

California Specialty Crops Council MRL Workshop 2009

San Francisco 2-4 June 2009

Codex Alimentarius

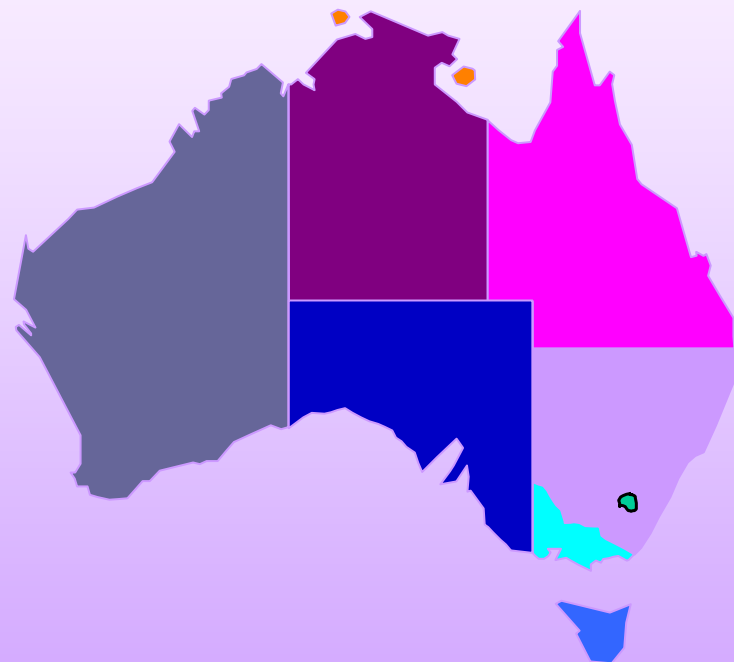
Setting global standards

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www.daff.gov.au/nrs

www.apvma.gov.au



Topics

Overview of Codex Alimentarius

Codex Committees

CCPR

Step Procedure

Prioritisation





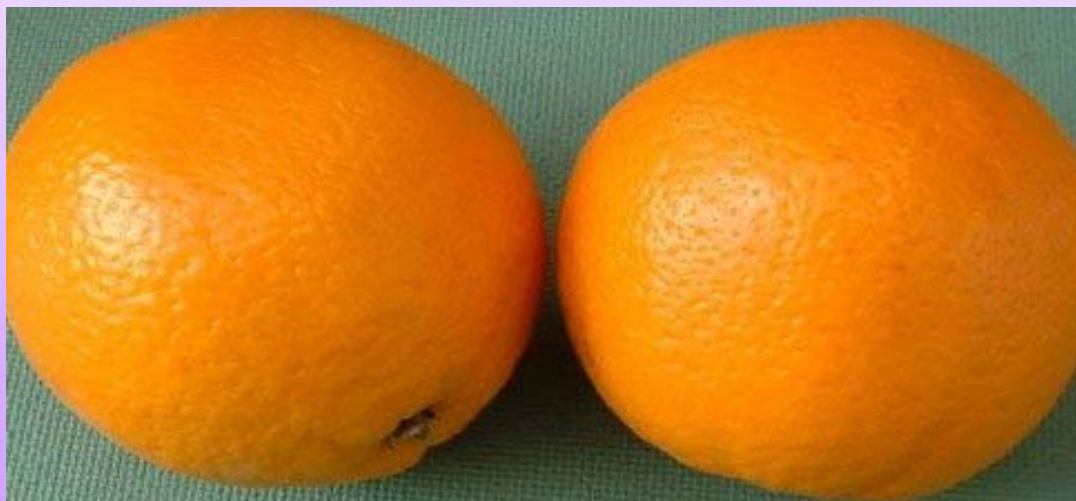
Codex Alimentarius Commission



Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme

Since 1962

Headquarters in Rome, Italy



Codex Alimentarius Commission Mandate

- Protect the health of consumers and ensure fair practices in the food trade
- Coordinate all food standards work undertaken by international governmental and non-governmental organisations
- Determine priorities and initiate and guide the preparation of draft standards
- Finalise draft standards and publish them in the Codex Alimentarius either as regional or worldwide standards
- Amend published standards, after appropriate consideration in the light of developments.





CODEX ALIMENTARIUS

= Food Code

Collection of internationally adopted food standards and their provisions including:

Standards for all the principal foods, whether processed, semi-processed or raw, for distribution to the consumer

Materials for further processing into foods are included to the extent necessary to achieve the purpose of the Codex Alimentarius

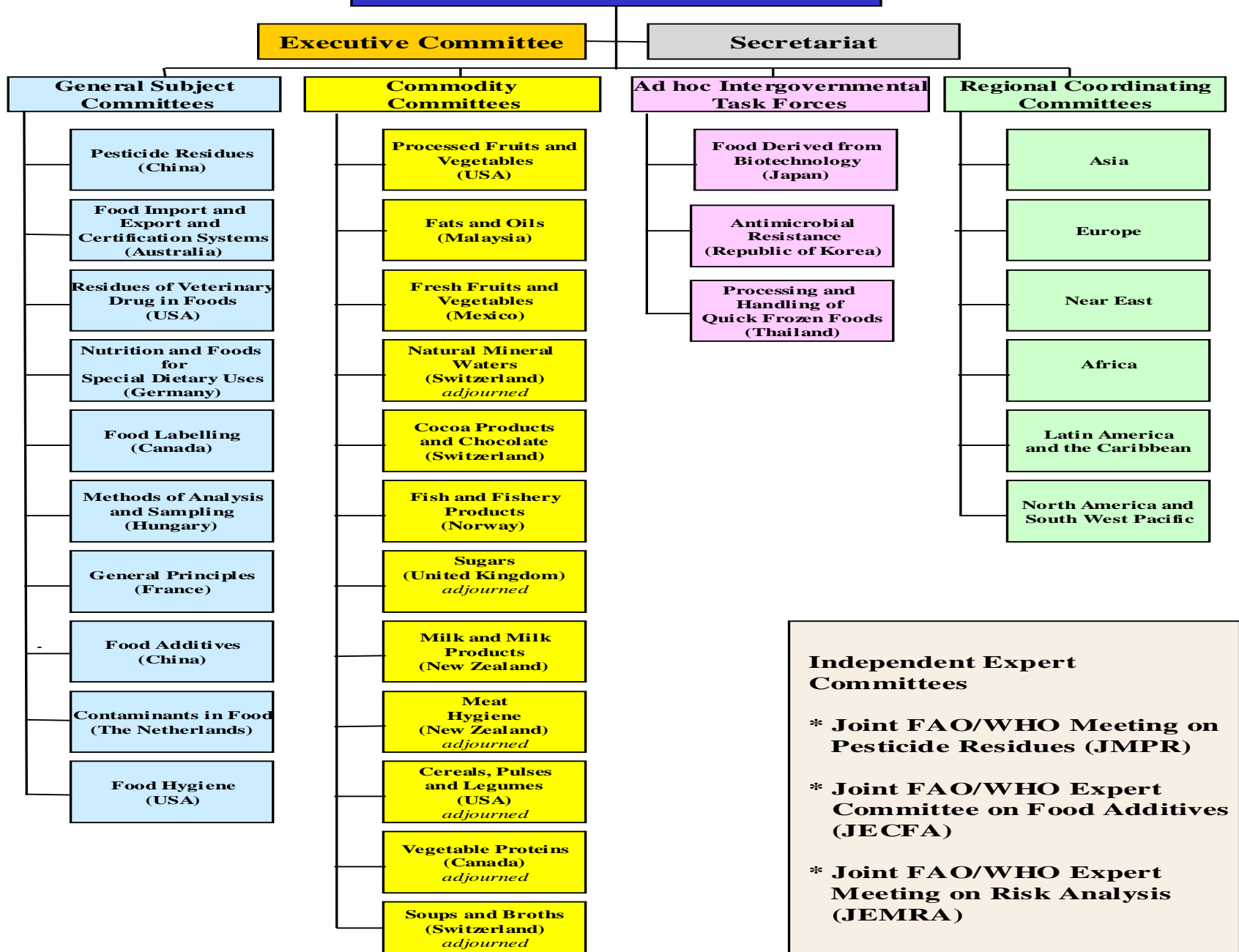
General provisions in respect of contaminants, food additives, food hygiene, inspection & certification, labelling & presentation, methods of analysis and sampling, pesticide residues, veterinary drug residues, codes of practice, guidelines and other recommended measures.



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Program

Codex Alimentarius Commission



Relationship between Codex and the WTO

WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement)

- Measures applied to protect human, animal and plant health.

WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT Agreement)

- Measures related to technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures and applies to all commodities, not just food.



Relationship between Codex and the WTO

Filling Method (SPS)
* Codex Code of Hygienic Practice

Product Description (TBT)
* Codex Standard for Fruit and Vegetable Juices

Pesticide residues (SPS) *
Codex MRLs



Packaging material in direct contact with food (SPS)

Labelling (TBT)
* Codex General Standard for Labelling of Prepackaged Foods

Additives (SPS)
* Codex General Standard for Food Additives



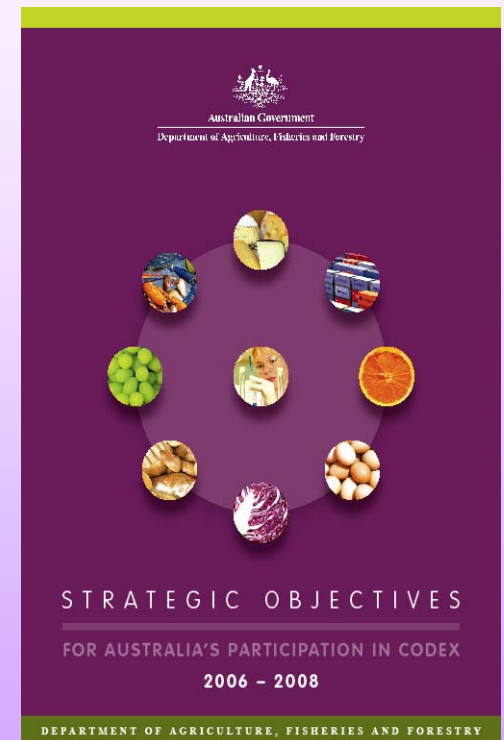
Why is Codex Important ?

Potential to impact on food industry

International standards must be based on science

Consumers right to access safe food

Fair practices in food trade



Why Australia is Involved?

Improve outcomes for domestic food safety and public health policies.

Enhance opportunities for Australian agricultural and food industries, particularly in respect of their trade interests.

Promote Australia's objective, science-based risk analyses on public health and safety in the most important, globally-recognised food standards setting body.

Influence the development of international standards so they are consistent with Australian standards.

Ensure the interests of Australian consumers, producers, processors and governments are taken into account when Codex standards are developed.



CCPR basics

Codex MRL – max concentration of pesticide residue (mg/kg) recommended by CAC to be permitted in food and animal feed.

**MRL compliant commodities – safe for human consumption
Codex MRLs may facilitate international trade**

**Codex MRLs are derived from evaluations of technical data by the JMPR
WHO - toxicological assessment – ADI and ARfD
FAO - residue assessment – MRL recommendation**

**Codex risk analysis framework
JMPR – risk assessors
CCPR – risk managers**

**CCPR workload managed through
Codex step procedure**



CCPR terms of reference

establish maximum limits for pesticide residues in specific food items or in groups of food;

establish maximum limits for pesticide residues in certain animal feeding stuffs moving in international trade where this is justified for reasons of protection of human health;

prepare priority lists of pesticides for evaluation by the Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPR);

consider methods of sampling and analysis for the determination of pesticide residues in food and feed;

consider other matters in relation to the safety of food and feed containing pesticide residues; and,

establish maximum limits for environmental and industrial contaminants showing chemical or other similarity to pesticides, in specific food items or groups of food.



The CCPR Step Procedure

Codex MRLs (CXLs) for pesticide residues in food are introduced in a formal step-wise procedure. The procedure gives countries adequate opportunity for comment and the introduction of new information.

- Step 1** Recommendation of priority compounds by CCPR, involving the Electronic Working Group on Priorities, managed by Australia, discussions at CCPR and the JMPR Joint Secretariat
- Step 2** First evaluation of the compound by the JMPR; estimation of the ADI and ARfD and recommendations (proposed draft MRLs) to CCPR.
- Step 3** Submission of the proposed Codex MRLs to governments for a first round of comments
- Step 4** First discussion of the proposed MRL by the CCPR in the light of the comments received
- Step 5** Submission of the proposed Codex MRL to the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) in the light of the CCPR discussion, for consideration
- Step 6** Submission of the proposed Codex MRLs to governments for a second round of comments
- Step 7** Final discussion of the proposed Codex MRLs by the CCPR in the light of comments received
- Step 7a** The proposed MRL is not further advanced in the procedure until a full toxicology evaluation is completed by the JMPR
- Step 7b** The proposed MRL is referred back to the JMPR for re-consideration, in the light of new information provided
- Step 7c** The proposed MRL is not advanced, waiting for further information as specified
- Step 8** Consideration by the CAC in view of adoption of the proposal as a Codex MRL (CXL).



The CCPR Step 5/8 – accelerated procedure

Step 5/8

- proposed Codex MRL is submitted to the CAC at Step 5;
- there seems to be no concerns and no need for further discussion at Steps 6 and 7,
- omission of these Steps is recommended to the Commission.

CCPR38 decided that:

- JMPR Report is available by early February in the year following the JMPR meeting
- CCPR would consider the advancement of all new MRLs circulated at Step 3 to Step 5/8 for adoption as Codex CXLs.

Codex MRLs set 18 months after JMPR call for data for new chemical evaluation

MRLs will not be advanced to Step 5/8 if :

- the JMPR has identified intake concerns or
- a member has expressed science-based concern over advancement and has committed to submit information/data in support of their concern within one month of the CCPR meeting.



The prioritisation process

July/August – Chair EWG sends broadcast email to EWG members to recommence prioritisation activities

30 September - manufacturers provide 'early nominations'

30 November - sponsoring countries provide nomination

(All nomination emails are copied to the FAO and WHO JMPR secretariats)

The information in the nominations should include:

- **chemical name, type of evaluation, sponsoring country, commodities for which residue evaluation is requested.**

The sponsor should verify:

- **a commitment regarding the date that data will be available to JMPR**
- **that the chemical gives rise to residues in or on a food or feed commodity moving in international trade, the presence of which is (or may be) a matter of public health concern and thus create (or have the potential to create) problems in international trade**
- **current status of national registrations for the compound along with a clear indication of availability of data and national evaluations.**



The prioritisation process (continued)

December – In consultation with JMPR Secretariats, the EWG Chair will draft a revised Priority List of Compounds and agenda paper for circulation via the Codex Secretariat through a Circular Letter with a two month comment period. Comments directly to EWG Chair and JMPR Secretariats

Note: no new chemical nominations can be accepted after the CAC meeting in July for the priority schedule of the following year.

CAC meeting of 2009 in July - JMPR 'data call-in' 2009 in October - chemicals schedules for 2010

March – The EWG Chair will revise paper on the basis of comments and submit to Codex Secretariat for circulation as formal agenda paper

Almost all prioritisation activities conducted out-of-session

Minor changes to schedule following plenary discussion of chemicals at Agenda item 5

EWG and plenary discussions provide full transparency and inclusivity.

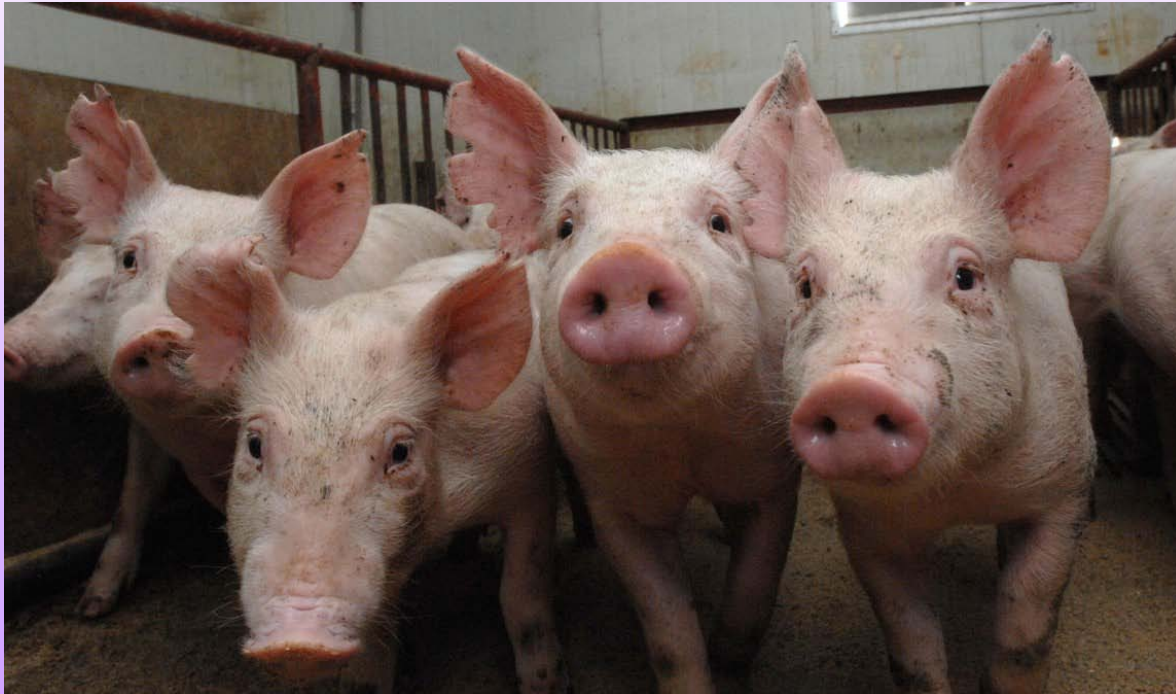
Final Priority List of Compounds is recorded in the CCPR report and adopted by CAC





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thank you



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