

codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



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Agenda Item 2

CX/MH 05/11/2
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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX COMMITTEE ON MEAT HYGIENE

Eleventh Session

Christchurch, New Zealand, 14-18 February 2005

MATTERS REFERRED FROM THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND OTHER CODEX COMMITTEES

PART 1 27th SESSION OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION (Geneva, Switzerland, 28 June – 3 July 2004)¹

AMENDMENTS TO THE PROCEDURAL MANUAL²

1. As the quorum specified in Rule V.6 of the Rules of Procedure was not constituted, the Commission was unable to adopt the following proposed amendments and agreed that their consideration should be deferred to its next session.

- Proposed Amendments concerning the enlargement of the Executive Committee, the functions of the Executive Committee and matters related to budget and expenses
- Proposed Amendments to Rules VIII.5 - Observers

2. The Commission adopted the following proposals to amend other sections of the Procedural Manual.

- Amendments to the Procedures for the Elaboration of Codex Standards and Related Texts
- Criteria for the Appointment of Chairpersons
- Guidelines to Host Governments of Codex Committees and *ad hoc* Intergovernmental Task Forces
- Guidelines on the Conduct of Meetings of Codex Committees and *ad hoc* Intergovernmental Task Forces
- Guidelines to Chairpersons of Codex Committees and *ad hoc* Intergovernmental Task Forces
- Matters related to Methods of Analysis and Sampling
- General Criteria for the Selection of Single Laboratory Validated Methods of Analysis Principle
- Amendments to the Analytical terminology for Codex Use

¹ Full report of the 27th Session of the Commission is available from: <http://www.codexalimentarius.net>

² ALINORM 04/27/41, paras 9-20

- Definitions of Risk Analysis Terms related to Food Safety (see below), on an interim basis, for inclusion in the Procedural Manual with the understanding that the Committee on General Principles would reconsider these definitions if required in the light of the advice of the Committee on Pesticide Residues, the Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants, the Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods, **the Committee on Meat Hygiene**, and the Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems.

The Committee **is invited to consider the definitions of Risk Analysis Terms related to Food Safety and provide advice**, as required.

Food Safety Objective (FSO): *The maximum frequency and/or concentration of a hazard in a food at the time of consumption that provides or contributes to the appropriate level of protection (ALOP).*

Performance Objective (PO): *The maximum frequency and/or concentration of a hazard in a food at a specified step in the food chain before the time of consumption that provides or contributes to an FSO or ALOP, as applicable.*

Performance Criterion (PC): *The effect in frequency and/or concentration of a hazard in a food that must be achieved by the application of one or more control measures to provide or contribute to a PO or an FSO.*

- Definition of Traceability/Product Tracing. The Commission adopted the definition as proposed by the Committee on General Principles (see below) and requested the CCFICS to present a proposal for new work on principles for the application of traceability/product tracing as a matter of priority. The Delegations of Mexico, Argentina, Chile and India maintained the view that the application of the definition should be deferred until the principles under development had been finalized.

Traceability/Product tracing: *the ability to follow the movement of a food through specified stage(s) of production, processing and distribution.*

3. The adopted amendments will be included in the 14th Edition of the Procedural Manual.

STRATEGIC PLANNING OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION³

4. The Commission endorsed the decision of the 53rd Session of the Executive Committee to discontinue the elaboration of the Medium-Term Plan, with the understanding that its elements would be used as a basis for a list of programmes/activities to be incorporated into the new Strategic Plan 2008-2013. In the absence of a Medium-Term Plan, the Commission agreed that the Executive Committee would exercise its critical review functions, closely coordinate work between different Codex Committees and monitor the progress of standards development in accordance with the current Strategic Framework and the *Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities*.

5. The Commission agreed to initiate the preparation of a new Strategic Plan for the period 2008-2013, and recommended that:

- The Executive Committee, at its next session, discuss the structure and format for a new Strategic Plan covering a six-year period of 2008-2013 as well as the ways to further proceed with the development of the Strategic Plan;
- The Strategic Plan state strategic objectives and priorities of the Commission and incorporate a list of programme areas/planned activities with a clearly defined timetable for each of the activities;
- After requesting the views of Regional Coordinating Committees, the draft Plan be submitted to the Commission for adoption by 2007; and
- The Strategic Plan, once adopted, be renewed every two years on a rolling basis.

³ ALINORM 04/27/41, paras 120-126

ACTION PLAN FOR CODEX-WIDE DEVELOPMENT AND APPLICATION OF RISK ANALYSIS PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES⁴

6. The Commission noted that several Committees had developed or were in the process of developing guidance on risk analysis in their respective areas, for inclusion in the Procedural Manual. The Commission endorsed the recommendations of the 53rd Session of the Executive Committee and decided to:

- a) request each relevant Codex Committee, when developing or completing specific guidelines on risk analysis, to review and document the mechanism it uses to identify and prioritise proposals for new work, particularly in the light of needs for and availability of scientific advice;
- b) request the Committee on General Principles, when examining specific guidelines submitted by other Committees, to ensure as much consistency as possible between the guideline texts;
- c) request the Committee on General Principles to continue the revision of the Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities, especially from the viewpoint of the need for clear prioritisation of requests for scientific advice; and
- d) monitor the progress of all the work mentioned above and take into account its outcome in the development of the next Strategic Plan.

7. The Commission recalled that the Committee on General Principles was considering the revision of the Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities, while the Executive Committee was developing new criteria for the prioritization of requests for scientific advice within Codex.

REVIEW OF THE MANDATES OF CODEX COMMITTEES AND TASK FORCES⁵

8. The Commission adopted the following Terms of Reference of the Review:

- a) With the objective of reducing the number of Codex meetings while also keeping them short and focused, the review should concentrate on:
 - adequacy of the current structure of general subject committees to meet member countries' needs in a flexible and timely manner;
 - adequacy of the current structure of commodity committees to meet member countries' needs in a flexible and timely manner;
 - areas of overlap and areas where coverage of the subject matter is inadequate, taking into consideration the needs that were not covered or new issues that may arise in the future; and
 - relationship between all committees and task forces, particularly the relations between commodity and general subject committees (task forces);
- b) Based on a detailed study of the points above and inputs received from various sources, recommendations should be formulated for consideration by the Commission. These may include proposals for revision of the existing committee mandates with a view to rationalisation, proposals for redistribution of tasks and responsibilities between committees, and proposals to split or merge committees.
- c) The recommendations to the Commission should also take into account the ability of all members of the Commission to participate in the standards development process, including the sustainability of the subsidiary body structures and their work programmes, especially in the light of the holding of annual sessions of the Commission and the operation of the FAO/WHO Trust Fund for Enhanced Participation in Codex.

⁴ ALINORM 04/27/41, paras 124-126

⁵ ALINORM 04/27/41 paras 132-136

9. The Commission agreed that the recruitment of a small team of consultants (three or four) would be initiated after the Commission and that the time frame presented in document ALINORM 04/27/10C would be followed in order that recommendations be submitted to the 28th Session of the Commission. The Commission agreed that a Circular Letter would be sent to all Codex Members to ask for their views on the review of the mandates of Committees and Task Forces. The review will also include Regional Coordinating Committees.

FAO/WHO PROJECT AND TRUST FUND FOR ENHANCED PARTICIPATION IN CODEX⁶

10. The Commission generally supported the use of the Trust Fund for projects other than for travelling to Codex sessions. It was however stressed that participation in training activities on Codex should not be the primary focus of the Trust Fund, but should rather be covered by the Regular Programme and extra-budgetary resources of FAO and WHO as part of their capacity building activities.

11. The Commission requested that the criteria used in the distribution of funds should be kept under review. Further consideration should be given to ensuring adequate regional representation and the effectiveness of the participation of the beneficiary countries in Codex work.

RELATIONS BETWEEN THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS⁷

Relation between Codex and OIE

12. The Commission was informed of the recent revision of the Agreements of cooperation between FAO and the OIE and the OIE and WHO. The Representatives of FAO and WHO reiterated their support for a strengthened collaboration between Codex and OIE and the Commission noted that discussion on how to foster the cooperation would start between FAO, WHO and OIE on the basis of the revised interagency agreements.

13. The Commission concluded the discussion by reiterating its interest for increased cooperation with OIE and suggested that FAO and WHO initiate discussion in accordance with the recommendations of the 53rd Session of the Executive Committee, taking account of the comments made. The Commission requested the Committee on General Principles to finalise the Guidelines at an early opportunity and recommended that the collaboration between Codex and OIE be strengthened also at national and regional level.

PART 2 CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD HYGIENE

14. The Codex Committee on Food Hygiene is currently considering how to manage specific pathogens in various commodities. The following documents will be discussed at the 37th Session of the Committee (Buenos Aires, Argentina, 14-19 March 2005):

- Discussion Paper on the Guidelines for the Application of the General Principles of Food Hygiene to the Risk Based Control of *Salmonella* spp. in Poultry;
- Discussion Paper on the Guidelines for the Application of the General Principles of Food Hygiene to the Risk Based Control of Enterohemorrhagic *E. coli* in Ground Beef and Fermented Sausages;
- Discussion Paper on the Guidelines for Risk Management Options for *Campylobacter* in Broiler Chickens;
- Discussion Paper on the Viruses in Food.

⁶ ALINORM 04/27/41, paras 188-196

⁷ ALINORM 04/27/41, paras 175-180