

**SUBMISSION TO THE 37TH MEETING OF THE SPS COMMITTEE
(GENEVA, 11-13 OCTOBER 2006)**

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

Submission by the Codex Alimentarius Commission

The following communication, dated 5 October 2006, is being circulated at the request of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

I. CODEX SESSIONS SINCE THE THIRTY-SIXTH MEETING OF THE SPS COMMITTEE (JUNE 2006)

- The 58th Session of the Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (Geneva, Switzerland, 28 June-1 July 2006)
- The 29th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (Geneva, Switzerland, 3-7 July 2006)
- The 28th Session of the Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products (Beijing, China, 18–22 September 2006)
- The 13th Session of the Codex Committee on Fresh Fruit and Vegetables (Mexico City, Mexico, 25–29 September 2006)

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

1. The 29th Session of the **Codex Alimentarius Commission**, among others:
 - Adopted amendments to the Rules of Procedure and other amendments to the Procedural Manual, including the splitting of the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants into the Committee on Food Additives and the Committee on Contaminants in Foods;
 - Adopted 26 new or revised Codex standards or related texts (**see Appendix I**);
 - Approved a number of new work proposals and proposals for discontinuation of work (**see Appendix II**);
 - Noted with satisfaction the progress made in implementing the proposals based on the recommendations from the Codex Evaluation (2002); and agreed to continue consideration of the proposals made by the secretariat on the review of Codex committee structure and mandates of Codex committees and task forces;

- Agreed to establish Codex Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Task Forces on Antimicrobial Resistance and on the Handling and Processing of Quick Frozen Foods, while deferring to its 31st Session the decision on whether to start new work on animal feeding;
- Noted with satisfaction the collaboration and cooperation between Codex and other international organisations, namely the OIE and the IPPC;
- Expressed its appreciation to FAO and WHO and to the countries having made donations to the FAO/WHO Trust Fund for Enhanced Participation in Codex; and
- Expressed its appreciation to FAO and WHO for their ongoing activities in support of Codex, namely provision of scientific advice and capacity building in food safety and quality.

The full report of the meeting is available at: <http://www.codexalimentarius.net>
or at: ftp://ftp.fao.org/codex/Alinorm06/al29_41e.pdf

2. The 28th Session of the **Committee on Fish and Fishery Products** finalised for adoption by the Codex Alimentarius Commission the sections of the Code of Practice for Fish and Fishery Products on Salted Fish and on Quick Frozen Coated Products. Substantial progress was achieved on the sections on Lobsters and Crabs and on Live and Raw Bivalve Molluscs in the Code, and on the Proposed Draft Standard for Live and Raw Molluscs, which was especially important in view of the food safety issues associated with bivalve molluscs. The scientific advice provided by the Joint FAO/WHO/IOC *ad hoc* Expert Consultation on Biotoxins in Bivalve Molluscs was especially relevant to facilitate consensus on the issues related to biotoxins in the standard and code. The Committee also continued its work on the standards for sturgeon caviar and for smoked fish, and on the remaining sections of the Code of Practice. The Committee agreed to develop new standards for fish sauce and for abalone.

II. FORTHCOMING CODEX MEETINGS

- The 9th Session of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for North America and South West Pacific (Apia, Samoa, 10-13 October 2006)
- The 23rd Session of the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables (Arlington, United States of America, 16-21 October 2006)
- The 28th Session of the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (Chiang Mai, Thailand, 30 October-3 November 2006)
- The 15th Session of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean (Mar del Plata, Argentina, 13-17 November 2006)
- The 15th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (Mar del Plata, Argentina, 6-10 November 2006)
- The 15th Session of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Asia (Seoul, Republic of Korea, 21-24 November 2006)
- The 6th Session of the Codex *Ad Hoc* Intergovernmental Task Force on Food Derived from Biotechnology (Chiba, Japan, 27 November–1 December 2006)
- The 38th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (Houston, United States of America, 4-9 December 2006)
- The 25th Session of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Europe (Vilnius, Lithuania, 15-18 January 2007)

- The 17th Session of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Africa (Morocco, 23-26 January 2007)
- The 20th Session of the Codex Committee on Fats and Oils (London, United Kingdom, 19-23 February 2006)
- The 4th Session of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Near East (Amman, Jordan, 26 February - 1 March 2007)
- The 28th Session of the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (Budapest, Hungary, 5-9 March 2007)

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

3. The 28th Session of the **Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses** will be primarily involved in the further elaboration and revision of standards and guidelines for Infant Formula and Formulas for Special Medical Purposes intended for Infants and the Use of Nutrition Claims: Draft Table of Conditions for Nutrient Contents. In addition, the standards for Gluten-Free Foods and Proposed Draft Revision of the Advisory List of Nutrient Compounds for Use in Foods for Special Dietary Uses Intended for the Use by Infants and Young Children will be discussed.

4. The 15th Session of the **Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems** will consider the renamed Proposed Draft Appendices to the Guidelines on the Judgement of Equivalence of Sanitary Measures Associated with Food Inspection and Certification and the renamed Proposed Draft Principles and Guidelines for Generic Official Certificate Formats and the Production and Issuance of Certificates.

5. The 6th Session of the **Codex Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Task Force on Food Derived from Biotechnology** will consider the Proposed Draft Guideline for the Conduct of Food Safety Assessment of Foods Derived from Recombinant-DNA Animals and a scoping document on food safety assessment of food derived from recombinant-DNA plants modified for nutritional or health benefit. The Task Force is also expected to discuss other matters such as food safety assessment of low level presence of recombinant-DNA plant material in food resulting from asynchronous authorizations.

6. The 38th Session of the **Codex Committee on Food Hygiene** intends to finalize the Draft Guidelines for the Control of *Listeria monocytogenes* in Ready-to-Eat Foods; the Draft Principles and Guidelines for the Conduct of Microbial Risk Management. The committee will discuss the Draft Revision of the Code of Hygienic Practice for Egg Products and the Proposed Draft Guidelines for the Validation of Food Hygiene Control Measures.

7. The 28th Session of the **Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling** will discuss the Proposed Draft Guidelines for Settling Disputes on Analysis (Test) Results and Draft Guidelines for Evaluating Acceptable Methods of Analysis. In addition, The Review of Analytical Terminology for Codex Use, the Conversion of Methods for Trace Elements into Criteria, the Criteria for Methods of Analysis for foods derived from Biotechnology, and the Methods of Analysis for Dioxins and PCBs will be considered.

III. MEMBERSHIP OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

8. Belarus joined Codex in September 2006. The membership of the Commission currently comprises 174 countries and the European Community.

APPENDIX I

LIST OF STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS ADOPTED BY THE TWENTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Part 1 – Standards and related texts adopted at Step 8 as Final Texts

Standard and Related Text	Reference
Standard for Instant Noodles (except Sections 4 and 9 – see Part 2 of this Appendix)	Annex to CL 2006/15-CPL
Revision of the Preamble of the Codex General Standard for Food Additives	ALINORM 06/29/12, Appendix V
Food additive provisions of the General Standard for Food Additives (GSFA)	ALINORM 06/29/12, Appendix VII & XI
Maximum Level for Lead in Fish	ALINORM 06/29/12, Appendix XXIV
Maximum Levels for Cadmium in marine bivalve molluscs (excluding oysters and scallops), in cephalopods (without viscera) and in polished rice	ALINORM 06/29/12, Appendix XXV
Amendment to Section 2 "Description" of the General Standard for Cheese	ALINORM 06/29/11, Appendix II
Standard for a Blend of Evaporated Skimmed Milk and Vegetable Fat	ALINORM 06/29/11, Appendix III
Standard for a Blend of Skimmed Milk and Vegetable Fat in Powdered Form	ALINORM 06/29/11, Appendix IV
Standard for a Blend of Sweetened Condensed Skimmed Milk and Vegetable Fat	ALINORM 06/29/11, Appendix V
Revision of the Standard for Whey Cheeses	ALINORM 06/29/11, Appendix VIII
Revision of the Standard for Processed Cereal-Based Foods for Infants and Young Children	ALINORM 06/29/26, Appendix II
Maximum Residue Limits for Pesticides, including Dried Chili Pepper	ALINORM 06/29/24, Appendix II
Guidelines on Estimation of Uncertainty of Results	ALINORM 06/29/24, Appendix IV
Maximum Residue Limits for Veterinary Drugs	ALINORM 06/29/31, Appendix II

Part 2 – Standards and related texts adopted at Step 5/8 (with omission of Steps 6 and 7)

Standard and Related Text	Reference
Standard for Instant Noodles (Sections 4 and 9 – see Part 1 of this Appendix)	Annex to CL 2006/15-CPL
Food additive provisions of the General Standard for Food Additives (GSFA)	ALINORM 06/29/12, Appendix VII & XI
Amendments to the International Numbering System for Food Additives	ALINORM 06/29/12, Appendix XVI

Standard and Related Text	Reference
Specifications for the Identity and Purity of Food Additives arising from the 65 th JECFA meeting	ALINORM 06/29/12, Appendix XVII
Appendix to the Codex Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Aflatoxins Contamination in Tree Nuts – Additional Measures for the Prevention and Reduction of Aflatoxins Contamination in Brazil nuts (N08-2005)	ALINORM 06/29/12, Appendix XX
Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Dioxin and Dioxin-like PCB Contamination in Food and Feeds	ALINORM 06/29/12, Appendix XXVI
Revision of the Guideline Levels for Radionuclides in Foods Contaminated Following a Nuclear or Radiological Emergency for Use in International Trade	ALINORM 06/29/12, Appendix XXXI
Principles and Guidelines for Imported Food Inspection Based on Risk	ALINORM 06/29/30, Appendix II
Principles for Traceability/Product Tracing as a Tool within a Food Inspection and Certification System	ALINORM 06/29/30, Appendix III
Standard for Dairy Fat Spreads	ALINORM 06/29/11, Appendix XXIII
Maximum Residue Limits for Pesticides	ALINORM 06/29/24, Appendix III

Part 3 – Standards and related texts adopted at Step 5 of the Accelerated Procedure

Standard and Related Text	Reference
Amendment to the Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling: Definition of Trans Fatty Acids	ALINORM 06/29/22, Appendix V

Part 4 – Other Standards and related texts submitted for adoption

Standard and Related Text	Reference
Labelling provisions related to processing aids for inclusion in the Codex General Standard for Fruit Juices and Nectars	ALINORM 06/29/22, paras 4-5
Methods of analysis and sampling for inclusion in Codex standards and/or in CODEX STAN 234-1999	ALINORM 06/29/23, Appendix II
Codex General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Foods, including Schedule I	ALINORM 06/29/12, Appendix XVIII
Amendment of the Annex to Table 3 of the GSFA	ALINORM 06/29/12, Appendix VIII
Revision of the Descriptor of Food Category 13.6 "Food supplements" of the GSFA	ALINORM 06/29/12, Appendix XXXIII
Amendment to the Standard for Whey Powders, inclusion of provision for benzoyl peroxide	ALINORM 06/29/11, para. 21

Standard and Related Text	Reference
Amendment to the Food Hygiene Section in certain Standards for Milk and Milk Products	ALINORM 06/29/9C, paras 16-17 and Annex I, CODEX STAN A-6 1978 (Codex General Standard for Cheese)
Amendment to the reference in the Guidelines for the Assessment of the Competence of Testing Laboratories involved in the Import and Export Control of Foods (CAC/GL 27-1991)	ALINORM 06/29/23, paras 98-102

APPENDIX II

LIST OF STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS APPROVED AS NEW WORK BY THE TWENTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Responsible Committee	Standard and Related Texts
TFFBT	Proposed Draft Guideline for the Conduct of Food Safety Assessment of Foods derived from Recombinant-DNA Animals
TFFBT	Proposed Draft Annex to the Codex Guideline for the Conduct of Food Safety Assessment of Foods Derived from Recombinant-DNA Plants (CAC/GL 45-2003) regarding food safety assessment of foods derived from recombinant-DNA plants modified for nutritional or health benefits
CCFA	Guidelines for the Use of Flavourings
CCCF	Revision of the Preamble of the Codex General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Foods
CCCF	Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Ochratoxin A Contamination in Wine
CCCF	Code of Practice for the Reduction of Acrylamide in Food
CCCF	Code of Practice for the Reduction of Contamination of Food with PAH from Smoking and Direct Drying Processes
CCMMP	Amendment to the List of Additives of the Code Standard for Creams and Prepared Creams
CCPR	Priority List of Pesticides (New Pesticides and Pesticides under Periodic Review)
CCPR	Extension of the Work on the Revision of the Codex Classification of Foods and Animal Feeds
CCRVDF	Priority List of Veterinary Drugs Requiring Evaluation of Re-evaluation
CCFL	Proposed Draft Amendment to the Guidelines for Organically Produced Foods (Ethylene)
CCFL	Definition of advertising as related to Health and Nutrition Claims
CCMAS	Revision of <i>Principles for the Establishment or Selection of Codex Sampling Procedures</i> in the Procedural Manual
CCMAS	Review of <i>Analytical Terminology for Codex Use</i> approved as new work by the 26 th Session of the Commission to be transferred from the Procedural Manual to a Proposed Draft Guideline on Analytical Terminology