



46th Joint Coordination Meeting of Arab and CCNE Codex Contact Points

**PREPARATION FOR THE 45th SESSION OF THE CODEX
COMMITTEE ON METHODS OF ANALYSIS AND SAMPLING
(CCMAS45)**

Ahmed ELTOUKHY, Arab Republic of Egypt (EG)

March 4th, 2026

Agenda Item 5.3: Review of Methods of Analysis in CXS 234: Honey & Sugar Workable Package.

Document Number: CX/MAS 26/45/8

Background

At CCMAS44 (2025), the Committee agreed to initiate the review of analytical methods in the Sugars and Honey package as part of the ongoing systematic update of the Recommended Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CXS 234-1999).

An Electronic Working Group (EWG), chaired by Uruguay, was established to review the relevant methods in:

- CXS 212-1999 (Sugars), and
- CXS 12-1981 (Honey).

This review follows the standard CCMAS approach:

- Remove inconsistencies.
- Ensure alignment with the Procedural Manual and endorsement guidance.
- Verify that methods remain fit for purpose.
- Clarify typing (Type I–IV).
- Ensure that all required methods in commodity standards are properly reflected in CXS 234-1999.

Since the Codex Committee on Sugars (CCS) is adjourned *sine die*, CCMAS is effectively handling the technical updating of these standards.

Con. Background:

The EWG conducted:

- A consistency review of methods already in CXS 234.
- A cross-check between the commodity standards and CXS 234 to identify missing or misaligned methods.
- Editorial consolidation and simplification of method listings.

Several technical matters were identified, including:

- The measurement approach for invert sugar content.
- Suitability and sensitivity of sulphur dioxide methods.
- Replacement of outdated AOAC methods (notably for honey authenticity via SCIRA).
- Missing or pending methods in certain provisions.
- Alignment challenges between ICUMSA classifications, regulatory systems, and Codex commodity descriptions.

What is Requested from CCMAS45?

CCMAS45 is invited to:

1. **Endorse the EWG recommendations** on methods (retain, amend, include, or revoke) as summarized in Appendix I, taking into account specific technical comments.
2. **Note that certain methods (e.g., sugar content, electrical conductivity, starch content)** will not be included in CXS 234-1999 at this time.
3. **Note that the method AOAC 991.41 has been replaced with AOAC 998.12** for SCIRA “stable carbon isotope ratio analysis” (honey authenticity) and will not be included in CXS 234-1999 and revoke AOAC 991.41 from CXS 12-1981.
4. **Re-establish the EWG** to address outstanding technical issues and inaccessible or insufficiently reviewed methods.

Analysis:

Appendices I, II and III operationalize the EWG's review by translating it into concrete changes to CXS 234-1999 (retain / include / amend / revoke), focused only on what will ultimately appear in the standard (Commodity–Provision–Method–Principle–Type).

1) Overall direction of the revisions

The EWG is aiming to clean up and modernize the sugars and honey method listings in CXS 234 by:

- Updating outdated references and replacing superseded methods.
- Introducing newer or more widely recognized methods where appropriate.
- Clarifying method typing (Type I–IV) to align with CCMAS endorsement logic.
- Consolidating duplicated entries and improving consistency of commodity/provision wording.

2) Proposed changes

- **Honey:** the proposed edits show a push toward ensuring that core honey parameters and authenticity-related testing are supported by methods that are current, recognized, and consistently typed in CXS 234.
- **Sugars:** revisions emphasize harmonization with widely used standard-setting bodies and better alignment between Codex provisions and what methods actually determine (i.e., preventing ambiguity about what is being measured vs. how it is expressed).
- Across both commodities, the EWG is treating method replacement as a normal housekeeping action, especially where a referenced method has been superseded, rather than reopening the technical basis of standards.

Con. Analysis:

3) Where CCMAS45 attention is likely needed (strategic, not technical)

Without diving into methods themselves, the appendices signal a few areas that CCMAS45 may need to steer at a policy/process level:

Managing
transitions

Authenticity /
fraud-related
methods

Performance/
fitness
considerations

4) Practical limitation flagged by the EWG

Appendix II highlights that for a subset of methods, the EWG could not access the references or did not receive comments. This creates a procedural issue: endorsement confidence is uneven across the package, which supports the case for:

- deferring certain entries, and/or
- re-establishing the EWG to close gaps.

Recommendations:

Considering the above analysis for Agenda Item 5.3, the following recommendations may guide the regional coordination/ engagement at CCMAS45:

- **Agree to endorse the EWG recommendations** on methods (retain, amend, include, or revoke) as summarized in Appendix I.
- **Support not to include** certain methods (e.g., sugar content, electrical conductivity, starch content) in CXS 234-1999 currently.
- **Support to replace method AOAC 991.41 with AOAC 998.12** for SCIRA “stable carbon isotope ratio analysis” (honey authenticity), **and to include this method in CXS 234-1999 instead of AOAC 998.18** and agree to revoke AOAC 991.41 from CXS 12-1981.
- **Agree to Re-establish the EWG** to address outstanding technical issues and inaccessible or insufficiently reviewed methods.

