

codex alimentarius commission

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FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
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Agenda Item 1

**CX/CF 07/1/1 Add.1
March 2007**

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

**First Session
Beijing, China, 16 - 20 April 2007**

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

On 23 March 2007, the Codex Secretariat received a communication from Japan and the Netherlands, reproduced below.

In accordance with Rules VII.5 and XI.11 of the Rules of Procedure of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, the item "Proposal of new work to amend schedule I of the Codex General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Foods (GSCTF)" is hereby placed on a supplementary list.

The proposal is presented in ANNEX to this document.

Japan and the Netherlands wish to request the inclusion of a new agenda item to the Provisional Agenda for the First Session of the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CX/CF 07/1/1) as follows in conformity with Rule VII (Agenda).5 and XI (Subsidiary bodies).11:

"Proposal to Amend Schedule I of the Codex General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Foods."

Japan and the Netherlands also request that a "Supplementary List" of the Provisional Agenda should be distributed to all members of the Commission as stipulated in Rule VII.5 together with the attached paper.

We consider that amending Schedule I is a matter of urgent nature because it still contains some general maximum levels, namely those for cadmium with a CODEX STAN code number. This situation has occurred due to the fact that they were adopted by the Commission in 2005 but not included in the list of maximum levels for revocation. In addition, the categorization of contaminants and their order can be improved for easier reference. We believe that these amendments can be completed at the First Session of the CCCF for adoption by the 30th Session of the Commission. These amendments should be reflected in the Working Document for Information and Use in Discussions Related to Contaminants and Toxins of the GSCTF (CX/CF 07/1/6).

We acknowledge that Paragraph 4 of the "Elaboration Procedures Part 2. Critical Review – Proposals to Undertake New Work or to Revise a Standard" states, "... the maintenance of ... the General Standard on Contaminants and Toxins in Foods ... shall follow the procedures established by the Committees concerned and endorsed by the Commission." Because of the simple technical nature of the amendments, we trust that no project document is necessary.

Best regards.

Yours sincerely,


Oyama Seiichirou
Codex Contact Point for Japan


Dr. H.F. Storms
Head of Delegation
The Netherlands

PROPOSAL TO AMEND SCHEDULE I

1. At the 28th Session in 2005, the Commission agreed to postpone to its next session the revocation of individual Codex Maximum/Guideline Levels proposed by the 37th CCFAC. The 29th Session of the Commission in 2006 revoked them as proposed by the 37th CCFAC. In the meantime, some Maximum Levels were adopted by the 28th Commission in 2005, which were not revoked and therefore are shown in Schedule I with corresponding CODEX STAN code numbers. These are: the maximum levels for cadmium in Brassica vegetables; bulb vegetables; fruiting vegetables, cucurbits; fruiting vegetables, other than cucurbits; leafy vegetables; potato; root and tuber vegetables; stalk and stem vegetables; and wheat (CS 248-2005). Therefore it is proposed that the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods at its First Session recommend to the CAC revocation of CS 248-2005 and amendment of Schedule 1 by deleting the reference to CS 248-2005 and inserting “2005” as the adoption year.

2 At the 38th Session in 2006, the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants agreed: to forward the General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Foods, including Schedule I, after inclusion of the agreed amendments, to the Codex Alimentarius Commission for adoption; and to re-order Schedule I into three categories, mycotoxins, heavy metals and others and to have contaminants listed in each category in alphabetical order (ALINORM 06/29/12, para. 119). Subsequently, the Commission adopted Schedule I amended and re-ordered as the above by the Codex Secretariat.

3. Concerning the categories of contaminants and their order in Schedule I, Japan and the Netherlands believe that having four categories in the following order seems more logical: metals, mycotoxins, other chemicals, and radionuclides. Radionuclides are quite different in nature from other contaminants in the list, and therefore should be in a distinct category. The term “heavy metals” agreed to by the 38th CCFAC should be modified to “metals”, now that aluminium is included in the working document. The CCCF is invited to consider if these amendments are appropriate.

4. These proposed amendments were already incorporated in the Working Document for Information and Use in Discussions Related to Contaminants and Toxins of the GSCTF (CX/CF 07/1/6) and in the appended Schedule 1. The proposed amendments to Schedule 1 can be regarded as a type of maintenance based on the already agreed principles and therefore no project document was thought to be necessary. Decisions regarding the adoption or revocation maximum levels for contaminants by the Commission should routinely be incorporated in the update of Schedule 1 and adopted maximum levels shall not appear in separate Codex Standards.