



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

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Food and Drug Administration
Washington DC 20204

From: Susan Howe
R. V.C. Panel
Date: 12/5/89

November 24, 1989

To: USA Contacts for the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants

- Re: (1) CL 1989/38-FAC -- Guideline Levels for Aflatoxin in Various Animal Feeds
- (2) CL 1989/41-FAC -- Guideline Levels for Methyl Mercury in Fish, and Vinyl Chloride Monomer and Acrylonitrile in Foods and Packaging Materials

Dear Sir/Madam:

This is a continuation of the series of letters being sent to you concerning activities of the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants (CCFAC). Copies of the above-referenced Circular Letters (CL's) are enclosed for your review.

(1) CL 1989/38-FAC -- The CCFAC at its 20th Session in 1988 proposed guideline levels for aflatoxins in feed. These levels were listed in APPENDIX VIII of ALINORM 89/12 (copy enclosed). The Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) agreed at its July 1989 meeting that the guideline levels should be submitted to governments and interested international organizations for comment at Step 3 of the Codex procedure. The purpose of CL 1989/38-FAC is to elicit such comments, and the US plans to respond in due course. **If you wish your views to be given consideration as part of the US comments, please send your comments directly to me, preferably no later than December 15 (recognizing that the November 30 deadline indicated in the CL is unreasonably short).**

(2) CL 1989/41-FAC

(a) Methyl Mercury in Fish -- The CCFAC at its 21st Session in March 1989 reaffirmed the same guideline levels for methyl mercury that had been proposed at the 19th Session, i.e., 5 mg/kg for fish in general, and 1.0 mg/kg for predatory fish (shark, swordfish, tuna, pike, etc.). These levels, which were listed in APPENDIX X of ALINORM 89/12A (copy enclosed), were advanced to Step 5 of the Codex procedure. Subsequently, at the CAC meeting in July 1989, the guideline levels were adopted as "drafts" and advanced to Step 6. Accordingly, CL 1989/41-FAC requests governments and interested international organizations to comment on the draft guideline levels. Please let me have your comments by

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December 15 if you wish your views to be given consideration as part of the US response.

(b) Vinyl Chloride and Acrylonitrile -- As was the case with the methyl mercury in fish guideline levels discussed above, the proposed guideline levels for vinyl chloride monomer and acrylonitrile in food and food packaging material (see also the enclosed copy of APPENDIX X of ALINORM 89/12A) were advanced to Step 5 by the CCFAC and to Step 6 by the CAC, and comments are being requested via CL 1989/41-FAC. Again, please let us have your comments by December 15.

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If you have questions on any of these matters, please feel free to contact me or Durward F. Dodgen (202-472-5680) of my staff.

Sincerely yours,

Patricia S. Schwartz

Patricia S. Schwartz, Ph.D.
Alternate US Delegate
Codex Committee on Food Additives
and Contaminants
Acting Director
Division of Food Chemistry
and Technology
Center for Food Safety and
Applied Nutrition

Enclosures

CMA 015603

codex alimentarius commission

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD HEALTH
ORGANIZATION

JOINT OFFICE:

Via delle Terme di Caracalla 00100 ROME: Tel. 57971 Telex: 610181 FAO I. Cables Foodagri Facsimile: 6799563

CX 4/30.2

CL 1989/38-FAC
October 1989

TO: : - Codex Contact Points
- Participants at the Twenty First Session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants
- Interested International Organizations

FROM : - Chief, Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme, FAO, 00100 Rome, Italy

SUBJECT : - Guideline Levels for Aflatoxin in Various Animal Feeds

Governments and international organizations are again invited to comment on the proposed Guideline Levels at Step 3 of Aflatoxin for Various Animal Feeds, as contained in Appendix VIII of ALINORM 89/12.

Comments should be sent to Mr. W.J. de Koe, Chairman of the Working Group on Methods of Analysis and Sampling of Mycotoxins, State Supervisory Agency for Public Health, Chief Inspectorate for Commodities, P.O. Box 5406, 2280 H.K. Ryswijk, The Netherlands, with a copy to the Chief, FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme, FAO, 00100 Rome Italy, to arrive not later than 30 November 1989.

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ALINORM 89/12
APPENDIX VIII

Nuts, oilseeds, cereals and their products	} 5 µg/kg Total aflatoxins B1, B2, G1, G2	
Various animal feedstuffs as established by the EEC	- Straight feedingstuffs	50 µg/Kg (B ₁)
	- Complete feedingstuffs for cattle, sheep and goats (except dairy cattle, calves and lambs)	50 µg/Kg (B ₁)
	- Complete feedingstuffs for pigs and poultry (except young animals)	20 µg/Kg (B ₁)
	- Other complete feedingstuffs	10 µg/Kg (B ₁)
	- Supplementary feedingstuffs for cattle, sheep and goats (except dairy animals, calves and lambs)	50 µg/Kg (B ₁)
	- Supplementary feedingstuffs for pigs and poultry (except young animals)	30 µg/Kg (B ₁)
	- Other supplementary feedingstuffs	10 µg/Kg (B ₁)
	- Following Feedstuff Ingredients: Groundnut, Copra, Palm kernel, Cotton seed, Babassu, Maize and products derived from the processing thereof	} 200 µg/kg (B ₁)

codex alimentarius commission

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CX 4/30.2

CL 1989/41-FAC

October 1989

TO: : - Codex Contact Points
- Participants at the Twenty First Session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants
- Interested International Organizations

FROM: : - Chief, Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme, FAO, 00100 Rome, Italy

SUBJECT : - Guideline Levels for Methyl Mercury in Fish and for Vinylchloride Monomer and Acrylonitrile in Foods and Packaging Materials

The Codex Alimentarius Commission advanced the Guideline Levels for Methyl Mercury in Fish and for Vinylchloride Monomer and Acrylonitrile in Foods and Packaging Materials as contained in ALINORM 89/12A-Appendix X to Step 6 at its 18th Session.

Governments and interested international organizations are invited to comment on the proposed Guideline Levels at Step 6 and provide any information they have on sampling plans and methods of analysis for the estimation of the contaminants.

Comments should be sent to Mr. A. Feberwee, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, P.O. Box 20401, 2500 EK The Hague, The Netherlands with a copy to this office not later than 15 December 1989.

CMA 015606

Proposed Draft

GUIDELINE LEVELS FOR CERTAIN CONTAMINANTS

(Advanced to Step 5 of the Procedure)

Methylmercury	Proposed guideline level
All fish except predatory fish	0.5 mg/kg
Predatory fish (such as shark, swordfish, tuna, pike and others)	1 mg/kg

Note:

The proposed Guideline levels are intended for methyl mercury in fresh or processed fish and fish products moving in international trade. Lots should be considered as being in compliance with the proposed guideline levels if the level of methyl mercury in the analytical sample, derived from the composite bulk sample, does not exceed the above proposed levels. Where these proposed Guideline levels are exceeded, governments should decide whether and under what circumstances, the food should be distributed within their territory of jurisdiction and what recommendations, if any, should be given as regards restrictions on consumption, especially by vulnerable groups such as pregnant women.

Vinyl chloride monomer

Proposed Guideline level in food	0.01 mg/kg
Proposed Guideline level in food packaging material	1.0 mg/kg

Acrylonitrile

Proposed Guideline level in food	0.02 mg/kg
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PROCEDURE FOR THE ELABORATION OF
WORLDWIDE CODEX STANDARDS

STEPS 1, 2 and 3

(1) The Commission decides, taking into account the "Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities and for the Establishment of Subsidiary Bodies", to elaborate a Worldwide Codex Standard and also decides which subsidiary body or other body should undertake the work. A decision to elaborate a Worldwide Codex Standard may also be taken by subsidiary bodies of the Commission in accordance with the above-mentioned criteria, subject to subsequent approval by the Commission or its Executive Committee at the earliest possible opportunity.

(2) The Secretariat arranges for the preparation of a proposed draft standard.

(3) The proposed draft standard is sent to Members of the Commission and interested international organizations for comment on all aspects including possible implications of the proposed draft standard for their economic interests.

STEP 4

The comments received are sent by the Secretariat to the subsidiary body or other body concerned which has the power to consider such comments and to amend the proposed draft standard.

STEP 5 a/

The proposed draft standard is submitted through the Secretariat to the Commission with a view to its adoption as a draft standard. In taking any decision at this step, the Commission will give due consideration to any comments that may be submitted by any of its Members regarding the implications which the proposed draft standard or any provisions thereof may have for their economic interests.

STEP 6

The draft standard is sent by the Secretariat to all Members and interested international organizations for comment on all aspects, including possible implications of the draft standard for their economic interests.

STEP 7

The comments received are sent by the Secretariat to the subsidiary body or other body concerned, which has the power to consider such comments and amend the draft standard.

STEP 8

The draft standard is submitted through the Secretariat to the Commission together with any written proposals received from Members for amendments at Step 8 with a view to its adoption as a Codex standard.

a/ Without prejudice to any decision that may be taken by the Commission at Step 5, the proposed draft standard may be sent by the Secretariat for government comment prior to its consideration at Step 5, when, in the opinion of the subsidiary body or other body concerned, the time between the relevant session of the Commission and the subsequent session of the subsidiary or other body concerned requires such action in order to advance the work.