

## ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE MICROBIOLOGICAL SAFETY OF FOOD

## INFORMATION PAPER

Codex Committee on Food Hygiene Meeting, 2013

1. This note summarises the main outcomes of the 45th session of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH) which was held in Ha Noi, Viet Nam from 11 to 15 November 2013. The Session was well attended with 239 delegates representing 73 member countries, 1 member organization and 16 international organizations including FAO and WHO. Sixteen EU Member States attended. The Committee had a productive session significantly advancing work on two texts, providing comments on matters of interest to other committees and taking on two new pieces of work. In summary:
2. In summary, the Committee agreed to advance the following texts to the 37th session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) for adoption:
  - Amendments to the Definitions of the Principles and Guidelines for the Conduct of Microbiological Risk Assessment (CAC/GL 30 -1999) for adoption;
  - Proposed Draft Code of Hygienic Practice for Spices and Dried Aromatic Herbs (CAC/RCP 42-1995), for adoption at Step 5/8; and
  - Proposed Draft Guidelines for the Control of *Trichinella* spp. in meat of Suidae and for the Control of *Taenia saginata* in meat of domestic cattle, for adoption at Step 5/8.
3. The Committee agreed to seek approval from the Commission to two new work areas on:
  - Guidelines for the Control of non-typhoidal *Salmonella* spp. in Beef and Pork Meat to be led by the USA and co-chaired with Denmark ; and
  - Guidelines on the Application of General Principles of Food Hygiene to the Control of Foodborne Parasites to be led by Japan with Canada as co-chair.
4. The Committee agreed to:
  - Further consider an Annex on the statistical and mathematical considerations to the Principles and Guidelines for the Establishment and Application of Microbiological Criteria Related to Foods (CAC/GL 21-1997);
  - Return the Proposed Draft Code of Hygienic Practice for Low-Moisture Foods to Step 2 for redrafting, circulation for comments at Step 3 and consideration at its next session;
  - Continue consideration of the need to revise the Code of Hygienic Practice for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (CAC/RCP 53-2003); and

- A Forward Workplan for the Committee and to a revised “Process by which the Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH) will Undertake its Work”, which includes revised criteria and weighting values to be applied when considering new work proposals and updating the Forward Workplan and to use the criteria on an experimental basis.

## **Update from FAO/WHO**

5. FAO/WHO provided an update on recent activities. A technical meeting on the statistical and mathematical considerations for the elaboration of microbiological criteria was held in October. The committee agreed to establish an electronic working group led by Japan and Finland to examine the report of the WHO/FAO expert meeting when available and to provide recommendations to CCFH on development of an annex on the statistical and mathematical considerations of establishing microbiological criteria.
6. A peer review of practical examples for the establishment and implementation of microbiological criteria had been undertaken and articles would be published in 2014. Material would also be posted on the FAO and WHO websites.
7. On parasites in food FAO/WHO had developed risk-based examples for the control of *Trichinella* spp. and *Taenia saginata*. A meeting was held on 22-25 October 2013 and a summary report is available on the ftp website. Peer review of the risk profiles for these organisms was undertaken by parasitologists and the profiles are included on the FAO and WHO websites. The ranking of foodborne parasites meeting report was expected to be published on the website shortly.
8. An expert workshop on methodology for detection and enumeration of *Vibrio vulnificus* and *V parahaemolyticus* in seafood was scheduled to be held in Santiago, Chile from 2-6 December 2013.
9. The report of the 45th Session of the CCFH is available on the Codex website at: [http://www.codexalimentarius.org/download/report/805/REP14\\_FHe.pdf](http://www.codexalimentarius.org/download/report/805/REP14_FHe.pdf)

**Secretariat**  
**January 2014**