

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda Items 2,5,6,8,9,10,11,13

CRD21

ORIGINAL LANGUAGE

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX COMMITTEE ON CONTAMINANTS IN FOODS

13th Session

Yogyakarta, Indonesia, 29 April – 3 May 2019

Comments of Nigeria

AGENDA ITEM 2 - MATTERS REFERRED BY THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND OTHER SUBSIDIARY BODIES

A. *Guidelines for the management of (micro)biological foodborne crises/outbreaks*

Nigeria appreciates the progress made by the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH) on development of Guidelines for the Management of (Micro)biological Foodborne Crises/Outbreaks. Nigeria, proposes the inclusion of chemical contaminants in the scope of the guidelines.

Rationale: Nigeria has observed that inclusion of chemical contaminants in addition to microbiological contaminants will improve management of foodborne crises/outbreaks.

B. *Sampling Plans for MLs for Methylmercury in Fish*

Nigeria supports that CCMAS proposal to align the method of performance requirements for mercury with those of the Procedural Manual (Guidelines for Establishing Numeric Values for the Criteria).

Rationale:

The measurement of uncertainty should not be used in decision rule in Codex standards for acceptance or rejection of lots (section on Interpretation of Results) because, it is not consistent with other sampling plans already adopted for contaminants in foods.

AGENDA ITEM 5 - PROPOSED DRAFT MAXIMUM LEVELS FOR LEAD IN SELECTED COMMODITIES IN GENERAL STANDARD FOR CONTAMINANTS AND TOXINS IN FOOD AND FEED (CXS 193-1995)

Nigeria appreciates the work on the revision of the maximum levels (MLs) for lead by the electronic Working Group led by the United States of America.

Nigeria supports the proposed revised MLs for lead in wine, fortified wine and edible offal of cattle, pig, and poultry, based on the exposure assessment studies carried out.

AGENDA ITEM 6- PROPOSED DRAFT MAXIMUM LEVELS FOR CADMIUM IN CHOCOLATE AND COCOA –DERIVED PRODUCTS (CX/CF 19/13/6)

Nigeria appreciates the work on development of maximum levels for cadmium in chocolate and cocoa-derived products by the electronic Working Group chaired by Ecuador and co-chaired by Brazil and Ghana.

Nigeria supports the proposed limits for:

1. Chocolate products containing or declaring <30% total cocoa solids on a dry matter basis
2. Chocolate and chocolate products containing or declaring $\geq 30\%$ to < 50% total cocoa solids on a dry matter basis
3. Cocoa powder (100% total cocoa solids on a dry matter basis)

Rationale: There are no expressed health concerns regarding cadmium exposure due to consumption of cocoa and cocoa-derived products.

AGENDA ITEM 8 - PROPOSED DRAFT ML FOR TOTAL AFLATOXINS IN READY-TO-EAT PEANUTS AND ASSOCIATED SAMPLING PLANS (HELD AT STEP 4) (REP18/CF, PARA 115, APPENDIX VII)

Nigeria supports that the setting of ML for Ready-To-Eat (RTE) peanuts at 10 µg/kg be set for peanuts.

Rationale: It is considered safe in the absence of any contradictory data and allows the facilitation of trade for developing/producing countries

AGENDA ITEM 9 - PROPOSED DRAFT MLS FOR TOTAL AFLATOXINS AND OCHRATOXIN A IN NUTMEG, DRIED CHILI AND PAPRIKA, GINGER, PEPPER AND TURMERIC AND ASSOCIATED SAMPLING PLANS (HELD AT STEP 4) (REP18/CF, PARA 119, APPENDIX VII)

Nigeria supports the setting of aflatoxins ML of 30 µg/kg for AFT in the five spices.

Rationale: Spices are not consumed as a main food, exposure through consumption is minimal therefore the problem of mycotoxins in spices is not a public health concern.

AGENDA ITEM 10 - DRAFT GUIDELINES FOR RISK ANALYSIS OF INSTANCES OF CONTAMINANTS IN FOOD WHERE THERE IS NO REGULATORY LEVEL OR RISK MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK ESTABLISHED (AT STEP 7) (CX/CF 19/13/8 AND CL 2019/10-CF)

Nigeria supports establishment of the Guidelines for risk analysis of chemicals inadvertently present in food at low levels and for which no regulatory or risk management framework is established.

Rationale: This is because the guidelines will be applied to unregulated contaminants for which no Codex or national standards exist.

AGENDA ITEM 11 - ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW MLS FOR LEAD IN COMMODITIES ACCORDING TO A PRIORITIZATION APPROACH (CX/CF 19/13/9)

Nigeria agrees with the prioritization criteria approach, based on significance of food commodity in dietary exposure to lead, health impact, contribution to international trade and vulnerability levels of lead found in food for infants and children, the most sensitive sub population.

Rationale: The criteria used are broad enough for the prioritization list of foods because they contribute most to dietary exposure to lead, health impact and international trade.

AGENDA ITEM 13 - REVISION OF THE CODE OF PRACTICE FOR THE PREVENTION AND REDUCTION OF LEAD CONTAMINATION IN FOODS (CXC 56-2004) (CX/CF 19/13/11)

Nigeria appreciates the electronic Working Group chaired by the United States of America and the United Kingdom for the work on the revision of the Code of Practice for the prevention and reduction of lead contamination in foods

Nigeria therefore supports the development of a Code of Practice for the prevention and reduction of Lead contamination in foods.

Rationale:

There are indications that there are no safe levels for exposure to lead which is associated with neurodevelopmental effects, mortality (mainly due to cardiovascular diseases), impaired renal function, hypertension, impaired fertility, and adverse pregnancy outcomes. Therefore, all efforts geared towards reduction of lead in food products is welcome.