

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of
the United Nations



World Health
Organization

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CX 4/35.2

**CL 2016/22-CF(Rev)
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TO: Codex Contact Points
Interested International Organizations

FROM: Secretariat, Codex Alimentarius Commission
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, Italy
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SUBJECT: Request for data on cadmium on chocolate and cocoa-derived products

DEADLINE: 5 December 2016

BACKGROUND

1. The 10th Session of the Committee on Contaminants in Foods (2016) agreed to return the maximum levels for cadmium in chocolate and cocoa-derived products for further revision, comments and consideration by CCCF11 (2017).
2. The Committee agreed on the following food categories on which MLs for cadmium would be set:
 - Intermediate products i.e. cocoa liquor and cocoa powder from cake
 - Finished products based on total cocoa solids content (%) i.e. chocolate and cocoa powder ready-for-consumption.
3. The Committee also agreed that the Codex Secretariat would issue a Circular Letter requesting information on: (1) occurrence data of cadmium and designation of origin in the following intermediate products: cocoa liquor and cocoa in powder from cake; (2) occurrence data of cadmium linked with total cocoa solids content (%) or chocolate classification (e.g. bitter, with milk) in the following final products: chocolates and cocoa in powder ready-for-consumption; and (3) to provide the geographic origin of the cocoa raw materials as well as information of the manufacturing country, when available.
4. The Committee further agreed that occurrence data and any other information should be submitted to GEMS/Food to ensure quality of data submitted and global analysis of data. In this case the chocolate classification should be mentioned "in English" in the file local name. In the remark section is desirable to indicate any additional information including information requested in point 3 of paragraph 3.
5. The Committee noted that this was consistent with the recommendation of CCCF09 to use the GEMS/Food platform for data submission and analysis for its work in the development of MLs. When additional information needed to be collected that was not part of the database, Working Group Chairs should consult with the GEMS/Food Secretariat when developing templates for the collection of data.
6. The Committee agreed to re-establish the Electronic Working Group, chaired by Ecuador and co-chaired by Brazil and Ghana to continue work on the development of MLs in cadmium in the food categories identified in paragraph 2.
7. Data submitted will therefore be considered by the eWG in order to prepare proposed draft MLs for the food categories identified in paragraph 2 for comments and consideration by CCCF11.¹

Request for data

8. Codex members and observers are invited to submit occurrence data on cadmium in chocolate and cocoa-derived products to GEMS/Food database as indicated in paragraph 2 and in points (1) and (2) of paragraph 3 as well as additional data / information as indicated in point (3) of paragraph 3.

¹ REP16/CF, paras 101 – 119.

9. Information on how to submit data can be found on the WHO website at:

<http://www.who.int/foodsafety/databases/en/>

Please read the “GEMS/Food Database Manual” before attempting to submit data to GEMS. To submit data an account is needed. Instructions on creating an account are found on page 2 of the manual. For technical questions about submitting data to GEMS, please contact Philippe Verger at WHO (<mailto:vergerp@who.int>) with a copy to Markus Lipp (<mailto:markus.lipp@fao.org>).

10. Data that were submitted to JECFA77 for the 2013 cadmium risk assessment do not need to be resubmitted. Data that were already submitted for the work of the EWG in 2015 do not need to be resubmitted unless additional information in accordance with this CL can be made available.