



Technews

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For Efficient Dairy Plant Operation

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NEW CODEX STANDARDS RELEVANT TO DAIRY INDUSTRY

This bulletin includes technical information based on latest developments on products, systems, techniques etc. reported in journals, companies' leaflets and books and based on studies and experience. The technical information in different issues is on different areas of plant operation. It is hoped that the information contained herein will be useful to readers.

The theme of information in this issue is **New Codex Standards Relevant to Dairy Industry**. It may be understood that the information given here is by no means complete.

In this issue:

- *Introduction*
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- *Standards Revoked*

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Codex standards, codes of practice and guidelines, are recognized as reference points in international trade by the World Trade Organization (WTO). Codex standards and other related texts are developed by the various Committees of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) through a specific procedure and finally approved by the Commission in its sessions. As described in Technews Issue 22 (September-October 1999), the Codex standards are developed through an 8-step procedure. For final adoption, the Codex Committees may submit to the Commission draft standards at Step 8 or 5/8, which means that Steps 6 & 7 are recommended to be omitted; or at Step 5 Accelerated where there is urgency, in which case the final endorsement is made at Step 5 itself. The draft standards are also submitted to the Commission at regular Step 5, at which the Commission may adopt them provisionally and this would then be further considered by the respective Committees.

The important decisions of the 27th Session of the Commission (Geneva, 28 June – 3 July 2004) were reported in Technews Issue 51 (July-August 2004).

The 28th Session of the Commission was held in Rome during 4-9 July 2005. The important decisions of the Commission according to its Report ALINORM 05/28/41, relevant to the dairy sector, are presented in this issue.

2. NEW STANDARDS ADOPTED

The Codex Alimentarius Commission endorsed several standards and related texts at Step 8, 5/8 or 5 Accelerated of the Codex step procedure, as proposed by different Codex Committees. These standards have now become applicable. Such standards and related texts important for dairy industry are listed below along with their salient features.

a) Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) for Pesticides (ALINORM 05/28/24; Appendices II, III & V)

The MRLs for pesticides, proposed by the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR), that have been endorsed, are given below:

Pesticides	Type of milk	MRL (ppm)
Pirimiphos-Methyl	Milks	0.01
Acephate	Milks	0.02
Methamidophos	Milks	0.02
Carbosulfan	Milks	0.03 (*)
Spinosad	Cattle milk	1
Spinosad	Cattle milk fat	5
Cyprodinil	Milks	0.0004 (*)
Famoxadone	Milks	0.03 F
Methoxyfenozide	Milks	0.01
Dithiocarbamates	Milks	0.05 (*)
Prochloraz	Milks	0.05
Ethoprophos	Milks	0.01 (*)
Bifenazate	Milks	0.01 (interim)
Fludioxonil	Milks	0.01 (interim)
Trifloxystrobin	Milks	0.02 (interim)

(*) =At or about the limit of determination

F=Residue is fat soluble

Interim= MRLs would be followed for the period of four years

b) Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Tin Contamination in Canned Foods (ALINORM 05/28/12; Appendix XXV)

The Code was proposed by the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants (CCFAC). This Code provides recommended practice to minimize tin uptake by foods packed in plain tin plate cans. This code of practice considers the migration of inorganic tin into foods from the internally plain tin coating of tinplate cans. Further, this code of practice relates to thermally processed canned foods which are packed into plain plate tins, and covers both hot fill and cold fill products and retort products.

c) Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) for Veterinary Drugs (ALINORM 05/28/31; Appendices II and III)

The MRLs proposed by CCRVDF that have been endorsed are given in the following table:

Veterinary drugs	Type of milk	MRL (ppb)
Cyhalothrin	Cattle milk	30
Neomycin	Cattle milk	1500
Imidocarb	Cattle milk	50

d) Principles for Electronic Certification (ALINORM 05/28/30; Appendix II)

The document was proposed by the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Certification Systems (CCFICS). The principles are aimed at providing guidance to those countries which wish to implement the electronic certification system, and the application of the system is not mandatory. The document would be attached as an Appendix to Codex Guidelines for

Generic Official Certification Formats and the Production and Issuance of Certificates (CAC/GL 38-2002).

e) Code of Practice to Minimize and Contain Antimicrobial Resistance (ALINORM 05/28/31; Appendix VIII)

The Code of Practice proposed by the CCRVDF has been developed to provide guidelines for the use of antimicrobial drugs in food producing animals. Its objectives are to minimize the potential adverse impact on public health resulting from the use of antimicrobial agents in food producing animals, in particular the development of antimicrobial resistance. This document defines the respective responsibilities of national regulatory authorities, the veterinary pharmaceutical industry, veterinarians, distributors and producers of food-producing animals.

f) Food Additive Provisions of the General Standard for Food Additives (ALINORM 05/28/12; Appendix X)

Several more food additives namely benzoyl peroxide, butylated hydroxyanisole (BHA), butylated hydroxytoluene (BHT), tertiary butylhydroquinone (TBHQ), diacetyltartaric and fatty acid esters of glycerol, iron oxides, brilliant blue FCF, carmines, vegetable carotenes, polysorbates, and riboflavins have been permitted to be used for specified purposes in some or several dairy products.

g) Risk Analysis Principles Applied by the CCFAC (ALINORM 05/28/41; Appendix IV)

This document addresses the respective applications of risk analysis principles by the CCFAC and the JECFA. The document provides the conditions under which the CCFAC could endorse the maximum levels for contaminants.

h) CCFAC Policy for Exposure Assessment for Contaminants and Toxins in Foods and Food Groups (ALINORM 05/28/41; Appendix IV)

Exposure Assessment is one of the components of risk assessment within the risk analysis framework adopted by Codex as the basis for all standard-setting processes. The document outlines steps in contaminant data selection and analysis undertaken by JECFA when requested by CCFAC to conduct a dietary exposure assessment.

i) Guidelines on the Use of Mass Spectrometry (MS) for Identification, Confirmation and Quantitative Determination of Residues (ALINORM 05/28/24; Appendix X)

This document provides useful guidelines on the use of mass spectrometry.

3. STANDARDS ADVANCED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION

The Commission endorsed several standards and related texts at Step 5 as proposed by different Codex Committees, which would now be circulated for comments of the member countries at Step 6 and then for further consideration at forthcoming sessions of the respective Committees. Standards and related texts important for dairy industry, which fall in the above categories, are listed below along with their salient features.

a) Draft Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) for Pesticides (ALINORM 05/28/24; Appendix VI)

Pesticides	Type of milk	MRL (ppm)
Fenitrothion	Milks	0.01
Paraquat	Milks	0.005 (*)
Pyraclostrobin	Milks	0.03
Fludioxonil	Milks	0.01

b) Draft Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) for Veterinary Drugs (ALINORM 05/28/31; Appendix V)

MRLs of the following were adopted at Step 5 and advanced for further consideration are:

Veterinary Drugs	Type of milk	MRL (ppb)
Pirlimycin	Cattle milk	100
Cypermethrin and alpha-cypermethrin	Cattle milk	100
Doramectin	Cattle milk	15

(*)=At or about the limit of determination

c) Draft Principles and Guidelines for the Conduct of Microbiological Risk Management (ALINORM 05/28/13; Appendix III)

The document provides a framework for the microbiological risk management (MRM) process and is intended for use by Codex and countries appropriately. This document also provides guidance for other interested parties, such as industry and consumers, in implementing risk management options.

4. STANDARDS REVOKED

The CAC revoked some standards as proposed by the different Codex Committees. The revoked standards are now not applicable. The important standards for dairy industry that have been revoked in this session are listed below.

a) Maximum Residue Limits for Pesticides (ALINORM 05/28/24; Appendix VIII)

MRLs for some pesticides have been revised, and therefore their existing MRLs have been revoked. These are given below:

Pesticides	Type of milk	MRL (ppm)
Pirimiphos-Methyl	Milks	0.05 (*)
Acephate	Milks	0.1
Methamidophos	Milks	0.01 (*)
Dithiocarbamates	Milks	0.05 (*)
Prochloraz	Milks	0.1 (*)

(*)=At or about the limit of determination

b) General Principles for the Use of Food Additives (CAC/MISC 1-1972)

This standard was revoked as the main content of this document was included in the proposed draft revision of the GSFA.

The complete report of the 28th Session of the CAC (ALINORM 05/28/41) can be accessed at Codex website <http://www.codexalimentarius.net>.

The next (29th) Session of the CAC is tentatively scheduled for 3-8 July 2006 in Geneva.

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Please send your letters to:

Dr. N.N. Varshney
National Dairy Development Board
PB No.40
Anand 388001
Gujarat

Fax No. (02692) 260157
Email : nnv@nddb.coop