



**Report of The United States Delegate
40th Session of the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling**

*May 27-31, 2019
Budapest, Hungary*

The Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS) held its 40th Session May 27 - 31, 2019, in Budapest, Hungary. Dr. Attila Nagy, director, National Food Chain Safety Office (NFCSO) of the Government of Hungary, chaired the Session, which was attended by 49 member countries and one member organization (the European Union) and 12 observer organizations. 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, Dr. Thomas Weber, U.S. Department of Agriculture and Ms. Doreen Chen- Moulec, U.S. Codex Office, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The Committee concluded a productive session addressing several issues and reached consensus on methods, which agreement will facilitate trade, food analysis and sampling.

HIGHLIGHTS

At its 40th Session, CCMAS recommended the following to the Codex Alimentarius Commission for action at its next session (CAC42, July 2019):

- Final Adoption of Methods of Analysis and Sampling Plans for provisions in Codex Standards at Step 8
- Final Adoption of the Preamble and Document Structure for the General Standard for Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CXS 234-1999) at Step 5/8
- Adoption of the Proposed Draft Revised Guidelines on Measurement Uncertainty (CXG 54-2004) at Step 5 for circulation for further comment.

The Committee also completed work on the Guidance on Endorsement for use by CCMAS as an Information Document.

A full report of the meeting, REP19/CCMAS, can be found on the website of the Codex Alimentarius Commission: <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CCMAS&session=40>

The following is a summary of the Committee's substantive discussion on the various agenda items.

MEETING SUMMARY

The physical working group (PWG) on Endorsement of Methods of Analysis Provisions, chaired by the United States and co-chaired by Australia, met prior to CCMAS to discuss methods for infant formula, multiple spices and herbs, and named vegetable oils. The PWG also discussed three review packages, on dairy products; fats and oils; and cereals, pulses, and legumes, which were produced as part of the on-going review and update of *Recommended Methods of Sampling* (CXS234-1999 (CXS 234)). The Dairy Workable Package was discussed line-by-line and consensus was reached on most of the recommendations made by the electronic working group (EWG) Based on the PWG and the discussion at plenary, CCMAS agreed on many of the dairy methods for referral to the Commission and decided to re-evaluate the remaining dairy methods for the next session of CCMAS41 (2020). CCMAS was not able to begin detailed review of the Workable Package for cereals, pulses, and legumes; however, but did discuss the proposal to reconsider the method for gluten free foods. There was no endorsement made of this proposed change, and the PWG recommended asking the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU) to discuss the method and assess if this proposal would have implications on the method reference and commodity. The Fats and Oils Workable Package was not reviewed line-by-line. The PWG acknowledged the intervention from American Oil Chemists Society (AOCS), that some experts in fats and oils had provided a review of the methods but were not sufficiently familiar with the Codex rules and requirements for the endorsement of methods. The PWG decided the draft Fats and Oils Workable Package was not ready for final review but should be used as the starting point of for the following intersession EWG.

The United States agreed to chair an EWG on completing the review of the dairy methods and The Netherlands agreed to chair the EWG on the review of the methods for fats and oils. CCMAS agreed that the work on the Cereals, Pulses and oils workable package could be carried out without establishing an EWG for this session cycle.

The PWG and committee reviewed the *Guidance Document on Methods Endorsement*, led by the United States. After an intervention from the European Union to support finalizing the guidance, the United States agreed to incorporate comments and produced a revise document for consideration on the last day of plenary. After a section-by-section review document was adopted. This will be an informational document, posted on the Codex website, and used to guide CCMAS decisions. During the review of the Committee report, Uruguay expressed concern with footnote 4 of Table 2.2 in the *Guidance Document*, which dealt with certain data requirements needed for the endorsement of methods; however, given that the footnote was already agreed upon during plenary, CCMAS did not take their concern into consideration. It is possible that Uruguay will raise their concern again at the next session, CCMAS41 (2020).

CCMAS also endorsed the *Guidelines on Measurement Uncertainty*, at Step 5 for further comment and *advanced the General Guidelines on 5/8* for finalization. CCMAS reviewed and updated CX 234 and discussed the proposal prepared by the Standards Development Organization (SDO) to make CCMAS a nodal committee to review all analytical methods with Codex provisions from all Codex committees (CRD4),but took no action on the proposal. The EWG on the *General Guidelines on Sampling* was re-established for another year. The United States agreed to co-chair the EWG with New Zealand.

NEXT SESSION

The next session of CCMAS will convene in May 2020 in Budapest, Hungary.