Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF)

Last Meeting: 8th Session, 31 March – 4 April 2014, The Hague, The Netherlands

Full Report of the 8th Session – Link to Report & Agenda

Next Meeting: 9th Session TBA

NZ Delegation Report of the 8th session of CCCF

- Proposed ML of 0.01 ppm for lead in infant formula as consumed, held over from CCCF7 pending data from regions who felt that the data did not represent their situation, was advanced to steps 5/8 at this meeting as no data was submitted to JECFA to show that there was any difficulty in meeting it.
- MLs for lead in small fruit and vegetables were held to allow time for submission of more data as some fruit and vegetables claimed to be unable to meet the proposed lowered level. Next session to finalise decision.
- New ML for arsenic in polished rice advanced to step 5/8 at 0.2 ppm. Proposal for husked rice ML at 0.4 ppm returned to EWG for further consideration.
- Proposal for new work for Japan and China to lead an EWG on drafting a Code of Practice for arsenic in rice was accepted for advancement to CAC.
- There was no agreement for MLs for deoxynivalenol (DON) in cereals. As there was no willingness to negotiate on this issue, JECFA offered and will consider the issue and propose a new way forward involving phased MLs lowering over time. More data called for on residues of acetylated DON.
- New MLs proposed for fumonisins in maize grain (4ppm) and maize flour (2ppm). Reconsideration of the flour ML to occur within three years, after impact on trade of lowering this to 1ppm was considered.
- The General Standard for Contaminants in Foods and Feeds was finally agreed (at the third attempt).
- The draft Code of Practice for reduction of pyrrolizidine alkaloids in foods was advanced to steps 5/8.
- New work was proposed for drafting a discussion paper on prioritisation of work on mycotoxins in spices and a Code of Practice for the reduction of mycotoxins in spices.
- New work on interpretation of radionuclide levels in foods also proposed. New Zealand will have a strong interest in this.
- Existing list of JECFA priorities updated and confirmed, and two new mycotoxins added, as was risk assessment of potential MLs for inorganic arsenic in rice.