



21 June 2021

(21-5058)

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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: English

## INFORMATION ON ACTIVITIES

### COMMUNICATION FROM THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION (CODEX)

The following communication, received on 18 June 2021, is being circulated at the request of the Codex secretariat.

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NOTE: All Codex meetings in 2021 are being held virtually.

#### 1 CODEX MEETINGS HELD SINCE THE LAST SESSION OF THE SPS COMMITTEE (25-26 MARCH 2021)

##### 1.1 14<sup>th</sup> Session of the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF14, 3-13 May 2021)

###### 1.1.1 Industrial, environmental and other naturally occurring toxicants

1.1. CCCF14 agreed to advance:

- the draft Maximum Levels (MLs) for cadmium in chocolates containing or declaring <30% total cocoa solids on a dry matter basis for final adoption, and the proposed draft MLs for cadmium in chocolates containing or declaring ≥30% to <50% total cocoa solids on a dry matter basis for preliminary adoption by CAC44;
- the proposed draft code of practice for the prevention and reduction of cadmium contamination in cocoa beans for preliminary adoption by CAC44; and
- The revision of the *Code of practice for the prevention and reduction of lead contamination in foods* (CXC 56-2004) for final adoption by CAC44.

1.2. The proposed draft MLs for cadmium in cocoa powder containing or declaring 100% total cocoa solids ready for consumption and the proposed draft MLs for lead in certain food categories were agreed to be retained in the step procedure for further consideration.

###### 1.1.2 Toxins

1.3. CCCF14 agreed to retain in the step procedure for further consideration: The proposed draft MLs for total aflatoxins in cereals and cereal-based products including foods for infants and young children; sampling plans and performance criteria for total aflatoxins in certain cereals and cereal-based products including foods for infants and young children; the proposed draft MLs for total aflatoxins in ready-to-eat peanuts and associated sampling plan; and the proposed draft MLs for total aflatoxins and ochratoxin a in nutmeg, dried chili and paprika, ginger, pepper and turmeric and associated sampling plans.

###### 1.1.3 Other issues

1.4. CCCF14 agreed to submit the project document for new work on MLs for methylmercury in orange roughy and pink cusk eel to CAC44 for approval and request the JECFA Secretariat to issue a call for data specific for orange roughy, pink cusk eel and all toothfish. CCCF14 also agreed to

submit the project document for new work on development of a Code of practice for the prevention and reduction of mycotoxins contamination in cassava and cassava-based products to CAC44 for approval.

1.5. The report of CCCF14 will be available on the Codex [webpage](#) (at the time of submission of this document only the draft report was available on the CCCF14 page).

## **1.2 41<sup>st</sup> Session of the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS41, 17-25 May 2021)**

### **1.2.1 Review of Methods of Analysis in IN CXS 234**

1.6. CCMAS41 is continuing its review of all methods of analysis in the *Standard for methods of analysis and sampling* (CXS 234-1999), the single reference for methods of analysis and sampling in Codex. CCMAS41 completed work on methods of analysis for provisions in standards for milk and milk products; made progress on methods of analysis for provisions in standards for fats and oils, and will continue working on cereal, pulses and legumes and a new package of methods of analysis for provisions in standards for processed fruits and vegetables.

### **1.2.2 Revision of the Guidelines on Measurement Uncertainty (CXG54–2004)**

1.7. CCMAS41 advanced the revised Guidelines for final adoption by CAC44. An information document to support the implementation of the Guidelines will be finalised at its next session.

### **1.2.3 Revision of the Guidelines on Sampling (CXG 50-2004)**

1.8. CCMAS41 agreed to advance the revised Guidelines for preliminary adoption by CAC44 and agreed to continue to review the document and to develop the supporting documents (e-book and the guide to the selection and design of sampling plans) for the consideration at the session.

1.9. The report of CCMAS41 is available on the Codex [webpage](#).

## **1.3 25<sup>th</sup> Session of the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS25, 31 May to 8 June 2021)**

### **1.3.1 Principles and guidelines for the assessment and use of voluntary Third-Party Assurance (vTPA) programmes**

1.10. CCFICS25 agreed to forward the draft Principles and guidelines for the assessment and use of voluntary Third-Party Assurance (vTPA) programmes to CAC44 for final adoption.

### **1.3.2 Guidance on paperless use of electronic certificates**

1.11. CCFICS25 agreed to forward the proposed draft guidance on paperless use of electronic certificates (revised *Guidelines for Design, Production, Issuance and Use of Generic Official Certificates* (CXG 38-2001)) to CAC44 for final adoption.

### **1.3.3 Guidance on the prevention and control of food fraud**

1.12. CCFICS25 agreed to forward the project document for new work on the development of guidance on the prevention and control of food fraud to CAC44 for approval.

1.13. The report of CCFICS25 will be available on the Codex [webpage](#) (at the time of submission of this document only the draft report was available on the CCFICS25 page).

## **2 OTHER CODEX EVENTS**

2.1. Several virtual working group meetings and webinars in support of upcoming sessions of Codex subsidiary bodies were held to support delegations' preparations and facilitate discussions and consensus-building:

- Webinar on the draft revision of the Code of Practice to Minimize and Contain Foodborne Antimicrobial Resistance, 8 April 2021;
- Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods (CCRVDF) Webinar, 23 April 2021;
- Pre-CCFICS25 webinar, 26 May 2021;
- Codex Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL) Webinar: Preparation for CCFL46, 9 June 2021;
- Ad hoc Intergovernmental Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance (TFAMR) virtual meetings of the working groups on the Code of Practice to Minimize and Contain Foodborne Antimicrobial Resistance and the Guidelines on Integrated Monitoring and Surveillance of Foodborne AMR , 10-18 June 2021;
- Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA) working groups on the General Standard for Food Additives (GSFA)/Alignment/Endorsement/Note 161, 21-25 June 2021.

### **3 FORTHCOMING CODEX MEETINGS**

- [25<sup>th</sup> Session of the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods](#) (12-19 July 2021);
- [52<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues](#) (26-31 July 2021);
- [52<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives](#) (1-10 September 2021);
- [46<sup>th</sup> Session of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling](#) (27 September – 7 October 2021).

3.1. Regular updates on the status of work of these Committees are published on their dedicated webpages on the [Codex website](#). For specific questions on the status of work in Codex committees of interest to SPS delegates please check the dedicated webpages or send an email to [codex@fao.org](mailto:codex@fao.org).

3.2. The Codex secretariat in collaboration with host secretariats and working group leads will be continuing to convene working group meetings and webinars in advance of Codex subsidiary sessions to support delegations' preparations and facilitate discussions and consensus-building. Further information is available on the Committee webpages and the Codex [calendar](#).

### **4 WORLD FOOD SAFETY DAY**

4.1. The third World Food Safety Day (WFSD) was celebrated on 7 June 2021. It provided an important opportunity to make people aware of food safety issues; to demonstrate how to prevent illness through food safety; to discuss collaborative approaches to improving food safety across sectors; and to promote solutions and ways of being more food safe.

4.2. This year under the theme "Safe Food Now for a Healthy Tomorrow", the Directors General of FAO and WHO urged global action to ensure that everyone has access to safe food, essential to achieve more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agri-food systems and to reduce hunger, malnutrition and infant mortality. The action-oriented campaign called upon countries and decision makers, the private sector, civil society, UN organizations and everyone involved at the various stages of the food chain to take action to keep food safe. A report on World Food Safety Day 2021 is under preparation.

4.3. See the [World Food Safety Day website in Codex](#).

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