

INFORMATION ON ACTIVITIES

Communication from the Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex)

The following communication, received on 18 October 2010, is being circulated at the request of the Codex secretariat.

I. CODEX SESSIONS SINCE THE LAST MEETING OF THE SPS COMMITTEE (29-30 JUNE 2010)

- Codex Alimentarius Commission (Geneva, Switzerland, 5-9 July 2010);
- Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods (Burlington, United States of America, 30 August – 3 September 2010);
- FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for North America and the South West Pacific (Nuku'alofa, Tonga, 28 September – 1 October 2010);
- FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Europe (Warsaw, Poland, 5-8 October 2010).

In particular, the SPS Committee may wish to note the following:

1. The 33rd Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, among others:
 - adopted 25 new or revised Codex standards or related texts and many new or revised provisions for additives and MRLs for pesticides (see Appendix I), and approved a number of new work proposals (see Appendix II);
 - agreed to establish a new Task Force on Animal Feeding and made other recommendations to address issues related to animal feeding;
 - considered the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2008-2013 of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the development of the Strategic Plan 2013-2018;
 - Made some recommendations on the Mid-Term Review of the Codex Trust Fund;
 - Considered the impact of private standards and agreed to forward this question to regional Coordinating Committees.

The full report of the meeting is available at: <http://www.codexalimentarius.net> or at <ftp://ftp.fao.org/codex/Alinorm10/al33REPe.pdf>.

2. The Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods finalized work on the MRLs for narasin in pig tissues and tilmicosin in chicken and turkey tissues and agreed to consider the MRLs for tilmicosin in cattle tissues at its next session. The Committee will consider the

development of a policy for extrapolation of MRLs to additional species and tissues and to revise the *Risk Analysis Principles applied by the CCRVDF* and the *Risk Assessment Policy for the Setting of MRLs for Veterinary Drugs*, with special emphasis on the revision of Section 3.2 "Evaluation of risk management options" and the development of risk management and risk communication recommendations for veterinary drugs with no ADI and/or MRLs. The Committee further agreed to start developing risk management recommendations for veterinary drugs for which no ADI and/or MRL was recommended by JECFA due to specific human health concerns; and a risk analysis policy for setting appropriate limits for veterinary drugs in honey.

II. FORTHCOMING CODEX MEETINGS

- *Ad hoc* Codex Intergovernmental Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance (Muju, Republic of Korea, 18-22 October 2010);
- Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables (Bali, Indonesia, 25-29 October 2010);
- Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (Santiago, Chile, 1-5 November 2010);
- FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean (Acapulco, Mexico, 8-12 November 2010);
- FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Asia (Bali, Indonesia, 22-26 November 2010);
- Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (Kampala, Uganda, 29 November – 3 December 2010);
- FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Near East (Tunis, Tunisia, 25-29 January 2011);
- FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Africa (Ghana, Accra, 1-4 February 2011);
- Codex Committee on Fats and Oils (Penang, Malaysia, 21-25 February 2011).

3. The 4th Session of the *Ad Hoc* Codex Intergovernmental Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance will continue the elaboration of Guidelines for Risk Analysis of Food Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), which includes sections on: preliminary foodborne AMR-risk management activities; foodborne AMR-risk assessment; foodborne AMR-risk management; surveillance of use of antimicrobial agent and AMR microorganisms; and foodborne AMR risk communication. According to the mandate received by the Codex Alimentarius Commission, the Task Force should complete its work by this session.

4. The Codex Committee on Food Hygiene will consider the following proposed drafts: Guidelines for the Control of *Campylobacter* and *Salmonella* spp. in Chicken Meat; Guidelines on the Application of General Principles of Food Hygiene to the Control of Viruses in Food; and Revision of the Principles for the Establishment and Application of Microbiological Criteria for Foods.

5. The Codex Committee on Fats and Oils will proceed with its work on the update of the *Code of Practice for the Transport and Storage of Fats and Oils in Bulk*, which provides recommendations to prevent contamination of fats and oils. Current work is focusing on the development of criteria to assess the acceptability of substances for inclusion in a List of Acceptable Previous Cargoes and on the consideration of the substances for inclusion in the Draft and Proposed Draft Lists of Acceptable Previous Cargoes.

6. The FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees consider Codex matters of interest to the region, promote exchange of information within the region on food legislation and food control issues, Codex structures and participation, the use of Codex standards, identifying issues related to the use or non-

use of Codex standards and related texts at the national and regional levels. They define the problems and needs of the region concerning food standards and food control, and some of them develop regional standards for products that may not be traded internationally but for which there is significant regional trade. The Commission also forwarded some questions on general issues to Coordinating Committees, especially as regards the mid-term review of the Trust Fund, the Strategic Plan, and the use of private standards.

APPENDIX I

LISTS OF STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS ADOPTED BY THE 33RD SESSION OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Part 1 – Standards and Related Texts Adopted at Step 8

Standards and Related Texts	Reference	Status
Standard for Bitter Cassava	ALINORM 08/31/REP Para. 38	Adopted
Section 6 "Marking or Labelling" (Standard for Bitter Cassava)	ALINORM 10/33/35 Appendix II	Adopted
Standard for Apples	ALINORM 10/33/35 Appendix III	Adopted with amendment (See Agenda Item 4)
Code of Practice for Fish and Fishery Products (Sections on Lobsters and Crabs and Relevant Definitions)	ALINORM 10/33/18 Appendix II	Adopted with amendments (See Agenda Item 4)
Standard for Sturgeon Caviar	ALINORM 10/33/18 Appendix V	Adopted
List of Methods for Dietary Fibre	ALINORM 10/33/26 Appendix II	Adopted
Amendment to the <i>Codex Standard for Fermented Milks</i> (CODEX STAN 243-2003), pertaining to Drinks based on Fermented Milk	ALINORM 10/33/11 Appendix II	Adopted
Food Additive Provisions of the <i>General Standard for Food Additives</i> (GSFA)	ALINORM 10/33/12 Appendix III	Adopted
Revised <i>Code of Ethics for International Trade in Foods</i> (CAC/RCP 20-1985) including Concessional and Food Aid Transactions	ALINORM 10/33/33 Appendix II	Adopted
Maximum Residue Limits for Pesticides	ALINORM 10/33/24 Appendix II	Adopted

Part 2 – Standards and Related Texts Adopted at Step 5/8 (with omission of Step 6 and 7)

Standards and Related Texts	Reference	Status
Annex on Leafy Green Vegetables to the <i>Code of Hygienic Practice for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables</i> (CAC/RCP 53-2003)	ALINORM 10/33/13 Appendix II	Adopted with amendment (See Agenda Item 4)
Code of Hygienic Practice for Pathogenic <i>Vibrio</i> spp. in Seafood	ALINORM 10/33/13 Appendix III	Adopted
Annex on Control Measures for <i>Vibrio parahaemolyticus</i> and <i>Vibrio vulnificus</i> in Molluscan Shellfish	ALINORM 10/33/13 Appendix IV	Adopted

Standards and Related Texts	Reference	Status
Principles and Guidelines for the Conduct of Assessment of Foreign Official Inspection and Certification Systems (Annex to the <i>Guidelines for the design, operation, assessment and accreditation of food import and export inspection and certification systems (CAC/GL 26-1997)</i>)	ALINORM 10/33/30 Appendix II	Adopted with amendment (See Agenda Item 4)
Guidelines on Performance Criteria and Validation of Methods for Detection, Identification and Quantification of Specific DNA Sequences and Specific Proteins in Foods	ALINORM 10/33/23 Appendix III	Adopted
Food Additive Provisions of the <i>General Standard for Food Additives (GSFA)</i>	ALINORM 10/33/12 Appendix III	Adopted (except provision for ponceau 4R) (See Agenda Item 4)
Guidelines on Substances Used as Processing Aids	ALINORM 10/33/12 Appendix VIII	Adopted
Amendments to the <i>International Numbering System for Food Additives (CAC/GL 36-2009)</i>	ALINORM 10/33/12 Appendix IX	Adopted
Specifications for the Identity and Purity of Food Additives arising from the 71 st Meeting of JECFA	ALINORM 10/33/12 Appendix X	Adopted
Maximum Residue Limits for Pesticides	ALINORM 10/33/24 Appendix III	Adopted
Maximum Levels for Melamine in Food (<i>Powdered Infant Formula and Foods other than Infant Formula</i>) and Feed	ALINORM 10/33/41 Appendix IV	Adopted
Maximum Levels for Total Aflatoxins in Shelled, Ready-to-Eat Brazil Nuts and Shelled, Destined for Further Processing Brazil Nuts	ALINORM 10/33/41 Appendix V	Adopted
Revision of Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Aflatoxin in Tree Nuts (Additional Measures for Brazil Nuts)	ALINORM 10/33/41 Appendix VI	Adopted
Principles and Criteria for Legibility of Nutrition Labelling	ALINORM 10/33/22 Appendix III	Adopted

Part 3 – Other Standards and Related Texts Submitted for Adoption

Standards and Related Texts	Reference	Status
Revised Food Additive Listings in Standards for Milk and Milk Products	ALINORM 10/33/11 Appendix IV	Adopted
Revised <i>Model Export Certificate for Milk and Milk Products (CAC/GL 67-2008)</i>	ALINORM 10/33/11 Appendix V	Adopted
Revised Section on Contaminants in Standards for Milk and Milk Products	ALINORM 10/33/11 para. 105	Adopted
Methods of Analysis in Codex Standards at Different Steps, including Methods of Analysis for Natural Mineral Waters	ALINORM 10/33/23 Appendix II	Adopted

Standards and Related Texts	Reference	Status
Amendment to the name and descriptors of food categories 06.0, 06.2 and 06.2.1 of the GSFA	ALINORM 10/33/12 para. 16	Adopted
Deletion of note 180 "expressed as beta-carotene" in all adopted and proposed provisions for carotenoids (INS 160a(i), (iii), e, f) and carotene, beta- (vegetable) (INS 160a(ii)) of the GSFA	ALINORM 10/33/12 para. 61	Adopted
Amendment of the provision for ascorbyl esters (INS 304, 305) in food category 13.2 "Complementary foods for infants and young children" of the GSFA	ALINORM 10/33/12 para. 90	Adopted
Amendment to notes 130 and 131 associated with the provisions for phenolic antioxidants, i.e. butylated hydroxyanisole (BHA, INS 320), butylated hydroxytoluene (BHT, INS 321); propyl gallate (INS 310) and tertiary butylhydroquinone (TBHQ, INS 319) of the GSFA	ALINORM 10/33/12 para. 91	Adopted
Amendment to the text of note 136 of the GSFA	ALINORM 10/33/12 para. 92	Adopted
Amendment to Section 2 "Table of functional classes, definitions and technological purposes" of CAC/GL 36-1989	ALINORM 10/33/12 para. 129	Adopted
Amendment to Section 2.1 General Definitions of the Code of Practice for Fish and Fishery Products	ALINORM 10/33/18 Appendix III	Adopted
Maximum Level for tin in Canned Fruits and Vegetables in the Codex Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed	ALINORM 10/33/41 Appendix II	Adopted
Deletion of Section 8 and related text from the <i>Guidelines for the Production, Processing, Labelling and Marketing of Organically Produced Foods</i> (CAC/GL 32-1999)	ALINORM 10/33/22 Appendix IX	Adopted
Alignment of the General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Food (CODEX STAN 1-1985) with the Codex International Numbering System in CAC/GL 36-1989	ALINORM 10/33/22 Appendix XI	Adopted

APPENDIX II

NEW WORK APPROVED BY THE 33RD CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Responsible Body	Standard and Related Texts	Reference	Job Code
CCFFV	Standard for Pomegranate	ALINORM 10/33/35 Appendix VIII	N01-2010
CCNFSDU	Amendment of the Codex General Principles for the Addition of Essential Nutrients to Foods (CAC/GL 9-1987)	ALINORM 10/33/26 Appendix V	N02-2010
CCNFSDU	Revision of the Codex Guidelines on Formulated Supplementary Foods for Older Infants and Young Children (CAC/GL 8-1991)	ALINORM 10/33/26 Appendix VI	N03-2010
CCNFSDU	Establishment of Nutrient Reference Values for Nutrients Associated with Risk of Diet-Related Non-communicable Diseases for the General Population (Amendment of the <i>Codex Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling</i> (CAC/GL 2-1985))	ALINORM 10/33/26 Appendix VII	N04-2010
CCFH	Revision of the Recommended International Code of Hygienic Practice for Collecting, Processing and Marketing of Natural Mineral Waters (CAC/RCP 33-1985)	ALINORM 10/33/13 Appendix V	N05-2010
CCFH	Revision of the Principles for Establishment and Application of Microbiological Criteria for Foods (CAC/GL 21-1997)	ALINORM 10/33/13 Appendix VI	N06-2010
CCFA	Revision of the Food Category System of the <i>General Standard for Food Additives</i>	ALINORM 10/33/12 Appendix VII	N07-2010
CCFA	Revision of the <i>Standard for Food Grade Salt</i> (CODEX STAN 150-1985)	ALINORM 10/33/12 Appendix XII	N08-2010
CCPR	Priority List of Chemicals Scheduled for Evaluation and Re-evaluation by JMPR	ALINORM 10/33/24 Appendix XII	ongoing
CCPR	The Pilot Project in which JMPR would conduct an Independent, Parallel Review along with a Global Joint Review Team and recommend MRLs before National Governments establish MRLs in 2011	ALINORM 10/33/24 para. 202	N09-2010
CCCF	Maximum Levels for Deoxynivalenol (DON) and its Acetylated Derivatives in Cereals and Cereal-based Products	ALINORM 10/33/41 para. 110	N10-2010
CCCF	Maximum Levels for Total Aflatoxins in Dried Figs	ALINORM 10/33/41 Appendix IX	N11-2010
CCFL	Establishment of Claims for Sugars, Salt/Sodium and Trans-fatty Acids	ALINORM 10/33/22 Appendix V	N12-2010
CCFL	Organic Aquaculture	ALINORM 10/33/22 Appendix XIII	N13-2010
CCFL	Definition for Nutrient Reference Values	ALINORM 10/33/22 Appendix XII	N14-2010

Responsible Body	Standard and Related Texts	Reference	Job Code
TFAF	Guidelines and prioritised list of hazards mentioned in a) and b) of the Terms of Reference of the Task Force on Animal Feeding	ALINORM 10/33/REP, Appendix VIII	
