

INFORMATION ON ACTIVITIES

Submission by the Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex)
Meeting of 17-18 March 2010

The following communication, received on 16 March 2010, is being circulated at the request of the Codex secretariat.

I. CODEX SESSIONS SINCE THE LAST MEETING OF THE SPS COMMITTEE (OCTOBER 2009)

- The 31st Session of the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (Düsseldorf, Germany, 2-6 November 2009)
- The 41st Session of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (San Diego, United States of America, 16-20 November 2009)
- The 63rd Session of the Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (Geneva, Switzerland, 8-11 December 2009)
- The Ninth Session of the Codex Committee on Milk and Milk Products (Auckland, New Zealand, 1-5 February 2010)
- The 18th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (Surfers' Paradise, Australia, 1-5 March 2010)
- The 31st Session of the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (Budapest, Hungary, 8-12 March 2010)

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

1. The Third Session of the *Ad hoc* Intergovernmental Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance forwarded the Proposed Draft Guidelines for Risk Analysis of Foodborne Antimicrobial Resistance to the Commission for adoption as Draft Guidelines and finalisation at its next session in 2010, as the Task Force should hold its final meeting and complete its work in 2010.

2. The 41st Session of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene finalised the following proposed drafts: Annex on Leafy Green Vegetables including Leafy Herbs for inclusion in the Code of Hygienic Practice for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables; Code of Hygienic Practice for Pathogenic *Vibrio* spp. in Seafood and an Annex on Control Measures for *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* and *Vibrio vulnificus* in Molluscan Shellfish; and Risk Analysis Principles and Procedures Applied by the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene.

3. The 18th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems finalized the Principles and Guidelines for the conduct of assessment of foreign official inspection and certification systems (Annex to the *Guidelines for the design, operation, assessment and accreditation of food import and export inspection and certification systems*).

II. FORTHCOMING CODEX MEETINGS

- Codex Committee on Food Additives (42nd Session, Beijing, China, 15-19 March 2010)
- Codex Committee on General Principles (26th Session, Paris, France, 12-16 April 2010)
- Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (4th Session, Izmir, Turkey, 26-30 April 2010)
- Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (42nd Session, Xian, China, 19-24 April 2010)
- Codex Committee on Food Labelling (38th Session, Québec City, Canada, 3-5 May 2010)

4. The Codex Committee on Food Additives will proceed with the continued elaboration of the General Standard for Food Additives (GSFA), which encompasses a comprehensive listing of all provisions for food additives used in all foods, and will examine other issues related to the General Standard, including the Food Category System of the GSFA; the endorsement of food additive provisions arising from other Codex Committees; and specifications for the identity and purity of food additives arising from the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives with a view to their adoption as Codex specifications. The Committee will consider other issues related to food additives, such as the development of guidelines for the use of processing aids. It will also consider amendments and/or addition to the priority list of food additives proposed for evaluation by JECFA and the Standard for Food Grade Salt.

5. The Codex Committee on General Principles will consider the Proposed Draft Revised Code of Ethics for International Trade in Foods, and review the Risk Analysis Policies of Codex Committees, as well as several general and procedural questions.

6. The Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods will consider development of the following codes and maximum levels: Code of Practice for the Reduction of Ethyl Carbamate in Stone Fruit Distillates, Maximum Levels for Melamine in Food and Feed, Maximum Levels for Total Aflatoxins in Brazil Nuts, Revision of the *Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Aflatoxin in Tree Nuts* (additional measures for Brazil nuts), and Maximum Levels for Fumonisin in Maize and Maize-Products and Associated Sampling Plans.

7. The Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR) will consider the Draft and Proposed Draft Maximum Residue Limits for Pesticides in Foods and Feeds, including revocation of existing MRLs and combined lists of MRLs for certain sets of related pesticides. The Committee will continue its work on the revision of the Codex Classification of Foods and Animal Feeds. The Committee will consider the revision of the Risk Analysis Principles applied by the CCPR and the revision of the *Guidelines on the Estimation of Uncertainty of Results for the Determination of Pesticide Residues* among other issues related to the establishment of pesticide MRLs.
