



## 47th Joint Coordination Meeting of Arab and CCNE Codex Contact Points

**Preparation For The 28th Session of the Codex Committee on  
Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods (CCRVDF 28)**

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# Agenda Item 9

## **Coordination of work between CCPR and CCRVDF**

**Document Number: CX/RVDF 26/28/11**



## OBJECTIVES

This document provides a structured technical analysis of Agenda Item 9 for CCRVDF28, focusing on:

- The institutional mechanism for CCPR–CCRVDF coordination via the joint electronic working group (EWG) on dual-use compounds
- The current work streams under the EWG mandate (dual-use definition, MRL harmonization procedure, and harmonized food descriptors)
- Practical recommendations to strengthen participation, consensus-building, and decision efficiency.

## Background

- Cross-cutting issues between pesticide residues and veterinary drug residues have expanded due to the emergence of substances used for both purposes (dual-use compounds). To address procedural and technical challenges, Codex established a Joint CCPR/CCRVDF Electronic Working Group (EWG) supported by JMPR and JECFA, with a mandate to propose mechanisms to improve synchronization between committees and facilitate development of single/harmonized MRLs where appropriate.

- **The Joint EWG has progressed on:**
  - A definition for dual-use compounds
  - A stepwise procedure for harmonizing divergent codex MRLs
  - Case-based work on dual-use compounds where divergent standards exist
  - Harmonized food descriptors for commodities of animal origin used by JMPR and JECFA.
  
- Recent Codex discussions supported convening a virtual meeting of the Joint EWG followed by a virtual joint session of CCPR and CCRVDF and requested the EWG to prepare a draft agenda for such joint virtual session for CAC endorsement.

# Analysis



- From a risk-management perspective, the Joint EWG approach is designed to preserve the integrity of existing risk assessments while enabling harmonized outcomes. The stepwise procedure uses existing JMPR and JECFA exposure models to test whether selecting the higher existing MRL as a candidate harmonized value remains within health-based guidance values (HBGVs). This method supports transparency, limits duplicative re-evaluation requests, and creates a practical decision pathway for committees.
  
- A key operational issue remains limited active engagement in the online EWG forum, which weakens consensus signals and can lead to iterative ‘volleying’ of recommendations between committees. A joint virtual setting is therefore technically justified as a governance tool to
  - Increase participation
  - Enable direct cross-committee dialogue
  - Stabilize recommendations before formal committee consideration.

# Snapshot of Divergent Standards and Harmonization Logic



- 6 dual-use compounds account for 34 divergent codex standards (ADI and/or MRL) identified through cross-referencing the pesticide and veterinary drug MRL databases.
- The EWG procedure is:
  1. Identify divergence
  2. select higher MRL candidate
  3. assess impact using JMPR IEDI/IESTI or JECFA TMDI
  4. if exceedance occurs, seek additional expert advice; otherwise, propose harmonized MRL with an explanatory note.

Dual-use compound	Type of divergent standard	Count of divergent standards
Abamectin	ADI	1
Cyfluthrin	ADI and MRL	2
Cyhalothrin	ADI and MRL	12
Cypermethrin	MRL	4
Deltamethrin	MRL	12
Thiabendazole	MRL	3
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>34</b>

- Harmonized food descriptors reduce ambiguity regarding the edible portion to which the MRL applies and improve alignment between JMPR and JECFA recommendations.
- Priority areas include completing missing descriptors (e.g., kidney, liver) and aligning partial descriptors (e.g., eggs, fat, milk) to ensure consistent application across both residue domains.

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## ANNEX

### IDENTIFICATION AND POSSIBLE HARMONIZATION OF MAXIMUM RESIDUE LIMITS THAT DIFFER FOR DUAL-USE COMPOUNDS IN SIMILAR EDIBLE COMMODITIES OF ANIMAL ORIGIN

Prepared by the Joint Electronic Working Group  
between the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Food and  
the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues  
(Chaired by the United States of America and Co-chaired by Brazil and New Zealand)

# Recommendations



- Maintain continued support for the Joint CCPR/CCRVDF EWG as the core coordination mechanism for dual-use compounds.
- Endorse convening a virtual Joint EWG session followed by a virtual Joint CCPR–CCRVDF session, with a clear agenda and decision points endorsed by CAC.
- Promote systematic national coordination between pesticide and veterinary services to submit consolidated technical inputs and improve consensus readiness.
- Support the stepwise harmonization procedure relying on existing JMPR/JECFA exposure models as an initial risk-management screen, with escalation to expert bodies only when HBGV exceedance is identified.
- Advance food-descriptor harmonization in parallel with MRL harmonization to ensure MRL applicability and avoid future database inconsistencies.

# Conclusion



Agenda Item 9 is a lever for faster, more coherent risk-management outcomes

Virtual joint processes address participation and consensus gaps

A stable harmonization pathway supports consumer protection and trade predictability

