



**World Health
Organization**



**Food and Agriculture
Organization of
the United Nations**

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAM

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

CODEX COMMITTEE ON PESTICIDE RESIDUES

**Recent developments in CCPR on the establishment of
Maximum Residue Limits For Pesticides in Food and Feed**

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CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues



**Facilitate
international trade**

CAC's mandate:

- Protect consumers' health
- Ensure fair trade practices

Dual Objective

Codex Alimentarius Commission: Structure –
General committees dealing with food safety →

– Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues

- Establish priority list of pesticides for evaluation by JMPR
- Establish maximum residue limits (MRLs) for pesticides in food and feed moving in international trade
- Establish Extraneous MRLs (EMRLs) for environmental and industrial contaminants in food and feed (associated with the former use of pesticides in agriculture)
- Consider methods of analysis and sampling for the determination of pesticide residues
- Consider any matter related to the safety of food and feed containing pesticide residues



PRIORITY LIST OF PESTICIDES FOR EVALUATION BY JMPR



- **New Evaluations** → new compounds and accompanying MRLs
 - *Principles and procedures for reviews of new compounds in parallel with national registration agencies and JMPR*
- **Additional Evaluations** → more MRLs for existing compounds
- **Other Evaluations** → Anything not considered about e.g. completion of the safety assessment with a view to providing MRLs, responses from JMPR to CCPR concern forms confirming or revising the MRLs etc.
- **Periodic Reviews** → For compounds that have not been fully assessed for more than 15 years, in no case, for more than 25 years ⇒ full dossier (toxicology to review/revise the health reference values + residue field trials to confirm/revise the existing MRLs)
 - *Database of national registration of pesticides to support periodic reviews of compounds by CCPR/JMPR*
 - *Management of unsupported compounds without public health concern scheduled for periodic review*



ESTABLISHMENT OF MRLs and EMRLs FOR PESTICIDES IN FOOD AND FEED



- **CCPR53 (July, 2021)** → Virtual Session considered 2 Sessions of JMPR - Extraordinary and Regular Session (May & September 2019) to address the JMPR backlog for additional MRLs and new compounds/MRLs:
Outcomes
 - ≈ 500 MRLs for different combinations of pesticide/commodity(ies) that have been included in the current list of Codex MRLs available for international trade following adoption by CAC44 (2021)
 - 6 new compounds included in the Codex List of Pesticides (3 of them JMPR was able to recommend MRLs for consideration by CCPR)
- **Establishment of EMRLs** → MRLs for pesticides no longer used in agriculture but which could give rise to residues in food due to their persistence in the environment for which maximum residue limits are required to protect public health and facilitate trade:
 - Aldrin/Dieldrin (1), Chlordane (12), DDT (21), Endrin (33), Heptachlor (43) and Lindane (48) → ≈ 60 EMRLs



METHODS OF ANALYSS AND OTHER FOOD SAFETY ISSUES



- **Methods of Analysis:** *Guidelines on Performance Criteria for Methods of Analysis for the Determination of Pesticide Residues in Food and Feed (CXG 90-2017)*
 - Integration of the *Guidelines on the Use of Mass Spectrometry (MS) for Identification, Confirmation and Quantitative Determination of Residues (CXG 56-2005)*
- **Other Issues:**
 - Revision of the *Classification of Food and Feed (CXM 4-1987)*: Food of animal origin commodities (fresh and processed)
 - Guidelines for compounds of low public health concern that may be excepted from the establishment of Codex MRLs (bio-pesticides)
 - Coordination of work between the Codex Committees on Pesticide Residues and Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods on the establishment of single/harmonized MRLs for compounds with dual uses in food of animal origin
 - Monitoring the purity and stability of certified reference material of multi-class pesticides during prolonged storage



METHODS OF ANALYSS AND OTHER FOOD SAFETY ISSUES



- **Other issues coming up**

- Mitigation of trade impacts associated with the use of environmental inhibitors in agriculture.
- Modification of Group 14 (Assorted fruits – inedible peel) of *the Guideline on the portion of commodities to which MRLs apply and which is analyzed* (CXG 41-1993).
- Specific operational procedures to resolve CCPR backlog in MRL adoption, triggered by COVID-19 pandemic.



CODEX TEXTS FOR PESTICIDES



- Available free or charge on the Codex website:
<http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/en/>
- CODEX Database for Pesticides (MRLs and EMRLs)
- Other guidance documents to aid establishment of MRLs by CCPR and Codex members
 - Methods of analysis (performance criteria) and sampling
 - Selection of Representative Commodities for Extrapolation of MRLs for the establishment of Group MRLs (in particular for minor crops)
 - Classification of Food and Feed (including minor crops)

CCPR – Challenges: General Issues



- Priority setting at CCPR level
- Funding of FAO/WHO Expert Bodies
- Data generation in developing countries
- Divergent Risk Assessment Policies
 - e.g. JMPR vs EFSA (European Food Safety Authority)
- Divergent Risk Management Approaches
 - e.g. Set as many MRLs for single products as opposed as many MRLs for group of products
- Absence of CXLs – Import tolerances at the level of detection / quantification (LOD/LOQ levels) \cong 0 Tolerance (low levels / traces of pesticides)
- Enforcement of MRLs – Codex reference analytical methods vs criteria approach



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Thank you for your attention