

**INFORMATION ON ACTIVITIES**

Communication from the Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex)

The following communication, received on 9 July 2012, is being circulated at the request of the Codex secretariat.

**I. CODEX SESSIONS SINCE THE LAST MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE (MARCH 2012)**

- Codex Committee on Contaminants in Food (Maastricht, Netherlands, 26-30 March 2012)
- Codex Committee on General Principles (Paris, France, 2-6 April 2012)
- Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (Shanghai, China, 23-28 April 2012)
- Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods (San Juan, Puerto Rico, 7-11 May 2012)
- Codex Committee on Food Labelling (Ottawa, Canada, 15-18 May 2012)
- Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (Rome, Italy, 26-29 June 2012)
- Codex Alimentarius Commission (Rome, Italy, 2-7 July 2012)

**A. COMMITTEE ON CONTAMINANTS IN FOODS**

1. The Committee finalized the following: Risk Analysis Principles Applied by the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods and the Code of Practice for Source Directed Measures to Reduce Contamination of Food with Chemicals as to their applicability to feed; Maximum Levels for Melamine in Food (*liquid infant formula*); and Maximum Levels for Total Aflatoxins in Dried Figs including Sampling Plans. It proceeded with its work on Maximum Levels for Arsenic in Rice; Maximum Levels for Deoxynivalenol (DON) in Cereals and Cereal-based Products and Associated Sampling Plans. The Committee agreed on several items of new work which were subsequently approved by the Commission (see Appendix II).

**B. COMMITTEE ON GENERAL PRINCIPLES**

2. The Committee endorsed several amendments to the Procedural Manual originating from Codex Committees, in particular texts related to risk analysis: revised *Risk Analysis Principles and Procedures Applied by the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene*; Risk analysis principles applied by the Committee on Food Additives and Committee on Contaminants in Foods; and revised Definition of contaminants. It agreed to proceed with its work on issues related to Standards held at Step 8; a

mechanism for examining economic impact statements; proposed amendment to its terms of reference; Codex/OIE cooperation; and agreed on additional items of work related to procedures.

C. COMMITTEE ON PESTICIDE RESIDUES

3. The Committee forwarded to the Commission for adoption many new and revised MRLs for pesticides; completed the Revision to the Codex Classification of Food and Animal Feed (fruit commodity groups) and Principles and Guidance for the Selection of Representative Commodities for the Extrapolation of Maximum Residue Limits for Pesticides to Commodity Groups. The Committee will continue work in particular on MRLS, on the revision of the Codex Classification of Foods and Animal Feeds and on the *Risk Analysis Principles applied by the CCPR*; and on a Pilot Project for JMPR Recommendation of MRLs before National Governments or Other Regional Registration Authorities.

D. COMMITTEE ON RESIDUES OF VETERINARY DRUGS IN FOODS

4. The Committee forwarded for adoption to the Commission several Maximum Residues Limits (MRLs) for Veterinary Drugs: narasin (in cattle tissues) amoxicillin in several tissues; monensin (in cattle's liver); and the Proposed draft Sampling Plans for Residue Control for Aquatic Animal Products and Derived Edible Products of Aquatic Origin (Table C, Annex B of CAC/GL 71-2009). It finalized the revision of the *Risk Analysis Principles applied by the CCRVDF* and the *Risk Assessment Policy for Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods*. It proceeded with work on Proposed draft Guidelines on Performance Characteristics for Multi-residues Methods (Appendix to CAC/GL 71-2009), established a Priority List of Veterinary Drugs Requiring Evaluation or Re-evaluation by JECFA and proposed new work on *Risk Management Recommendations for Residues of Veterinary Drugs for which no ADI and/or MRLs has been recommended by JECFA due to Specific Human Health Concerns*.

5. The 35<sup>th</sup> Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, among others:

- adopted 18 new or revised Codex standards or related texts and many new or revised provisions for additives and MRLs for pesticides and veterinary drugs (see Appendix I), and approved a number of new work proposals (see Appendix II);
- considered the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2008-2013 of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the draft Strategic Plan 2014-2018, and agreed on the process to be followed for its completion for adoption;
- considered budgetary issues and in particular the difficulties related to funding for FAO/WHO scientific advice;
- considered the implementation of the Codex Trust Fund Mid-term Review and the new Monitoring and Evaluation Framework of the Trust Fund.

6. The draft report in all languages is available at: <ftp://ftp.fao.org/codex/meetings/CAC/CAC35/draftreport>. The final report will be available by the end of July on the Codex website <http://www.codexalimentarius.org>.

**II. FORTHCOMING CODEX MEETINGS**

- Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (Mexico City, Mexico, 3-7 September 2012)
- FAO/WO Coordinating Committee for North America and the South West Pacific (Madang, Papua New Guinea, 19-22 September 2012)

- FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Europe (Batumi, Georgia, 25-28 September 2012)
- Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products (Bali, Indonesia, 1-5 October 2012)
- Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables (Montego Bay, Jamaica, 15-19 October 2012)

7. 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 new Strategic Plan.

8. FAO and WHO generally convene regional workshops on issues of interest to the region in conjunction with the Coordinating Committees, and with funding from the Codex Trust Fund.

A. SCIENTIFIC ADVICE

9. The document on the status of requests for scientific advice provided by FAO and WHO is available at the following address: [ftp://ftp.fao.org/codex/meetings/CAC/CAC35/cac35\\_14e.pdf](ftp://ftp.fao.org/codex/meetings/CAC/CAC35/cac35_14e.pdf)

B. TECHNICAL COOPERATION

10. The document on relevant activities of FAO and WHO, including specific projects at the regional and national level, is available at the following address:

[ftp://ftp.fao.org/codex/meetings/CAC/CAC35/cac35\\_14\\_add1e.pdf](ftp://ftp.fao.org/codex/meetings/CAC/CAC35/cac35_14_add1e.pdf)

11. The documents on the Codex Trust Fund are available at the following addresses:

[ftp://ftp.fao.org/codex/meetings/CAC/CAC35/cac35\\_13e.pdf](ftp://ftp.fao.org/codex/meetings/CAC/CAC35/cac35_13e.pdf)

[ftp://ftp.fao.org/codex/meetings/CAC/CAC35/cac35\\_13\\_add1e.pdf](ftp://ftp.fao.org/codex/meetings/CAC/CAC35/cac35_13_add1e.pdf)

**LISTS OF STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS ADOPTED BY THE 34TH SESSION OF  
THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION**

**Part 1 – Standards and Related Texts Adopted at Step 8**

| <b>Standards and Related Texts</b>   | <b>Reference</b>                | <b>Status</b>                                  |
|--|---------------------------------|--|
| Food additive provisions of the <i>General Standard for Food Additives</i> (GSFA),   | REP12/FA Appendix VI            | adopted with amendments<br>(See Agenda Item 4) |
| Revision of the <i>Standard for Food Grade Salt</i> (CODEX STAN 150-1985)  | REP12/FA Appendix XI            | adopted  |
| Maximum Level for Melamine in Liquid Infant Formula (ready to consume)   | REP12/CF Appendix V             | adopted  |
| Maximum Residue Limits for Pesticides  | REP12/PR Appendix II            | adopted  |
| Revision to the Codex Classification of Food and Animal Feed (fruit commodity groups)  | REP12/PR Appendix VIII          | adopted  |
| Principles and Guidance for the Selection of Representative Commodities for the Extrapolation of Maximum Residue Limits for Pesticides to Commodity Groups (including Table 1: Examples of the selection of representative commodities - fruit commodity groups) | REP12/PR Appendix XI            | adopted  |
| MRLs for narasin (cattle tissues)  | REP12/RVDF<br>Appendix III      | adopted  |
| MRLs for Ractopamine   | ALINORM 08/31/31<br>Appendix II | adopted  |
| Revision of the <i>Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling</i> (CAC/GL 2-1985) concerning a new definition of “nutrient reference values”  | REP12/FL Appendix IV            | adopted  |
| Amendment to the <i>Guidelines for the Production, Processing, Labelling and Marketing of Organically Produced Foods</i> (CAC/GL 32-1999): use of ethylene for ripening of fruit   | REP12/FL Appendix VI            | adopted  |

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

| <b>Standards and Related Texts</b>   | <b>Reference</b>                | <b>Status</b>                                  |
|--|---------------------------------|--|
| Guidelines on the Application of General Principles of Food Hygiene to the Control of Viruses in Food  | REP12/FH Appendix III           | adopted with amendments<br>(See Agenda Item 4) |
| Annex on Melons to the <i>Code of Hygienic Practice for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables</i> (CAC/RCP 53-2003)  | REP12/FH Appendix IV            | adopted  |
| Food additive provisions of the <i>General Standard for Food Additives</i> (GSFA)  | REP12/FA Appendix VI            | adopted with amendments<br>(See Agenda Item 4) |
| Amendments to the <i>International numbering system</i> (INS) for food additives   | REP12/FA Appendix XII           | adopted with amendments<br>(See Agenda Item 4) |
| <i>Specifications for the identity and purity of food additives</i> arising from the 74th JECFA meeting  | REP12/FA Appendix XIII (Part 1) | adopted  |
| Maximum Level for Total Aflatoxins in Dried Figs, including Sampling Plan  | REP12/CF Appendix VI            | adopted  |
| Maximum Residue Limits for Pesticides  | REP12/PR Appendix III           | adopted  |
| MRLs for amoxicillin (cattle, sheep and pig tissues and cattle and sheep milk) and monensin (cattle liver)   | REP12/RVDF Appendix IV          | adopted  |
| Sampling Plans for Residue Control for Aquatic Animal Products and Derived Edible Products of Aquatic Origin (C, Annex B of CAC/GL 71-2009)  | REP12/RVDF Appendix VIII        | adopted  |
| Revision of the <i>Guidelines for Use of Nutrition and Health Claims</i> (CAC/GL 23-1997) concerning a new definition for “non-addition claim”, conditions for free of salt claims, amendments to the section on comparative claims and conditions for non-addition of sugars claims | REP12/FL Appendix II            | adopted  |
| Revision of the <i>Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling</i> (CAC/GL 2-1985) concerning provisions for mandatory nutrition labelling   | REP12/FL Appendix V             | adopted  |

**Part 3 – Standards and Related Texts Adopted at Step 5 of the Accelerated Procedure**

| <b>Standards and Related Texts</b>   | <b>Reference</b>      | <b>Status</b> |
|--|-----------------------|---------------|
| Amendment to the <i>Guidelines for the Production, Processing, Labelling and Marketing of Organically Produced Foods</i> (CAC/GL 32-1999) concerning inclusion of new substances | REP12/FL Appendix VII | adopted       |

**Part 4 – Other Standards and Related Texts Submitted for Adoption**

| <b>Standards and Related Texts</b>   | <b>Reference</b>      | <b>Status</b>                                  |
|--|-----------------------|--|
| Amendment to the <i>Principles and Guidelines for the Conduct of Microbiological Risk Assessment</i>                     | REP12/FH Appendix II  | adopted with amendments<br>(See Agenda Item 4) |
| Methods of Analysis in Codex Standards at different steps, including methods of analysis for food grade salt             | REP12/MAS Appendix II | adopted with amendments<br>(See Agenda Item 4) |
| Revision of the names and descriptors of food categories 16.0 and 12.6.1 of the GSFA                                     | REP12/FA Appendix X   | adopted  |
| Revision of the Code of Practice for Source Directed Measures to Reduce Contamination of Food with Chemicals             | REP12/CF Appendix III | adopted with amendments<br>(See Agenda Item 4) |
| Regional standard for Fermented Soybean Paste (CODEX STAN 298R-2009) - provision for monopotassium tartrate (INS 336(i)) | REP11/ASIA para. 10   | adopted  |

## APPENDIX II

**LIST OF DRAFT STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS APPROVED AS NEW WORK  
BY THE THIRTY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION**

| <b>Responsible Body</b> | <b>Standard and Related Texts</b>   | <b>Reference</b>          | <b>Job Code</b> |
|-------------------------|---|---------------------------|-----------------|
| CCFH                    | Revision of the <i>Code of Hygienic Practice for Spices and Dried Aromatic Plants</i>   | REP12/FH<br>Appendix VII  | N01-2012        |
| CCFH                    | Annex on berries to the <i>Code of Hygienic Practice for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (CAC/RCP 53-2003)</i>  | REP12/FH<br>Appendix VIII | N02-2012        |
| CCCF                    | Code of Practice for Weed Control to Prevent and Reduce Pyrrolizidine Alkaloid Contamination in Food and Feed   | REP12/CF<br>Appendix VII  | N03-2012        |
| CCCF                    | Revision of the Maximum Levels for Lead in Fruit Juices, Milks and Secondary Milk Products, Infant Formula, Canned Fruits and Vegetables, Fruits and Cereal Grains (except buckwheat, cañihua and quinoa) in the <i>General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed</i> | REP12/CF<br>Appendix VIII | N04-2012        |
| CCCF                    | Annex for Prevention and Reduction of Aflatoxins and Ochratoxin A in Sorghum to the <i>Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Mycotoxin Contamination in Cereals (CAC/RCP 51-2003)</i>  | REP12/CF<br>Appendix IX   | N05-2012        |
| CCCF                    | Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Ochratoxin A contamination in Cocoa  | REP12/CF<br>Appendix X    | N06-2012        |
| CCCF                    | Code of Practice to Reduce the Presence of Hydrocyanic Acid in Cassava and Cassava Products   | REP12/CF<br>para. 165     | N07-2012        |
| CCCF                    | Maximum Levels for hydrocyanic acid in cassava and cassava products   | REP12/CF<br>para. 165     | N08-2012        |
| CCCF                    | Levels for Radionuclides in Food  | REP12/CF<br>para. 169     | N09-2012        |

| <b>Responsible Body</b> | <b>Standard and Related Texts</b>   | <b>Reference</b>                                     | <b>Job Code</b> |
|-------------------------|---|--|-----------------|
| CCPR                    | Priority List for the Establishment of MRLs for Pesticides  | REP12/PR Appendix XIII                               | ongoing         |
| CCRVDF                  | Priority List of Veterinary Drugs Requiring Evaluation or Re-evaluation by JECFA  | REP12/RDVF Appendix IX Part A and B                  | ongoing         |
| CCRVDF                  | Risk Management Recommendations for Residues of Veterinary Drugs for which no ADI and/or MRLs has been recommended by JECFA due to Specific Human Health Concerns | REP12/RDVF Appendix X                                | N10-2012        |
| CCNEA                   | Regional Standard for Date Paste  | REP11/NEA para. 92<br>CX/CAC 12/35/9-Add.1<br>Rev. 1 | N11-2012        |