

**REPORT OF THE UNITED STATES DELEGATE
ON THE 42nd SESSION OF THE
CODEX COMMITTEE ON METHODS OF ANALYSIS AND SAMPLING (CCMAS42)**

**12-16 June 2023
Budapest, Hungary**

BACKGROUND SUMMARY

The Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS) was held from 12-16 June 2023 in Budapest, Hungary, in hybrid format. The meeting was chaired by Hungary and attended by 49 Member Countries, one Member Organization (the European Union, EU), 1 Observer Country, and 13 observer organizations. The United States was represented by the U.S. Delegate, Dr. Patrick Gray from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and the U.S. Alternate Delegate, Dr. Tim Norden from the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS). Other members of the U.S. delegation included representatives from the U.S. Codex Office and the FDA.

The meeting opened with a welcome from Dr. Márton Nobilis, the State Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture of Hungary. Additional welcome statements were provided by Codex Alimentarius Commission Chair Steve Wearne and Mr. Nabil Gangi, of the Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia (REU) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), who also spoke on behalf of the World Health Organization (WHO).

In addition to the business of the Committee, side events were held on matters related to CCMAS work. The Inter-Agency Meeting on Methods of Analysis (IAM) was held on Sunday June 10 and attended by the chairs of the working groups and representatives from the standards development organizations. The physical working group (PWG) on methods endorsement was chaired by the United States and held on Monday June 11.

HIGHLIGHTS

The 42nd Session of CCMAS agreed to:

- Endorse methods related to standards developed by the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU), Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF), and the FAO/WHO Regional Coordinating Committees for Asia (CCASIA), North America and the South West Pacific (CCNASWP), and Africa (CCAFRICA)
- Forward the revised *Guidelines on Sampling* (CXG 50-2004) to the next session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC46, November 2023) for final adoption
- Publish the Information Document related to the *Guidelines on Measurement Uncertainty* (CXG 54-2004) on the CCMAS webpage
- Publish the Information Document: *Guidance on the Selection of Type II methods from multiple Type III methods* as part of the CCMAS Information Document *Comprehensive guidance for the process of submission, consideration, and endorsement of methods for inclusion in the Recommended Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CXS 234-1999)*
- Establish electronic working groups (EWGs) for the continued review of methods in the *Recommended Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CXS 234-1999)* for fish and fishery products and fruit juices

- Establish an EWG to develop a discussion paper on best practices for the selection of validated analytical food allergen methods, and for the validation of such methods (chaired by the United States, co-chaired by the United Kingdom, UK)
- Establish an EWG to recommend numeric performance criteria for the determination of nitrate and nitrite ions in food and identify methods that meet those criteria (chaired by the United States).

A detailed summary of the meeting of the 42nd Session is given below. The official report of CCMAS42 will be posted on the Codex Website at [CCMAS42 Report](#)

NEXT SESSION OF CCMAS

The 43rd Session of CCMAS is tentatively scheduled for May 13-17, 2024, in Hungary.

MEETING SUMMARY

MATTERS REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE BY THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND OTHER SUBSIDIARY BODIES

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 answer the questions referred by other committees including the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Food (CCCF) and the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene, (CCFH) so that their work could continue. Most requests were considered in the physical working group on methods endorsements, chaired by the United States.

Outcome/ Conclusion

The Committee agreed to performance criteria and sampling plans for aflatoxins, lead, and cadmium (CCCF) and to suggest revocation of those typed methods. Once the numeric performance criteria are endorsed at CAC, *General Methods of Analysis for Contaminants (CXS-228-2001)* will be revoked. Aflatoxin criteria were prepared by the United States and the EU, and lead and cadmium criteria were prepared by the United States and Brazil.

CCMAS was not able to review or endorse methods in *General Methods for the Detection of Irradiated Foods (CXS 231-2001)*, referred by the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH), and will gather additional information for review at the next CCMAS. The committee established an EWG chaired by the United States and co-chaired by the United Kingdom (UK) to answer the allergen question from the Codex Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL) and an EWG chaired by the United States to answer the question on nitrate methods from the Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA).

Other Comments

The EWG on nitrate methods should be able to recommend numeric performance criteria and list examples of methods that meet the criteria by the next session of CCMAS. The EWG on food allergen methods will prepare a discussion paper that proposes to harmonize terminology and approaches to food allergen testing. The United States expects this discussion paper to require more than one year to finish and will not conclude at the next CCMAS.

One hinderance to completing this work was the very late submission of matters referred. Agenda items were uploaded to the CCMAS meeting page only three weeks prior to the CCMAS start.

**ENDORSEMENT OF METHODS OF ANALYSIS PROVISIONS AND SAMPLING
PLANS IN CODEX STANDARDS**

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

United States Objective

The United States objective was to endorse methods put forth by CCNFSDU, CCASIA, CCNASWP, CCAFRICA, and the Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH).

Outcome/ Conclusion

The methods from CCNFSDU, CCASIA, and CCAFRICA were largely endorsed, and where the methods were not, clarifying questions were sent back to those committees.

The methods from CCSCH could not be endorsed because there were several clarifying questions that needed to be answered before the methods could be correctly evaluated and then endorsed. A list of specific questions was prepared and will be sent back to CCSCH. Once answered, the methods for the CCSCH standards should be endorsed at a future CCMAS.

Methods to determine moisture in milk and milk products were intensely discussed and debated.

Other Comments

The major debate during the PWG and plenary dealt with methods to determine moisture in milk and milk products. Prior to 2004, moisture in milk and milk products was measured by drying in an oven at 102°C. However, there were problems with foods containing lactose, and so CCMAS endorsed a new method in 2006 for drying at 87°C using a specially designed oven. Some South American countries have stated they are unable to purchase and/or calibrate this specially designed 87°C oven. Because provisions are reported on a dry weight basis, the moisture determination is a critical step that affects all other provisions such as the protein content, milkfat, etc. Uruguay, Argentina, and Brazil introduced a method identical to the revoked pre-2004 method, and suggested it replace the current 87°C oven method. The Committee was split, with many developed country delegations (including the United States) arguing that the current method was most appropriate, and many developing country delegations arguing that this excluded them from trade since that oven was not easily available to them. The Committee decided to retain the current 87°C oven method as the Type I method (method used in case of dispute) and list the 102°C oven method as a Type IV method in an annex to the *Recommended Methods of Analysis and Sampling* (CXS 234-1999). This is likely a temporary solution that will need to be addressed at a future CCMAS. There is a possibility this issue will be raised at CAC if countries believe strongly that the more expensive 87°C oven method is a barrier to trade.

**REVIEW OF METHODS OF ANALYSIS IN CXS 234: FATS AND OILS
WORKABLE PACKAGE**

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 complete the review of methods for the fats and oils group of commodities in *Recommended Methods of Analysis and Sampling* (CXS-234-199).

Outcome/ Conclusion

The EWG was chaired by the Netherlands and work was done through the Codex EWG Forum. The United States participated in the EWG reviewing fats and oils methods, and the U.S. comments were included in the EWG report. The Committee agreed to accept the EWG recommendations, and the review of the fats and oils methods was completed.

Other Comments

None

**REVIEW OF METHODS OF ANALYSIS IN CXS 234: CEREALS, PULSES AND
LEGUMES WORKABLE PACKAGE**

To Be Presented for Adoption at Next CAC? Yes
Have the United States' Objectives Been Met? Yes
Is this contentious? No

United States Objective

The United States objective was to endorse the work from the EWG and re-establish the EWG to finish the methods review.

Outcome/ Conclusion

The EWG was chaired by Canada and work was done through the Codex EWG forum. The United States participated in the EWG reviewing cereals, pulses, and legumes methods, and the U.S. comments were included in the EWG report. The Committee agreed to accept the EWG work, but there were still questions on methods that had not been finished in the EWG. Further, there were method submissions from standards development organizations (SDOs) that were not addressed. The methods that had consensus upon review were endorsed, and methods that required further evaluation, as well as newly submitted methods, will be considered under the reestablished EWG (again chaired by Canada) for discussion at the next CCMAS.

Other Comments

Approximately half of the methods for cereals, pulses, and legumes in *the Recommended Methods of Analysis and Sampling* (CXS 234-1999) were reviewed and changes were endorsed. It is expected that the remaining methods will be reviewed over the next 12 months with endorsement at the next CCMAS. Once complete, the cereals, pulses and legumes review will conclude.

REVIEW OF METHODS OF ANALYSIS IN CXS 234: PROCESSED FRUITS AND VEGETABLE WORKABLE PACKAGE

To Be Presented for Adoption at Next CAC? Yes
Have the United States' Objectives Been Met? Yes
Is this contentious? No

United States Objective

The United States objective was to complete the review of methods for the processed fruits and vegetables group of commodities in the *Recommended Methods of Analysis and Sampling* (CXS 234-1999).

Outcome/ Conclusion

The United States chaired and participated in the EWG reviewing processed fruits and vegetable methods, and the U.S. comments were included in the EWG report. The Committee agreed to accept the EWG work, and the review of the processed fruits and vegetable methods was completed.

Other Comments

As stated above, new EWGs were formed to review methods related to fish and fishery products (chaired by Norway), and fruit juices (chaired by Germany). This work will take place over the next year on the Codex EWG Forum.

INFORMATION DOCUMENT: GUIDELINES ON MEASUREMENT UNCERTAINTY (CXG 54-2004)

To Be Presented for Adoption at Next CAC? No
Have the United States' Objectives Been Met? Yes
Is this contentious? 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 publish the information document on the CCMAS website.

Other Comments

There were some slight revisions to the document. This work has been ongoing since 2018 within an EWG and there has been ample opportunity for input. Therefore, the document was vetted before the CCMAS meeting, and there were not many comments from delegates during plenary. The document is informational only and is expected to be helpful to those who seek its examples and explanations, but optional for countries who do not.

**REVISION OF THE GENERAL GUIDELINES ON SAMPLING
(CXG 50-2004)**

To Be Presented for Adoption at Next CAC? Yes
Have the United States' Objectives Been Met? Yes
Is this contentious? No

United States Objective

The U.S. objective was to help move the guidelines to Step 8, for final adoption, at the next CAC (CAC46, November 2023).

Outcome/ Conclusion

The Committee agreed to accept the recommendations of the EWG and hold an in-session working group to review the guidelines on sampling. The in-session working group explained changes proposed by the EWG and took comments. Revisions were made outside of the plenary considering the comments made, and the further revised guidelines were endorsed by the plenary.

Other Comments

The revision of general guidelines on sampling is meant to provide background and explanation on how to set up a sampling plan. The intended users of these guidelines are the other relevant Codex committees. The guidelines are to provide the background in future electronic sampling applications (apps), i.e., apps that can be used to provide sampling plans for commodities instead of using the complicated statistical equations in these guidelines. These guidelines are not meant to be used directly; rather, commodity committees will be able to use electronic apps to be developed in future CCMAS work as a “plug and play” approach to develop appropriate sampling plans.

**DISCUSSION PAPER ON CRITERIA TO SELECT TYPE II METHODS FROM
MULTIPLE TYPE III METHODS**

To Be Presented for Adoption at Next CAC? No
Have the United States' Objectives Been Met? Yes
Is this contentious? No

United States Objective

The United States' objective was to include this guidance document in the current Information Document, *Comprehensive guidance for the process of submission, consideration, and endorsement of methods for inclusion in the Recommended Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CXS 234-1999)*, as it would assist CCMAS in the choice of Type II methods going forward.

Outcome/ Conclusion

The Committee agreed to include the slightly revised document in the CCMAS information document *Comprehensive guidance for the process of submission, consideration, and endorsement of methods for inclusion in the Recommended Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CXS 234-1999)*.

Other Comments

There were some minor revisions during plenary.

FUTURE WORK

To Be Presented for Adoption at Next CAC? No
Have the United States' Objectives Been Met? Yes
Is this contentious? No

United States Objective

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

Outcome/ Conclusion

The Committee agreed to establish new EWG to focus on methods for nitrate and food allergens, and to review methods for fish and fishery products and fruit juices. The Committee also agreed to reestablish an EWG on methods review for cereals, pulses, and legumes, and guidelines for sampling. The United States will chair the EWG on nitrates and food allergens and will participate in the EWGs for cereals, pulses, and legumes; fish and fishery products; and fruit juices. The United States will also co-chair the physical working group on methods endorsement.

Other Comments

CCMAS completed much of the work on its agenda this year. Two of the three commodity group method reviews in *the Recommended Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CXS 234-1999)* concluded (fat and oils, processed fruits and vegetables), and two new commodity group reviews began (fish and fishery products, fruit juices). Measurement uncertainty, Type II/III endorsement procedures, and sampling guidance all progressed. It is expected that methods for food allergens will take quite a few years to develop and endorse. The Codex Secretariat asked member countries to think of new work that might be proposed at the next session. The EU suggested methods to determine food authenticity or economic adulteration as a future topic.