



GLOBAL FOOD REGULATORY
SCIENCE SOCIETY



A r a b
C O D E X

Summary and status of work for 16th session of the codex committee on contaminates in foods

10 June 2023

Background

Codex Committee on Contaminates in Foods

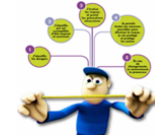
- ❑ Date: 18 to 21 April 2023 (physical plenary meeting)
and 26 April 2023 (virtual report adoption)
- ❑ Session: 16th
- ❑ Location: Utrecht, Netherlands
- ❑ Participation: 1 participant From Jordan Food and drug administration

Items Recommended for Adoption at Step 5/8 or Step 8

MAXIMUM LEVELS FOR LEAD IN CERTAIN FOOD CATEGORIES

CCCF15 (2022)

Reminder of the Committee's main decisions during the 15th session



- ❖ Work was discontinued on fresh eggs, dried garlic (ML of 0.1 mg/kg for fresh garlic specified in the GSTCFF), and also for molasses product (insufficient data to establish an ML).
- ❖ Forward the following MLs for adoption in Step 5/8 CAC45 (2022):
 - ❖ Cereal-based foods for infants and young children at **0.02mg /kg** ;
 - ❖ White and refined sugar, corn syrup, maple and honey at **0.1mg/kg**
 - ❖ sugar-based candy at **0.1mg/kg** ,
- ❖ Consider separate ML for **brown and raw sugar** (high-value commodity in international trade and likely to contain more lead than white or refined sugar)
- ❖ Reinstate the ML for lead at 0.02 mg/kg in Step 5 for **ready-to-eat meals for infants and young children** for further consideration by the EWG and consideration of excluding certain foods that do not enable this ML to be achieved.
- ❖ Re-established EWG, led by Brazil, for consideration of MLs for **ready-to-eat meals for infants and children** (excluding certain foods) and **brown and raw sugar** for consideration by CCCF16 (2023) and MLs for **culinary herbs (fresh/dried)** and **spices (dried)** after the request of Joint Expert Committee to submit Data in 2022 for consideration by CCCF17 (2024).

MAXIMUM LEVELS FOR LEAD IN CERTAIN FOOD CATEGORIES

SOFT BROWN, RAW, AND NON-CENTRIFUGAL SUGARS

CCCF agreed to forward to CAC46 an ML of 0.15 mg/kg at step 5/8

- ✓ The Chairperson noted general support for an ML of 0.15 mg/kg for this food category.
- ✓ It was noted that this ML was consistent with the ML for white and refined sugars of 0.1 mg/kg adopted by CAC45 (2022), as these sugars are less refined.

MAXIMUM LEVELS FOR LEAD IN CERTAIN FOOD CATEGORIES

Ready-to-eat meals for infants and young children

CCCF agreed to forward to CAC46 an ML of 0.02 mg/kg at Step 8

CCCF noted general support for an ML of 0.02 mg/kg considering: the same ML was adopted by CAC45 for cereal based products for infants and young children, thus the ML was achievable; the need for a high level of protection for infants and young children; the rejection rate was only slightly higher than 5%.

Items Recommended for Adoption at Step 5/8 or Step 8

CODE OF PRACTICE FOR THE PREVENTION AND REDUCTION OF MYCOTOXIN CONTAMINATION IN CASSAVA AND CASSAVA-BASED PRODUCTS

CCCF agreed to forward the Code of practice for the prevention and reduction of mycotoxin contamination in cassava and cassava-based products to CAC46 for adoption at Step 8

- ✓ CCCF agreed to revise CoP to provide for consistency and flexibility in the application of rotational measures between cassava and crops susceptible to mycotoxin contamination.
- ✓ CCCF agreed to add an additional paragraph to include provisions for treatment of planting material with fungicide/insecticide/nutrient solutions as per label instructions and the subsequent steps before field planting.
- ✓ CCCF agreed that other heat treatments such as “steaming” could also be applied

Comments on the draft Code

Comments were received from Brazil, Canada, Chile, Egypt, the European Union, Iraq, Ghana, Kenya, Peru, Uganda, the United States of America, Korea and Thailand.

One member considered that the CoP contained practices required for cassava production in general and was not intended to reduce contamination with mycotoxins

Comments were generally supportive of progress of the CoP

Suggestion to review the classification of bitter sweet cassava roots according to the current classification of cassava in the Codex Alimentarius

The suggestion for the inclusion of "for human consumption" in titling

EU suggest to include Fumonisin In addition to Afs;OTA

Items Recommended for Adoption at Step 5/8 or Step 8

**SAMPLING PLANS FOR TOTAL AFLATOXINS IN CERTAIN CEREALS AND
CEREAL-BASED PRODUCTS INCLUDING FOODS FOR INFANTS AND
YOUNG CHILDREN**

CCCF agreed to forward the sampling plan (Appendix IV) to CCMAS42 for endorsement; and CAC46 for adoption at Step 5/8 and inclusion in the General Standard for Contaminants in Food and Feed (CXS 193-1995).

The main decisions of the CCCF:

- ✓ amending the note to LOD and LOQ to more accurately indicate that if values for AFB2, AFG1 and AFG2 could not be validated, the LOD and LOQ for AFB2, AFG1 and AFG2 could be up to parameters for AFB1;
- ✓ for the definition of laboratory sample for the sampling plans and performance criteria that it also referred to cereal grains and not only shelled cereal grains to cover also maize and rice in the sampling plan; and
- ✓ for the laboratory sample weight for maize grain, rice (husked and polished) and sorghum to be equal or larger than 5 kg.

Items Recommended for Adoption at Step 5/8

**MAXIMUM LEVELS FOR TOTAL AFLATOXINS AND OCHRATOXIN A IN
NUTMEG, DRIED CHILI AND PAPRIKA, GINGER, PEPPER AND TURMERIC
AND ASSOCIATED SAMPLING PLAN**

MAXIMUM LEVELS FOR TOTAL AFLATOXINS AND OCHRATOXIN A IN NUTMEG, DRIED CHILI AND PAPRIKA, GINGER, PEPPER AND TURMERIC AND ASSOCIATED SAMPLING PLAN

CCCF16 agreed:

- (i) to forward the ML of 20 µg/kg for AFT in chili pepper and nutmeg (dry/dried) and the ML 20 µg/kg for OTA in chili pepper, paprika and nutmeg (dry/dried) to CAC46 for adoption at Step 5/8 (Appendix V), noting the reservations of the European Union, Norway, and Switzerland for the MLs for;
- (ii) that the MLs could be reviewed in 3 years' time if sufficient data are submitted through GEMS/Food;
- (iii) to discontinue work on MLs for AFT in paprika, ginger, pepper (black and white) and turmeric and MLs for OTA in ginger, pepper (black and white) and turmeric; and to inform CCEXEC and CAC46 accordingly; and
- (iv) to re-convene the EWG, chaired by India, working in English, to develop sampling plans for the agreed MLs taking into account all written comments submitted to CCCF16; for comments and consideration by CCCF17

MAXIMUM LEVELS FOR TOTAL AFLATOXINS AND OCHRATOXIN A IN NUTMEG, DRIED CHILI AND PAPRIKA, GINGER, PEPPER AND TURMERIC AND ASSOCIATED SAMPLING PLAN

General comments

number of African countries had, through CRDs, requested that work on the MLs be postponed allowing further time for submission of data.

the Chairperson proposed to continue discussion on the MLs proposed by the EWG and to keep open the possibility to review these MLs within 3 – 5 years' time provided sufficient data were submitted through GEMS/Food.

CCCF16 focus discussion on the two MLs proposed for AFT and OTA in the mentioned above spices and proposed that no MLs be established for the remaining spices, i.e., ginger, pepper and turmeric, and paprika since the majority of the samples were reported ND and percentage of rejections were also not a major concern.

The EU expressed concern with the proposed ML noting that aflatoxins are genotoxic carcinogens and a public health issue and therefore levels should be set as low as reasonably achievable and, in their opinion, applying good practices, lower levels were achievable

Standards Under Further Consideration for Drafting Step 2/3

MLs for lead in culinary herbs (fresh/dried) and spices (dried)

Recalled the EWG chaired by Brazil, to continue to work on MLs for lead in culinary herbs (fresh/dried) and spices (dried) for consideration by CCCF1715 and that a JECFA call for data had already been issued.

To re-convene the EWG, chaired by India, to work over the next two years on the ML for AFT in RTE peanuts and the associated sampling plan :

- (a) to prepare a proposal on a clear definition for RTE peanuts for the establishment of an ML for AFT in RTE peanuts and categorization of the occurrence data for consideration by CCCF17, working in close collaboration with the GEMS Administrator;
- (b) following discussion and agreement on the definition for RTE peanuts at CCCF17 and working closely with the EWG on data analysis to propose an ML for RTE peanuts and associated sampling plans for consideration by CCCF18.

Sampling plans for OTA and AFT (chili pepper, paprika and nutmeg)

CCCF agreed to re-convene the EWG, chaired by India, to develop sampling plans for the agreed MLs taking into account all written comments submitted to CCCF16; for comments and consideration by CCCF17.

Other Items Discussed by the Committee

Subject	Context	Proposition of new work
Pyrrolizidine alkaloids	Discussion paper prepared by the EU had been submitted late, which did not allow delegates to review it.	To request the EWG chaired by the European Union to prepare a revised paper based on the comments received in response to the CL for consideration by CCCF17
New measures supporting the revision of the Code of practice for the prevention and reduction of aflatoxin contamination in peanuts		to develop a discussion paper to explore whether there are new measures supporting revision of the Code of practice for the prevention and reduction of aflatoxin contamination in peanuts (establish an EWG chaired by Brazil)

Other Items Discussed by the Committee

Subject	Context	Proposition of new work
<p>new measures supporting the revision of the Code of practice for the reduction of aflatoxin B1 in raw materials and supplemental feeding stuffs for milk-producing animals</p>		<p>to explore whether there are new measures supporting revision of the Code of practice for the reduction of aflatoxin B1 in raw materials and supplemental feeding stuffs for milk-producing animals (CXC 45-1997) (EWG chaired by Canada to develop a discussion paper)</p>
<p>the need and feasibility of possible follow up actions on tropane alkaloids</p>	<p>China expressed its interest in developing a discussion paper on the need and feasibility of possible follow-up actions on tropane alkaloids by CCCF.</p>	<p>to prepare a discussion paper on tropane alkaloids to look into the need and feasibility of possible follow-up actions for consideration by CCCF171 (establish an EWG, chaired by China and co-chaired by Saudi Arabia)</p>

Other Items Discussed by the Committee

Subject	Consistence	Proposition of new work
possible risk management measure(s) for acrylamide in foods taking into account the most recent JECFA evaluations	India requested the inclusion of acrylamide in the priority list and noted that excessive consumption of food containing acrylamides, particularly fried foods, as well as bakery and confectionery products, could cause human health concerns. The Delegation indicated they could submit data to GEMS/Food within a year.	to develop a discussion paper on acrylamide in foods taking into account the most recent JECFA evaluations, to look into the feasibility of risk management measure(s) for consideration by CCCF17; (establish an EWG, chaired by India and co-chaired by Saudi Arabia, working in English)

Other Items Discussed by the Committee

Subject	Consistence	Proposition of new work
the development of a Code of practice for the prevention and reduction of cadmium contamination in foods		CCCF agreed that the United States of America would prepare a discussion paper to consider the development a CoP to prevent or reduce cadmium contamination in foods.

Opening the Discussion

Positions Recommended for Adoption by the Arab Region Stemming from Committee Conclusions

Standards recommended for adoption

Item	Subject
Item 5	Maximum levels for lead in certain food categories
Item 7	Sampling plans for total aflatoxins in certain cereals and cereal-based products including foods for infants and young children
Item 8	Maximum level for total aflatoxins in ready-to-eat peanuts and associated sampling plan
Item 9	Maximum levels for total aflatoxins and ochratoxin A in nutmeg, dried chili and paprika, ginger, pepper and turmeric and associated sampling plans

Standards / Draft texts underway step 2/3

Item	Subject
Item 5	Maximum Levels for lead in certain Food categories
Item 6	Code of Practice for prevention and reduction of mycotoxin contamination in cassava and cassava-based products
Item 7	Sampling plans for total aflatoxins in certain cereals and cereal-based products including foods for infants and young children
Item 8	Maximum level for total aflatoxins in ready-to-eat peanuts and associated sampling plan
Item 9	Maximum levels for total aflatoxins and ochratoxin A in nutmeg, dried chili and paprika, ginger, pepper and turmeric and associated sampling plans

New Work

Pyrrrolizidine alkaloids

New measures supporting the revision of the Code of practice for the prevention and reduction of aflatoxin contamination in peanuts

New measures supporting the revision of the Code of practice for the reduction of aflatoxin B1 in raw materials and supplemental feeding stuffs for milk-producing animals

The Need and feasibility of possible follow up actions on tropane alkaloids

Possible risk management measure(s) for acrylamide in foods taking into account the most recent JECFA evaluations

The development of a Code of practice for the prevention and reduction of cadmium contamination in foods

