



## U.S. Delegate's Report, 39<sup>th</sup> Session of The Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS)

May 7-11, 2018

Budapest, Hungary

### ***Introduction***

The Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS) held its 39<sup>th</sup> Session from May 7-11, 2018, in Budapest, Hungary. The United States was represented by Dr. Gregory Noonan, U.S. Food and Drug Administration (Delegate); Dr. Timothy Norden, U.S. Department of Agriculture (Alternate Delegate); Dr. Patrick Gray, U.S. Food and Drug Administration, and Ms. Doreen Chen-Moulec, U.S. Codex Office, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The committee concluded a productive session addressing a number of issues associated with facilitating trade, food analysis, and sampling. During the plenary, the committee addressed all items on the Agenda, approving two new work proposals, and agreeing to the continuation and establishment of three electronic working groups (EWG). Additionally, the chair requested recommendations from the delegates on how the committee might improve efficiency and increase productivity.

### ***Highlights***

- CCMAS endorsed for final adoption for the following methods:
  - Methods of analysis in the Standards for Infant Formula and Formulas for Special Medical Purposes Intended for Infants – except for Vitamin D (CXS 72-1981) for the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU);
  - Methods of analysis for dairy permeate powders for the Codex Committee on Milk and Milk Products (CCMMP);
  - Methods of analysis for quinoa except for saponins for the Codex Committee for Cereals, Pulses and Legumes (CCCPL);
  - Sampling plan for MLs for methylmercury in fish (CXSS 193-1995) for the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Food (CCCF); and
  - Numeric criteria for methods of analysis for mercury and methylmercury except for the sampling plan for the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF).
- CCMAS returned to CCCF the sampling for maximum limits (MLs) for methylmercury for additional information; requested clarification from CCNFSDU on the provisions for Vitamin D in infant formula, informed CCCPL that no method for saponins was identified for quinoa, and did not endorse a method for lactose in dairy permeate powders.
- CCMAS approved new work on the proposal to amend the *Guidelines on Measurement Uncertainty* and another proposal to amend the *Guidelines on Sampling* (CXG 50-2004).
- CCMAS discontinued work on the criteria for endorsement of biological methods used to detect chemicals of concern.

### **Meeting Summary**

The following paragraphs summarize the discussions in the committee in more detail. The official report of the meeting will be posted on the Codex Alimentarius [website](#).

### **Endorsement of Methods of Analysis Provisions and Sampling Plans in Codex Standards (Endorsement)**

The Physical Working Group (PWG) on Endorsement, chaired by the United States and co-chaired by Australia, met on Sunday, May 6, prior to the CCMAS session to discuss methods for infant formula, quinoa, and milk and milk products. The PWG also discussed the sampling plan for mercury and methylmercury in fish, including methods performance criteria. Finally, the PWG addressed a number of questions pertaining to the typing of methods and review of the recommended methods under CXS 234. The committee re-established the electronic working group (EWG) on endorsement, which will be led by the United States and co-chaired by Australia.

### **Proposal to amend the *Guidelines on Measurement Uncertainty (CAC/GL 54-2004)***

The committee reviewed the new work proposal by the EWG on *Guidelines on Measurement Uncertainty*, chaired by Germany. Japan and Canada expressed concern that the work should not cover conformity assessment. In response, Germany agreed to revise the project document to cover only the relationship between measurement of uncertainty with conformity assessment and avoid giving prescriptive steps on conformity assessment. After discussions on how and when uncertainty should be used and its relation to conformity assessment, the committee decided to support the new work and establish an EWG with Germany as chair and refer the proposal to the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) for approval as new work.

### **Proposal to amend the *General Guidelines on Sampling***

The committee reviewed the new work proposal, of the EWG on the revision of the *General Guidelines on Sampling*, chaired by New Zealand. Initially, at the last session, some members expressed concern that this new work and work on measurement of uncertainty would overlap or be incompatible; but New Zealand and Germany addressed this concern by revising their new work proposals. The committee agreed to propose this new work for approval by the Commission and establish an EWG with New Zealand as chair.

### **Criteria for Endorsement of Biological Methods Used to Detect Chemicals of Concern**

The committee discussed the document developed by the EWG on *Criteria for Endorsement of Biological Methods Used to Detect Chemicals of Concern*, chaired by Chile and Mexico. The committee concluded that biological criteria should be considered on a case-by-case basis and that no additional work should be performed.

### **Revision of the Recommended Methods of CODEX STAN 234/Review and Update of CODEX STAN 234**

The committee also discussed the work performed by the EWG on the Review and Update of the Recommended Methods of CXS 234, chaired by Brazil and co-chaired by Uruguay. After further editing of the preamble, the committee decided to re-establish the EWG, and allow one

more round of review before moving the document forward in the Step Process with EWG once again to be chaired by Brazil and Uruguay. Discussions around CXS 234 and a thorough review of the methods for dairy products generated a number of questions regarding the typing of methods, the format of CXS 234 and the applicability of methods. To address these questions, the committee agreed to establish two EWGs, both chaired by the United States. The first will be co-chaired by New Zealand and focused on the review of dairy methods, using the Dairy Group Workable Package in CX/MAS 18/39/4 Appendix II as the list of methods that require final review. The second EWG will address questions surrounding the typing of Type I and IV methods and “*technically equivalent*” Type II methods, presented in CX/MAS 18/39/4 Add 1.

### ***Next Session***

The date of the next Session of the CCMAS is not yet established, but will be held in Budapest, Hungary in 2019.