Codex Alimentarius Procedures
- What is it? How it works?

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Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme
Codex Alimentarius Procedures
- What is it? How it works?

1. Codex Alimentarius Commission: What it is and how it works
2. Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues: what it is and how it works
3. Current and future trends and challenges
Codex Alimentarius

Latin for “Food Law” or “Food Code”
Codex Alimentarius

- Intergovernmental Standards-setting Body established by FAO and WHO in 1961/63:
  - 11th FAO Conference RESOLUTION No. 12/61 (Codex Alimentarius)
  - WHA16.42 Joint FAO/WHO Programme on Food Standards (Codex Alimentarius)
Codex - what it is

Codex – a valuable source of harmonized food standards, guidelines and other texts that are:

- Based on sound science
- Developed by international consensus
- Recognized by international agreements (WTO SPS)
- Contributes to global harmonization of food standards
International Food Standards

www.codexalimentarius.net
Codex Alimentarius Commission
- its mandate -

- Dual objective:
  - Protecting the health of consumers
  - Facilitating fair practices in food trade
- Non-mandatory in nature, Codex standards and related texts have since 1995 become international benchmarks for harmonization under the SPS and TBT Agreements of WTO
Involving interested parties

- **Member governments (delegations)** (174)
- **One Member Organization (EC)**
- **Observers**
  - UN and Specialized Agencies (16)
  - Intergovernmental Organizations (46)
  - Non-governmental Organizations from producers, industry, trade and consumers (157)
CAC in Rome
CAC in Geneva
Codex Secretariat

- Housed on the premises of FAO Headquarters
- Staff:
  - Secretary (1)
  - Food Standards Officers (6)
  - Professional Officers on secondment (3)
  - General Service Staff (7)
- Budget:
  - Joint FAO/WHO Budget (managed in Rome)
    - 2006/2007 6.932 M US$ (FAO 82% + WHO 18%)
  - In-kind contribution of host governments
Codex Alimentarius
- its scientific basis -

- Codex - Risk management
- FAO/WHO Expert Bodies - Risk assessment
  - JECFA - food additives, veterinary drug residues, contaminants in food
  - JMPR - pesticide residues in food
  - JEMRA - microbiological hazards in food
  - ad hoc Expert Consultations
Codex Alimentarius
- for health protection -

- **Risk analysis** Definitions and general principles
- **Risk assessment/management** guidelines
  (microbiological risk assessments, safety assessments of recombinant-DNA foods etc)
- **Individual safety standards** (e.g. maximum levels for additives, contaminants, residues of pesticides and veterinary drugs in foods, irradiation)
- **General Principles of Food Hygiene** (including HACCP) and Codes of hygienic practice
Codex Alimentarius
- consumers information and fair trade practices -

- Standards for specific foodstuffs (safety and essential quality) including foods for special dietary uses
- Standards and Guidelines for labelling and claims (including nutrition labelling and nutrition/health claims)
- Guidelines on Food Inspection and Certification (including information exchange on rejected imports and other emergency situations)
- Methods of analysis and sampling
Codex Alimentarius
- keys to its success -

- Strong **ownership** sense of countries, thanks to:
  - Member States-driven operation
  - Consensus-based decision making

- **High-level of transparency**
  - Documentation in public domain (open website)
  - 157 international NGOs in observer status

- **Rule-based** operation

  - 8-Step Elaboration Procedure
The Codex standards process

Getting started
- Initial proposal
  - Discussion paper
    - Project proposal

Critical review
- Criteria & priorities
  - Step 1
    - YES
      - Consultation with Governments and interested parties (Steps 3 & 6) and Committee debate (Steps 4 & 7)
    - NO
      - Revised or abandoned

Elaboration
- Consultation with Governments and interested parties (Steps 3 & 6) and Committee debate (Steps 4 & 7)
  - Step 5
    - Endorsement*
      - By general Committees
  - Final standard, guideline, etc

Committee level
- Executive Committee
- Committees and Task Forces
- Commission
2. **CCPR: What it is and how it works**

**GUIDELINES FOR CODEX COMMITTEES AND TASK FORCES:**

- Rules of Procedure of the Commission apply to Codex C-tees and Task Forces
- General Criteria Criteria for work priorities
- Criteria for work priorities by the CCPR
CCPR: What it is and how it works

Started in 1966 (1st session in The Hague, The Netherlands)

Since 39th Session host government – Peoples republic of China

- 1st Session: 44 delegates and advisers representing 16 countries and 5 international organizations
- 39th Session: 204 delegates representing 52 member countries, one member organization and 7 international organizations
GUIDELINES FOR CODEX COMMITTEES AND TASK FORCES:

- Rules of Procedure of the Commission apply to Codex C-tees and Task Forces
- General Criteria for work priorities
- Criteria for work priorities by the CCPR
Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR - ToR)

(a) to establish maximum limits for pesticide residues in specific food items or in groups of food;

(b) to establish maximum limits for pesticide residues in certain animal feeding stuffs moving into international trade where there is justified reasons of protection of human health;

(c) to prepare priority lists of pesticides in foods for evaluation by the Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPR);
(d) to consider methods of sampling and analysis for the determination of pesticide residues in food and feed;

(e) to consider other matters in relation to the safety of food and feed containing pesticide residues; and

(f) to establish maximum limits for environmental and industrial contaminants showing chemical or other similarity to pesticides in specific food items or groups of foods.
1. Decision of the Commission
2. Proposed draft standard (JMPR MRL)
3. Request of written comments
4. Amendments / Session
5. Adoption as a draft standard
6. Possible Omission
7. Request of written Comments
8. Amendments / Session
9. Adoption as a Codex standard
CODEX Steps in the CCPR

2007 JMPR recommendations

- New proposed MRLs circulated at Step 3 by the CL 2007/40-CCPR in October 2007

40th CCPR in Hangzhou, China, 14-19/4 2008

- Consider it at Step 4

Possible decisions – ????
Possible decisions 40th CCPR, Hangzhou, China, 14-19 April 2008

- **Use Step 5/8, if:**
  - JMPR report available electronically by early February 2008 (2007 JMPR available in October 2007!!!) No intake concerns identified by JMPR

- **Intake concern:**
  - Not further than Step 6: JMPR consideration.
  - If concern solved – advance for adoption at Step 8.
  - Not solved – look for alternative GAP
  - Not solved - delete from data base
Establishment of MRLs – CCPR Policy

RISK ANALYSIS PRINCIPLES APPLIED BY THE CODEX COMMITTEE ON PESTICIDE RESIDUES (Adopted by the 30th Session of the CAC)

- Scope
- Roles of CCPR and JMPR in Risk Analysis
- Interaction between CCPR and JMPR
- Role of the CCPR
- Role of JMPR

ANNEX: LIST OF RISK MANAGEMENT POLICIES USED BY CCPR
Establishment of MRLs – CCPR Policy

ANNEX: LIST OF RISK MANAGEMENT POLICIES USED BY CCPR

Procedure for proposing pesticides for Codex Priority List
MRLs for Commodities of Animal Origin
MRLs for Processed or Ready-to-eat Foods or Feeds
MRLs for spices
MRLs for fat-soluble pesticides
Establishment of MRLs
Utilization of Steps 5/8 for elaboration of MRLs
Establishment of EMRLs
Periodic Review Procedure
Deleting Codex MRLs
MRLs AND METHODS OF ANALYSIS
CCPR procedures

WORKING GROUPS:

- Working group on Priorities (chaired by Australia)
- Working Group on Methods of Analysis and sampling (chaired by IAEA)
- Other Working Groups, as needed
CCPR consideration

DATA BASE DOCUMENT:

List of all pesticides considered by CCPR
Pesticide names
ADI, RfDI
Residue definitions
Dates of the JMPR considerations
Adopted MRLs (CXLs)
MRLs at various Steps of the Codex Procedure
Notes on earlier consideration
3. Current and Future Trends

- Continued integration of risk analysis in the standards-setting process

- Develop or revise food safety standards on the basis of updated scientific knowledge, addressing emerging food safety issues (emerging pathogens, biotoxins, antimicrobial resistance...)

- Pursuing the application of “horizontal” approach (e.g. General Standard for Food Additives)
Challenges

- Enhancing participation of developing countries and countries in transition
  - Codex Trust Fund
  - Capacity Building (standards development process, implementation/application of standards at the national level, generation of scientific data)

- Getting to global consensus
  - South-North
  - Regional blocs and bilateral FTAs
Challenges

- Strategic direction and priority setting
  - Role of the Executive Committee
- Ensuring sustainable funding for Codex and the provision of scientific advice to Codex
  - Role of Parent Organizations (FAO and WHO)
- Cooperation with other international organizations
- Clarifying relations between public (Codex) standards and private (commercial) standards e.g. ISO22000, Eurepgap ®
Challenges

At the next 40th Session of the CCPR:
Separate Agenda Item

- How to deal with minor crops at the Codex level;
- Up-date Risk Analysis Principles, especially Annex which describes CCPR Procedures
- How to deal when pesticides are used by countries but are not supported in Codex system anymore
The Codex Alimentarius Commission was created in 1963 by FAO and WHO to develop food standards, guidelines and related texts such as codes of practice under the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme. The main purposes of this Programme are protecting health of the consumers and ensuring fair trade practices in the food trade, and promoting coordination of all food standards work undertaken by international governmental and non-governmental organizations.

NEWS

58th Session of the Executive Committee

The report the 58th Session of the Executive Committee (Geneva, 28 June to 1 July 2006) is now available on the Codex website in all languages.

29th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission

The report of the 29th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission is available in: English only.

Warning: This is the only official website of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. Unofficial websites using similar domain names (URLs) exist. The information contained in unofficial websites is not guaranteed by the Codex Alimentarius Commission nor by FAO or WHO and in no way commits the Commission, FAO or WHO.
Pesticide residues on the web

- Currently not updated to include decision of the 30th CAC; under reconstruction and moving to ORACLE data base
- Hope to finish in early 2008
- Will be more expanded and MRLs will be linked to the JMPR reports
- Basic pesticide information will also be given
Codex on the web

- News
- Membership and Contact Points
- Schedule of Meetings
- Provisional Agendas (3 languages)
- Working Papers (3 languages)
- Reports (3 languages)
- Up-dated weekly
Where to contact:

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Thank you very much for your attention
Priority list of compounds for JMPR evaluation:

- CCPR’s and JMPR Terms of Reference;
- The Codex Alimentarius Commission’s Strategic Plan;
- The Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities;
- The Criteria for Inclusion of Compounds on the Priority List;
- The Criteria for Selecting Food Commodities for which Codex MRLs or Extraneous Maximum Residue Limits (EMRLs) should be Established;
- The Criteria for Evaluation of New Chemicals;
- The Criteria for Prioritization Process of Compounds for Evaluation by JMPR
- A commitment to provide the necessary data for the evaluation in time