAS, paras 9 – 17

<sup>17</sup> REP14/FA, para. 29 and Appendix V

**Appendix I****Guidance on information documents**

- i. It is recognised that there is the occasional need for Codex committees to make available information documents, however Codex committees should not deliberately develop such documents and these documents should be by-products of ongoing work of the Committee.
- ii. Documents are considered to be information documents if they:
  - Have been developed and agreed upon by a Codex committee;
  - Have been determined by the Committee to contain information that is useful to national governments and/or Codex members and observers and Codex committees; and
  - Are not considered appropriate by the Committee to be adopted as Codex standards, guidelines or codes of practice or as recommendations for inclusion in the Procedural Manual.
- iii. Information documents will be made available on the Codex website of the relevant committee, clearly separated from official Codex documents and adopted texts.

## Appendix II

**2014-2019 Strategic Plan Activities for which “all committees” are responsible**

Strategic Goal	Objective	Activity	Expected Outcome	Measurable Indicators/Outputs
1: Establish international food standards that address current and emerging food issues.	1.1: Establish new and review existing Codex standards, based on priorities of the CAC	1.1.1: Consistently apply decision-making and priority-setting criteria across Committees to ensure that the standards and work areas of highest priority are progressed in a timely manner.	New or updated standards are developed in a timely manner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Priority setting criteria are reviewed, revised as required and applied.</li> <li>- # of standards revised and # of new standards developed based on these criteria.</li> </ul>
<b>Question to the Committee:</b>				
Is this activity relevant to the work of the Committee? YES/NO.				
Does the Committee use any specific criteria for standards development? Does the Committee intend to develop such criteria				
	1.2: Proactively identify emerging issues and Member needs and, where appropriate, develop relevant food standards.	1.2.1: Develop a systematic approach to promote identification of emerging issues related to food safety, nutrition, and fair practices in the food trade.	Timely Codex response to emerging issues and to the needs of Members.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Committees implement systematic approaches for identification of emerging issues.</li> <li>- Regular reports on systematic approach and emerging issues made to the CCEXEC through the Codex Secretariat.</li> </ul>
<b>Question to the Committee:</b>				
Is this activity relevant to the work of the Committee? YES/NO.				
How does the Committee identify emerging issues and members needs? Is there a systematic approach? Is it necessary to develop such an approach?				
		1.2.2: Develop and revise international and regional standards as needed, in response to needs identified by Members and in response to factors that affect food safety, nutrition and fair practices in the food trade.	Improved ability of Codex to develop standards relevant to the needs of its Members.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Input from committees identifying and prioritizing needs of Members.</li> <li>- Report to CCEXEC from committees on how standards developed address the needs of the Members as part of critical review process.</li> </ul>
<b>Included in question to 1.2.</b>				
2: Ensure the application of risk analysis principles in the development of Codex standards.	2.1: Ensure consistent use of risk analysis principles and scientific advice.	2.1.1: Use the scientific advice of the joint FAO/WHO expert bodies to the fullest extent possible in food safety and nutrition standards development based on the “Working Principles of Risk	Scientific advice consistently taken into account by all relevant committees during the standard setting process.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- # of times the need for scientific advice is:</li> <li>- identified,</li> <li>- requested and,</li> <li>- utilized in a timely</li> </ul>

		Analysis for Application in the Framework of the Codex Alimentarius".		manner.
<b>Question to the Committee:</b>				
Is this activity relevant to the work of the Committee? YES/NO.				
Does the committee request scientific advice in course of its work, how often does it request such advice.				
Does the committee always use the scientific advice, if not, why not?				
		2.1.2: Encourage engagement of scientific and technical expertise of Members and their representatives in the development of Codex standards.	Increase in scientific and technical experts at the national level contributing to the development of Codex standards.	- # of scientists and technical experts as part of Member delegations.  - # of scientists and technical experts providing appropriate input to country positions.
<b>Question to the Committee:</b>				
Is this activity relevant to the work of the Committee? YES/NO.				
How do members make sure that the necessary scientific input is given into country positions and that the composition of the national delegation allows to adequately present and discuss this position? What guidance could be given by the Committee or FAO and WHO?				
		2.1.3: Ensure that all relevant factors are fully considered in exploring risk management options in the context of Codex standard development.	Enhanced identification, and documentation of all relevant factors considered by committees during the development of Codex standards.	- # of committee documents identifying all relevant factors guiding risk management recommendations.  - # of committee documents clearly reflecting how those relevant factors were considered in the context of standards development.
<b>Question to the Committee:</b>				
Is this activity relevant to the work of the Committee? YES/NO.				
How does the Committee ensure that all relevant factors have been taken into account when developing a standard and how are these documented?				
		2.1.4: Communicate the risk management recommendations to all interested parties.	Risk management recommendations are effectively communicated and disseminated to all interested parties.	- # of web publication/ communications relaying Codex standards.  - # of media releases disseminating Codex standards.
<b>Question to the Committee:</b>				
Is this activity relevant to the work of the Committee? YES/NO.				
When taking a risk management decision, does the committee give guidance to members how to communicate this decision? Would more consideration of this be helpful to members?				
3: Facilitate the effective participation of all Codex Members.	3.1: Increase the effective participation of developing countries in Codex.	3.1.5: To the extent possible, promote the use of the official languages of the Commission in	Active participation of Members in committees and working groups.	- Report on number of committees and working groups using the languages of the Commission

		committees and working groups.		
<b>Question to the Committee:</b>				
Is this activity relevant to the work of the Committee? YES/NO.				
Is the use of official languages in working groups of the committee sufficient? What are the factors determining the choice of languages? How could the situation be improved?				
	3.2: Promote capacity development programs that assist countries in creating sustainable national Codex structures.	3.2.3: Where practical, the use of Codex meetings as a forum to effectively conduct educational and technical capacity building activities.	Enhancement of the opportunities to conduct concurrent activities to maximize use of the resources of Codex and Members.	- # of activities hosted on the margins of Codex meetings.
<b>Question to the Committee:</b>				
Is this activity relevant to the work of the Committee? YES/NO.				
Does the Committee organize technical capacity activities or other activities in the margins of Committee sessions? If yes – how many and with which topics have been organized in the past. If no – could this be useful and what topics could be addressed?				
4: Implement effective and efficient work management systems and practices.	4.1: Strive for an effective, efficient, transparent, and consensus based standard setting process.	4.1.4: Ensure timely distribution of all Codex working documents in the working languages of the Committee/Commission.	Codex documents distributed in a more timely manner consistent with timelines in the Procedural Manual.	- Baseline Ratio (%) established for documents distributed at least 2 months prior to versus less than 2 months prior to a scheduled meeting. - Factors that potentially delay the circulation of documents identified and addressed. - An increase in the ratio (%) of documents circulated 2 months or more prior to meetings.
<b>Question to the Committee:</b>				
Is this activity relevant to the work of the Committee? YES/NO.				
Does the Committee have a mechanism in place to ensure timely distribution of documents? What could be done to further improve the situation?				
		4.1.5: Increase the scheduling of Work Group meetings in conjunction with Committee meetings.	Improved efficiency in use of resources by Codex committees and Members	- # of physical working group meetings in conjunction with committee meetings, where appropriate.
<b>Question to the Committee:</b>				
Is this activity relevant to the work of the Committee? YES/NO.				
Does the Committee hold physical working groups independent of Committee sessions? If yes – why is this necessary?				
	4.2: Enhance capacity to arrive at consensus in standards setting process.	4.2.1: Improve the understanding of Codex Members and delegates of the importance of and approach to consensus building of Codex work.	Members and delegates awareness of the importance of consensus in the Codex standard setting process improved.	- Training material on guidance to achieve consensus developed and made available in the languages of the Commission to delegates.

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Regular dissemination of existing material to Members through Codex Contact Points.</li> <li>- Delegate training programs held in association with Codex meetings.</li> <li>- Impediments to consensus being achieved in Codex identified and analyzed and additional guidance developed to address such impediments, if necessary.</li> </ul>
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**Question to the Committee:**

Is this activity relevant to the work of the Committee? YES/NO.

Are there problems with finding consensus in the Committee? If yes – what are the impediments to consensus? What has been attempted and what more could be done?



## Appendix III

**Proposal from CCMAS35 on sampling plans for fish and fishery products****Standard for Live Abalone and for Raw, Fresh Chilled or Frozen Abalone for Direct Consumption or for Further Processing (CODEX STAN 312 – 2013)**

## II-8.1 Sampling

11-8.2 Sensory and Physical Examination

Attribute sampling plan, CAC/GL 50, Section 4.2, Table 10 using AQL 6.5%

*Comments: qualitative measures (defect/not defect) are assumed. For information about the probability of lot acceptance at AQL 6.5%, see Table 13 and Figure 8.*

II-8.3 Determination of net weight

Sampling plans by variables with unknown standard deviation (s-method), CAC/GL 50 section 4.3, Table 14.

*Comments: The mean value is measured, a quantitative measure, and therefore sampling plans by variables are appropriate.*

II-8.4 Determination of Count per Unit Weight or Volume

Attribute sampling plan, CAC/GL 50, Section 4.2, Table 10 using AQL 6.5%.

*Comments: Qualitative measures (complying / not complying) are assumed. For information about the probability of lot acceptance at AQL 6.5%, see Table 13 and Figure 8.*

**Standard for Smoked Fish, Smoke-Flavoured Fish and Smoke-Dried Fish (CODEX STAN 311-2013)**8.2 Sensory and physical examination

Attribute sampling plan, CAC/GL 50, Section 4.2, Table 10, using AQL 6.5%.

*Comments: Qualitative measures (defect / not defect) are assumed. For information about the probability of lot acceptance at AQL 6.5%, see Table 13 and Figure 8.*

8.4 Determination of net weight

Sampling plans by variables with unknown standard deviation (s-method), CAC/GL 50, Section 4.3, Table 14.

*Comments: the mean value is measured, a quantitative measure, and therefore sampling plans by variables are appropriate.*

8.7 Determination of parasites

Attribute sampling plan, CAC/GL 50, Section 4.2, Table 10, using AQL 6.5% and acceptance number = 0.

**Standard for Fresh and Quick Frozen Raw Scallop Products (CODEX STAN 315-2014)**8.2 Sensory and Physical Examination and 8.3 Determination of pieces and count

Attribute Sampling Plan, CAC/GL 50, Section 4.2, Table 10, using AQL 6.5%.

*Comments: Qualitative measures (defect / not defect) are assumed. For information about the probability of lot acceptance at AQL 6.5%, see Table 13 and Figure 8.*

8.4 Determination of net weight

Sampling plans by variables with unknown standard deviation (s-method), CAC/GL 50, Section 4.3, Table 14.

*Comments: the mean value is measured, and hence it is a quantitative measure and therefore sampling plans by variables are appropriate.*

8.5 Determination of parasites

Attribute sampling plan, CAC/GL 50, Section 4.2, Table 10, using AQL 6.5% and acceptance number = 0.

8.6 Determination of the presence of viscera

No proposal: CCMAS35 noted that the sampling plan for determination of the presence of viscera should depend on whether it is a source of biotoxins and could be considered as a health issue or a quality defect and that whether or not viscera would be found depends on the technology used for processing. CCFPP should consider sampling plans for determination of the presence of viscera taking into account these

matters.

#### 8.8 Determination of added water

Attribute sampling plan, CAC/GL 50, Section 4.2, Table 10 using AQL 6.5%.

*Comments: Qualitative measures (complying / not complying) are assumed. For information about the probability of lot acceptance at AQL 6.5%, see Table 13 and Figure 8.*

*Note: comments are for information purposes only and are not intended to be incorporated into the standards.*