

codex alimentarius commission

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FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
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Agenda Item 4(c)

CX/CF 07/1/5
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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME CODEX COMMITTEE ON CONTAMINANTS IN FOOD

First Session

Beijing, China, 16 - 20 April 2007

ACTION REQUIRED AS A RESULT OF CHANGES IN TOXICOLOGICAL RECOMMENDATION

1. 67th JECFA evaluated the following substances: i) Aluminium; ii) Chloropropanols; and iii) Methylmercury¹. The outcome of the evaluation is summarized in a working document CX/CF 07/1/4.
2. The Committee may wish to express its view and opinion on the matters outlined below.

Aluminium

3. JECFA conducted evaluations of Aluminium in response to the request made by the 37th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants (ALINORM 05/28/12, Appendix XXIX: Priority list of food additives, contaminants and naturally occurring toxicants proposed for evaluation by JECFA). Relevant questions are reproduced below.

- **Aluminium from all sources:** Toxicity and intake of aluminium from its use in food additives and from other sources, sodium aluminium phosphate included. Exposure assessment on all compounds included in GSFA (US to provide list of all GSFA additives)

Availability of new data toxicological data for reviewing current PTWI unknown.

4. JECFA established a PTWI for Al of 1 mg/kg bw, which applies to aluminium, including all aluminium containing compounds in foods. The previously established ADIs and PTWI for aluminium compounds were withdrawn.
5. JECFA recommended that provisions for aluminium-containing additives included in the Codex GSFA should be compatible with the newly established PTWI for Aluminium of 1mg/kg bw. The Codex Committee on Food Additives will consider this recommendation at its 39th Session (CX/FA 07/39/4).

¹ The summary and conclusions and draft full report of the 67th JECFA meeting are available from: ftp://ftp.fao.org/ag/agn/jecfa/jecfa67_final.pdf, <http://www.who.int/entity/ipcs/food/jecfa/summaries/summary67.pdf>, and <http://www.who.int/ipcs/publications/jecfa/reports/trs940.pdf>.

Chloropropanols

6. JECFA conducted evaluations of 3-chloro-1,2-propanediol (3-MCPD) and 1,3-dichloro-2-propanol (DCP) in response to the request below.

- **Chloropropanols:** Formation and co-occurrence of 3-MCPD and 1,3-DCP
Exposure assessment from all sources

7. The outcome of the evaluations were taken into account in preparing a Proposed Draft Code of Practice for Reduction of 3-Monochloropropane-1,2-diol (3-MPCD) During the Production of Acid-hydrolyzed Vegetable Proteins (Acid-HVPs) and Products that Contain Acid-HVPs by an electronic working group led by the United Kingdom. This draft proposed code contained in CX 07/1/14 will be discussed under Agenda Item 11.

Methylmercury

8. JECFA conducted evaluation of methylmercury in response to the request below.

- **Methylmercury:** Clarification of current PTWI for population subgroups
Assessment of scientific evidence of relevance of direct exposure to infants and small children (prenatal vs. postnatal exposure, including breast feeding)
Impact of current MLs on MeHg exposure and risk.

9. JECFA confirmed the existing PTWI of 1.6 µg/kg bw set in 2003 based on the most sensitive toxicological endpoint (developmental neurotoxicity) and made it clear that the previous PTWI had been withdrawn. Furthermore, the Committee could not identify a level of intake higher than the existing PTWI that would not pose a risk of developmental neurotoxicity for infants and children. In the case of adults, the Committee considered that intakes of up to about two times higher than the existing PTWI of 1.6 µg/kg bw would not pose any risk of neurotoxicity in adults, although in the case of women of childbearing age, it should be borne in mind that intake should not exceed the PTWI, in order to protect the embryo and fetus.

10. JECFA concluded that the setting of guideline levels for methylmercury in fish may not be an effective way of reducing exposure for the general population and noted that advice targeted at population of subgroups that may be at risk from methylmercury exposure may provide an effective method for lowering the number of individuals with exposures greater than the PTWI.

11. The 38th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants agreed to postpone consideration on the need to revise the guideline levels for methylmercury in fish pending the outcomes of a joint FAO/WHO expert consultation on health risks associated with methylmercury and dioxins and dioxin-like PCBs in fish and the health benefits of fish consumption and to retain the current Codex guideline levels for the time-being (ALINORM 06/29/12 para.192).