

**SUBMISSION TO THE 42ND MEETING OF THE SPS COMMITTEE
(GENEVA, 24-25 JUNE 2008)**

**INFORMATION ON ACTIVITIES OF THE
CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION**

Submission by the Codex Alimentarius Commission

The following communication, dated 12 June 2008, is being circulated at the request of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

**CODEX SESSIONS SINCE THE LAST MEETING OF THE SPS COMMITTEE
(2-3 APRIL 2008)**

- The 2nd Session of the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (The Hague, The Netherlands, 31 March-4 April 2008)
- The 40th Session of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (Hangzhou, China, 14-19 April 2008)
- The 40th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives (Beijing, China, 21-25 April 2008)
- The 36th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling (Ottawa, Canada, 28 April-2 May 2008)
- The 14th Session of the Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (Mexico City, Mexico, 12-17 May 2008)

In particular, the SPS Committee may wish to draw its attention to the following:

1. The Second Session of the **Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods** agreed to send to the 31st Session of the Commission for final adoption three draft maximum levels for (i) 3-MCPD in Liquid Condiments Containing Acid –Hydrolyzed Vegetable Proteins (Excluding Naturally Fermented Soy Sauce); (ii) Ochratoxin A in Raw Wheat, Barley and Rye; and (iii) Total Aflatoxins in Almonds, Hazelnuts and Pistachios "For further processing" and "Ready-to-eat". The Committee also agreed to forward to the Commission for final adoption the proposed drafts on: (i) Provisions Applied to Contaminants in the "Relations between Commodity committees and General Committees" in the Procedural Manual; (ii) Aflatoxin Sampling Plans for Aflatoxin Contamination in Ready-to-eat Treenuts and Treenuts Destined for Further Processing: Almonds, Hazelnuts and Pistachios; and (iii) Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Aflatoxin Contamination in Dried Figs.

2. The Fortieth Session of the **Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues** elaborated and advanced to the Commission for final adoption 299 Proposed, Draft and Revised Maximum Residue Limits for 22 Pesticides. The Committee decided to request the Commission to approve new work on: (i) the Priority List of Pesticides (New Pesticides and Pesticides under Periodic Review); (ii) the Estimation of Measurement Uncertainty in Pesticide Residue Analysis; and (iii) the Revision of the CCRP Risk Analysis Principles. The Committee also agreed to revoke a number of obsolete Maximum Residue Limits for 13 pesticides.

3. The Fortieth Session of the **Codex Committee on Food Additives** finalized and forwarded to the 31st Commission for final adoption: (i) Draft and proposed draft food additive provisions of the General Standard for Food Additives (GSFA); (ii) Proposed Draft Revision of the Food Category System of the GSFA; (iii) Draft and Proposed Draft Guidelines for the Use of Flavourings; (iv) Draft Revision of the Codex Class Names and International Numbering System (CAC/GL 36-1989); (v) Proposed Draft Amendments to the International Numbering System for Food Additives; and (vi) Proposed Draft Specifications for the Identity and Purity of Food Additives. The Committee agreed to request the Commission to revoke: (i) Food Additive Provisions of the GSFA (21 food additives/commodity combinations); (ii) Codex General Requirements for Natural Flavourings (CAC/GL 29-1985); and (iii) Codex Specifications for Identity and Purity of Food Additives (for revocation of Furfural). The Committee also decided to submit to the Commission for approval: Proposal for new work on the Elaboration of Guidelines and Principles for Substances used as Processing Aids and Priority List of Food Additives, proposed for Evaluation by JECFA.

FORTHCOMING CODEX MEETINGS

- The 61st Session Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (Geneva, Switzerland, 25-28 June 2008)
- The 31st Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (Geneva, Switzerland, 30 June – 4 July 2008)
- The 24th Session of the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables (Washington D.C, United States of America, 15-19 September 2008)
- The 26th Session of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Europe (Warsaw, Poland, 7-10 October 2008)

4. The Codex Alimentarius Commission will hold its Thirty-first Session at the **International Conference Centre**, Geneva, Switzerland, **30 June – 4 July 2008**, preceded by the Sixty-first Session of the Executive Committee. The Commission will consider, among others, a number of draft Codex standards and related texts for final adoption at Step 8 or at Step 5/8 as well as proposals to amend certain texts in the Procedural Manual. The Commission will also consider the implementation of the Joint FAO/WHO Evaluation of the Codex Alimentarius and other FAO and WHO Work on Food Standards, the implementation of the Codex Strategic Plan 2008-2013 and the relations between the Codex Alimentarius Commission and other International Organizations.

5. Between October 2008 and March 2009, the **FAO/WHO (Codex) Coordinating Committees** will hold sessions in six regions (Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, North America and South West Pacific, and Near East). These meetings will discuss needs and problems of the regions concerning food standards and food control, consumer participation in food standards setting, as well as the use of Codex standards at the national and regional levels, among others.
