

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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CL 2021/2/OCS-RVDF

January 2021

TO: Codex Contact Points
Contact Points of international organizations having observer status with Codex

FROM: Secretariat, Codex Alimentarius Commission,
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme

SUBJECT: Request for comments on the recommendations for the further steps on the use and maintenance of the database on countries' needs for maximum residue limits for veterinary drugs in foods

DEADLINE: 30 April 2021

BACKGROUND

1. For background information, please refer to document [CX/RVDF 20/15/11](#) available on the Codex website.
2. The database and accompanying working document (CX/RVDF 20/15/11) has been updated based on the discussion held at CCRVDF24 (2018) and it is available on the Codex website to inform comments in reply to [CL 2020/18-RVDF](#).
3. In view of the postponement of 25th Session of the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods (CCRVDF25) to 12-16 July 2021, and the possible holding of this Session in virtual mode, Codex members and observers are encouraged to submit comments in reply to this CL in order to facilitate the consideration of this matter at the upcoming CCRVDF.

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

4. Codex members and observers are invited to submit comments on the recommendations as shown in the Annex to this circular letter and uploaded onto the Codex Online Commenting System¹ (OCS), as per the guidance below.
5. Comments are not requested on the database itself nor on the criteria to prioritize compounds listed in the database nor on the compounds identified as priority for MRLs setting in the database but on the recommendations for the use and maintenance (update) of the database at future sessions of CCRVDF as shown in the Annex.
6. In submitting comments on the recommendations for the further steps on the development and use of the database, please indicate:
 - a. Views on Recommendations 1-5 (whether there is support for these recommendations including possible enhancements to the proposed text(s) or whether there is not support for any or some of the recommendations, the rationale and subsequent proposals for alternative approach(es))
 - b. Additional recommendations (if any) for completeness
 - c. Mandate for future work on the information document (including database)

GUIDANCE ON THE PROVISION OF COMMENTS

7. Comments should be submitted through the Codex Contact Points of Codex members and observers using the OCS.
8. Contact Points of Codex members and observers may login to the OCS and access the document open for comments by selecting "Enter" in the "My reviews" page, available after login to the system.
9. Contact Points of Codex members and observers organizations are requested to provide proposed changes and relevant comments/justifications on a specific paragraph (under the categories: editorial, substantive, technical and translation) and/or at the document level (general comments or summary comments). Additional guidance on the OCS comment categories and types can be found in the OCS Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)².
10. Other OCS resources, including the user manual and short guide, can also be found on the Codex website³.
11. For questions on the OCS, please contact Codex-OCS@fao.org.

¹ <https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org/>

² http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/codexalimentarius/doc/OCS/Codex_OCS_FAQs_2017-11-06.pdf

³ <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters/en/>

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE APPROACH ON THE USE AND MAINTENANCE OF THE DATABASE
ON COUNTRIES' NEEDS FOR MRLs FOR VETERINARY DRUGS
FOR FUTURE SESSIONS OF CCRVDF⁴**

1. The database on countries' needs for MRLs for veterinary drugs in foods should be made available at every session of CCRVDF as an information document to inform the discussion on the priority lists of veterinary drugs for evaluation/re-evaluation by JECFA. The INF/DOC will include a link to the excel file of the database.
2. The INF/DOC should be made available to the Codex Secretariat contemporarily to the distribution of the Circular Letter requesting comments on the priority list of veterinary drugs for evaluation/re-evaluation by JECFA in order to facilitate submission of available relevant data / information that could enable the establishment of MRLs for the identified compound / commodity combinations.
3. The INF/DOC will be updated after every session of CCRVDF following the outcomes of the discussion on the priority list of veterinary drugs for evaluation/re-evaluation by JECFA.
4. The United States of America, as Host Country of CCRVDF, will update the INF/DOC, with the assistance of Costa Rica and/or other countries which may wish to take part in this exercise subject to approval at every session of CCRVDF. The Codex Secretariat will provide the repository for the INF/DOC and database as updated yearly.
5. CCRVDF may assess the need to update the database in the future depending on progress made on the establishment of MRLs for compound/commodity combinations currently identified in the database. If that would be the case, the prioritization criteria⁵ used to develop the priority lists for veterinary drugs in need of MRLs (List A⁶ and List B⁷) should be considered by CCRVDF to include new compound/commodity combinations in the database. (Note: The time interval remains flexible to allow updates on a needed basis as identified and agreed by CCRVDF)
6. CCRVDF will encourage Codex member countries / observer organizations to prepare relevant data / information to allow the evaluation of those compounds / commodity combinations in the database for consideration by the subsequent session of CCRVDF under the agenda item on the priority list of veterinary drugs requiring evaluation or re-evaluation by JECFA (replies to the corresponding circular letter⁸) with particular regard to those compound / commodity combinations⁹ recognized as high priority needs and as feasible starting points for establishment of relevant MRLs as identified by CCRVDF.
7. Based on the above, the mandate for the upcoming exercise should be as follows:
 - a. The United States, as Host Country Secretariat of CCRVDF, with the assistance of Costa Rica, will update the INF/DOC based on the discussion and decisions taken at CCRVDF25
 - b. The updated INF/DOC should be made available contemporarily with the issuance of the circular letter requesting comments / information on the priority list of veterinary drugs for evaluation or re-evaluation by JECFA for consideration by CCRVDF.

⁴ The footnotes provide relevant background documents to inform comments on points 1-6 of the recommended approach for the use and maintenance of the database on countries' needs for MRLs for veterinary drugs.

⁵ CX/RVDF 18/24/11, Table 1, Lists A and B

<http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CCRVDF&session=24>

⁶ Top ten highest priority veterinary drugs in need of MRLs determined by analysis of individual country prioritizations

⁷ Top ten highest priority veterinary drugs in need of MRLs determined by analysis of cumulative country responses

⁸ See CL 2020/18-RVDF as an example of this exercise for consideration at CCRVDF25.

Circular letters can be downloaded from the Codex website (dedicated page on Circular Letters or Circular Letters relevant to CCRVDF25) as follows: <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters/pt/>

<http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/committees/committee/related-circular-letters/en/?committee=CCRVDF>

⁹ CX/RVDF 20/25/11, see paras. 12-13 for specific examples of compounds currently prioritized for MRLs setting from the database for consideration by CCRVDF25. Working documents for CCRVDF25 can be downloaded from:

<http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CCRVDF&session=25>