

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE MICROBIOLOGICAL SAFETY OF FOOD**Codex Committee on Food Hygiene Meeting, December 2006**

1. This note summarises the main outcomes of the 38th session of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH), which was held in Houston, Texas 3-9 December 2006. The session was attended by 54 member countries and organisations, representatives of FAO and WHO, and by 10 observer bodies. 15 EU Member States attended along with the European Commission, Finnish Presidency and Council Secretariat. The full report of the 38th session can be accessed at: http://www.codexalimentarius.net/download/report/671/al30_13e.pdf

2. The Committee had a very productive session, completing work on three texts and taking on one new piece of work, which was considered using the Committee's new work management procedure. In summary the Committee:

- Agreed to advance three documents to the Codex Alimentarius Commission for adoption.
 - Principles and Guidelines for the Conduct of Microbiological Risk Management (MRM).
 - Code of Hygienic Practice for Eggs and Egg Products.
 - Guidelines on the Application of General Principles of Food Hygiene to the Control of *L. monocytogenes* in Ready To Eat Foods.
- Agreed to take forward new work on Proposed Guidelines for Control of *Campylobacter* and *Salmonella* spp. in Broiler (young bird) Chicken Meat. The Committee agreed that the two proposals for work on *Salmonella* in broilers and *Campylobacter* in poultry should be merged and accepted as a single piece of new work. A Working Group was established, which will review the available FAO/WHO risk assessments before deciding what additional scientific advice is required. The UK has been substantially involved in this area in the past and will continue to participate.
- Discussed several pieces of ongoing work:
 - Draft Code of Hygienic Practice for Powdered Formulae for Infants and Young Children – provided revised scope and structure for working group to consider.
 - Annex III to the Microbiological Risk Management Principles and Guidelines document on 'Examples of the Use of Food Safety Objectives (FSO), Performance Objectives (PO), Performance Criteria (PC)' – Working group to review.

- Annex to the egg code on 'Microbiocidal Treatment and the Application of FSOs, POs and PCs' – to be considered with the MRM Annex III.
- Draft Guidelines for the Validation of Food Hygiene Control Measures – returned for further work by the working group.
- Endorsed with comments the Draft Code of Practice for Fish and Fishery Products. The committee decided that the Draft Standard for Live and Raw Bivalve Molluscs was not yet suitable for endorsement and made detailed comments.

3. The Committee did not reach a consensus regarding removal of current international trade restrictions on milk subjected to treatment using lactoperoxidase. Further guidance would be sought from the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

4. The Committee agreed that the development of a Draft Code of Hygienic Practice for Management of Pathogenic *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* in Seafood will be re-considered as new work at the next session.

5. New work on guidelines for the Control of noroviruses in Bivalve Molluscan Shellfish would not be undertaken at this time because the risk profile was incomplete. An FAO/WHO consultation on Foodborne Viruses would be undertaken in 2007 to address this, and would be hosted by the Netherlands.

6. The USA indicated that at the next session they intended to submit proposals for new work on Guidelines for the Application of the General Principles of Food Hygiene to Risk Based Control of Enterohemorrhagic *E.coli* in Ground Beef and Fermented Sausages, which had been due to be submitted in 2006.

7. The USA also informed the Committee that it intended to propose commodity specific annexes to the existing Code of Hygienic Practice for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables as new work at the next session. A circular letter would be issued seeking views and priorities on the new work and a proposal for an FAO/WHO expert consultation on the issue.

8. An FAO/WHO expert consultation on the uses of active chlorine is expected to be held in 2007.

Secretariat
March 2007