

**REPORT OF THE UNITED STATES DELEGATE  
ON THE 43<sup>rd</sup> SESSION OF THE  
CODEX COMMITTEE ON METHODS OF ANALYSIS AND SAMPLING**

**Budapest, Hungary  
May 13 – 18, 2024**

**BACKGROUND/SUMMARY**

The 43<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS43) was held from May 13 – 18, 2024 in Budapest, Hungary. The session was held in a hybrid format with online interventions but most of the discussion was in person. The session was chaired by Hungary and attended by 54 Member Countries, one Member Organization (the European Union), and 14 Observer organizations. The United States was represented by U.S. Delegate Dr. Patrick Gray from Food and Drug Administration (FDA), U.S. Alternate Delegate Dr. Tim Norden from the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), and a representative from the U.S. Codex Office.

CCMAS43 was a productive session that saw the endorsement of methods forwarded by the Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH) and the Codex Committee on Fats and Oils (CCFO), as well as the completion of the revision of methods related to cereals, pulses, and legumes and fish and fishery products. CCMAS will continue to review methods in the *Recommended Methods of Analysis and Sampling* (CXS 234-1999) and work on methods of analysis for precautionary allergen labeling at future sessions.

In addition to the business of the Committee, side meetings were held on matters related to CCMAS work. The Inter-Agency Meeting on Methods of Analysis (IAM) was held on May 13 and attended by the chairs of the working groups and representatives from the Standards Development Organizations (SDOs). In addition, the United States chaired virtual and physical working groups (PWG) on methods endorsement (May 7-8 and 13, respectively). The session concluded with report adoption on May 18.

This report summarizes significant agenda items and issues discussed at CCMAS43. The full official report of the session and all of the working documents of the meeting are available on the Codex website at: <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/jp/?meeting=CCMAS&session=43>.

**HIGHLIGHTS**

The 43<sup>rd</sup> Session of CCMAS:

- Completed the review and revision of methods for Cereals, Pulses, and Legumes (CPL) and Fish and Fishery Products in the *Recommended Methods of Analysis and Sampling* (CXS 234-1999)
- Established electronic working groups (EWGs) for the continued review of methods in CXS 234-1999 including fruit juices and chocolate products.
- Endorsed methods related CCSCCH and CCFO standards.
- Endorsed sampling plans from the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF) for methylmercury in fish.

- Established and endorsed method performance criteria for certain provisions in processed fruits and vegetables, for lead (Pb) and cadmium (Cd) in foods, and for aflatoxins in certain cereals.
- Reviewed the *General Methods for the Detection of Irradiated Foods* (CXS 231-2001) and agreed to incorporate the appropriate methods into CXS 234-1999.
- Re-established EWGs to continue to develop an information document to accompany the *General Guidelines on Sampling* (CXG 50-2004), to establish numeric performance criteria for nitrate and nitrite in foods, and to develop a discussion paper on methods of analysis for precautionary allergen labeling.
- Established EWGs to harmonize names and formats for method principles in CXS 234-1999, and to incorporate nitrogen conversion factors into CXS 234-1999.
- Clarified in the Information Document: *Comprehensive guidance for the process of submission, consideration and endorsement of methods for inclusion in CXS 234* that type IV methods may be endorsed with existing Type I methods under exceptional circumstances with an appropriate justification.

### **NEXT SESSION OF CCMAS**

The 44<sup>th</sup> Session of CCMAS is tentatively scheduled for May 5 – 9, 2025, in Budapest, Hungary.

### **MEETING SUMMARY**

<b>ENDORSEMENT OF METHODS OF ANALYSIS IN CODEX STANDARDS</b>
<p><b>To Be Presented for Adoption at Next CAC? Yes</b>  <b>Have the United States’ Objectives Been Met? Yes</b>  <b>Is it anticipated that this item will or should be raised at the CAC? No</b></p>
<p><b>United States Objective</b>  The United States objective was to endorse methods put forth by CCSCH and CCFO.</p>
<p><b>Outcome/ Conclusion</b>  The methods from CCSCH were largely endorsed, and where the methods were not, clarifying questions were sent back to CCSCH. CCMAS endorsed methods for the following spices: small cardamom, allspice, juniper berry and star anise, turmeric, dried or dehydrated ginger, cloves, dried basil, saffron, nutmeg, and dried or dehydrated chili pepper and paprika.</p> <p>The methods from CCFO for olive and olive pomace oils were largely endorsed. Numeric performance criteria were established for iron (Fe) and copper (Cu). Methods for 1,2 diglycerides (DAGs) and pyropheophytin “a” (PPP) were not endorsed because these parameters were not included as provisions in the revised standard for olive and olive pomace oils advanced by CCFO at its most recent session. Although methods for DAGs and PPP were forwarded by CCFO, CCMAS requires provisions for any method to be in the standard before they can be formally endorsed. Noting the request from CCFO, the Codex Secretariat proposed that the methods for DAGs and PPP be included in the CCMAS report and recommended as the methods of analysis in a Circular Letter related to CCFO’s ongoing work around DAGs and PPP. Australia and the United States, whose objectives included retaining the methods, accepted this as an appropriate</p>

## ENDORSEMENT OF METHODS OF ANALYSIS IN CODEX STANDARDS

solution. If CCFO includes the provisions for PPP and DAGs in the revised standard in the future, CCMAS is prepared to endorse methods.

### Other Comments

The Committee agreed to re-establish the PWG on methods endorsement chaired by Australia and co-chaired by the United States and Hungary to meet immediately prior to CCMAS44 to consider all methods of analysis and sampling submitted by Codex committees for endorsement and any other matters referred by Codex committees or submitted by Members and Observers.

## ENDORSEMENT OF SAMPLING PLANS IN CODEX STANDARDS

**To Be Presented for Adoption at Next CAC? Yes**

**Have the United States' Objectives Been Met? Yes**

**Is it anticipated that this item will or should be raised at the CAC? No**

### United States Objective

The United States objective was to endorse the sampling plan for methylmercury in fish put forth by CCCF.

### Outcome/ Conclusion

The Committee agreed to endorse the sampling plan with a slight revision to the definition of the decision rule, which will be notified to CCCF.

## MATTERS PENDING FROM CCMAS42

**To Be Presented for Adoption at Next CAC? Yes**

**Have the United States' Objectives Been Met? Mostly**

**Is it anticipated that this item will or should be raised at the CAC? No**

### United States Objective

The United States objectives were to endorse numeric performance criteria for certain provision/commodity pairings, to incorporate the methods from CXS 231-2001 (irradiated foods) into CXS 234-1999, and to conclude a discussion on methods to determine moisture in milk and milk products.

### Outcome/ Conclusion

The Committee agreed to endorse the numeric performance criteria for certain provisions in processed fruits and vegetables, to endorse numeric performance criteria for lead (Pb) and cadmium (Cd) in foods along with example methods, to add endorsed methods for irradiated foods to CXS 234-1999, and to recommend the revocation of CXS 231-2001.

There was some discussion regarding methods for moisture in whey powder. The discussion centered on whether the technical information submitted by Uruguay, and supported by several Latin American Members, was sufficient to exceptionally list a Type IV method together with the Type I method for the determination of moisture in whey powders. The Committee agreed

## MATTERS PENDING FROM CCMAS42

develop a discussion paper on the methods for moisture in milk (to be prepared by New Zealand, Uruguay, Brazil, IDF, Australia, and the EU) that would help finalize ongoing discussions on the topic.

## REVIEW OF METHODS OF ANALYSIS IN CXS 234-1999

**To Be Presented for Adoption at Next CAC? Yes**  
**Have the United States' Objectives Been Met? Yes**  
**Is it anticipated that this item will or should be raised at the CAC? Yes**

### United States Objective

The United States objective was to complete the review of methods for the cereals, pulses, and legumes, and the fish and fishery products group of commodities in CXS-234-1999.

### Outcome/ Conclusion

The EWG for the review of methods for cereals, pulses and legumes, chaired by Canada, and the EWG for the review of methods for fish and fishery products, chaired by Norway, were productive in the year leading up to CCMAS43. The United States participated in both working groups, and the U.S. comments were included in the EWG recommendations to CCMAS43. The Committee agreed to accept the EWG work and completed the reviews of these workable packages. The United States is satisfied with this outcome which is consistent with the progress made in the EWGs.

During this agenda item, there was discussion regarding the original intent of provisions for ash for several commodities in the cereals, pulses, and legumes workable package as the proposed methods involved two different ashing temperatures and could not be endorsed as Type I methods until more clarity around the provision could be obtained (i.e., ash at 550 °C and ash at 900 °C). The United States supported the decision of CCMAS to request that a Circular Letter be issued requesting information from Members on this provision and for the 47<sup>th</sup> Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC47) to advise CCMAS on whether CCMAS could amend to provisions and endorse the proposed methods as Type I.

### Other Comments

New EWGs were established to review the methods in CXS 234-1999 related to fruit juices, chaired by Germany, and related to cocoa and chocolate products, chaired by Serbia and co-chaired by the United States.

## INFORMATION DOCUMENT: *GENERAL GUIDELINES ON SAMPLING (CXG 50-2004)* – E-BOOK WITH SAMPLING PLANS APPLICATIONS

**To Be Presented for Adoption at Next CAC? No**  
**Have the United States' Objectives Been Met? Partially**  
**Is it anticipated that this item will or should be raised at the CAC? No**

### United States Objective

The United States objective was to complete this information document and have it published and available on the CCMAS website.

**Outcome/ Conclusion**

The Committee agreed to continue work on the information document through an EWG and publish the information document on the CCMAS website after CCMAS44. The United States supported the re-establishment of the EWG with the objective of completing and publishing the document at CCMAS44.

Also in relation to this item, the Committee agreed that the EWG would develop a discussion paper and review all sampling plans in CXS 234.

**LISTING OF TYPE IV METHODS IN CXS 234 WHEN A TYPE I METHOD IS LISTED FOR THE SAME COMMODITY AND PROVISION**

**To Be Presented for Adoption at Next CAC? No**  
**Have the United States' Objectives Been Met? Yes**  
**Is it anticipated that this item will or should be raised at the CAC? No**

**United States Objective**

The United States objective was to agree to a coherent approach to method typing that promotes the strongest science and upholds method accuracy and precision while not restricting trade. Listing Type IV methods with an existing Type I method should be limited to a case-by-case basis when there is compelling justification.

**Outcome/ Conclusion**

The Committee heard differing views on whether Type IV methods can coexist with Type I methods. SDOs were of the view that Type IV methods should not be listed where there is an existing Type I method. Japan, Chile, and Brazil, among others, supported setting criteria to evaluate co-existence of a Type I and Type IV method on a case-by-base basis. The United States intervened to state that a criteria-based approach would lead to confusion and supported Australia's intervention that CCMAS is actively reviewing the infrequent, current cases where Type IV methods have been listed with a Type I method to eliminate these where possible. The EU and Canada supported these interventions.

The United States further acknowledged that while there are some cases where listing Type IV and Type I methods may be justifiable, such as banned toxic agents, defining inclusion would be difficult and may have unintended consequences for how any criteria are applied. The UK supported the U.S. intervention. The Committee agreed that endorsing a Type IV method when a Type I method exists should only be done in exceptional circumstances and with a justifiable reason and inserted a sentence in the Information Document: *Comprehensive guidance for the process of submission, consideration and endorsement of methods for inclusion in CXS 234 to clarify this.*

**FUTURE WORK**

**To Be Presented for Adoption at Next CAC? No**  
**Have the United States' Objectives Been Met? Yes**  
**Is it anticipated that this item will or should be raised at the CAC? No**

**United States Objective**

The United States will actively participate in much of the future work.

**Outcome/ Conclusion**

The Committee agreed to establish new EWGs on performance criteria for nitrite and nitrate in foods, food allergen detection methods for precautionary allergen labeling, the review of methods for fruit juices, and the review methods for chocolate and cocoa products. The Committee also agreed to reestablish an EWG to create an information document in support of the revised guidelines for sampling.

Of these EWGs, the United States will chair the EWG on nitrite/nitrates and food allergen detection methods, will co-chair the EWG for the review of cocoa and chocolate methods, and will participate in the EWG for fruit juices. The United States will also co-chair the physical working group on methods endorsement prior to CCMAS44.