

**European Union comments for the
CODEX COMMITTEE ON CONTAMINANTS IN FOOD
10th Session**

Rotterdam, the Netherlands, 4 – 8 April 2016

Agenda Item 6

**Proposed draft revision of maximum levels for lead in selected fruits and vegetables (fresh and processed) in the *General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed (CODEX STAN 193-1995)*
(CX/CF 16/10/7)**

*European Union Competence
European Union Vote*

The European Union (EU) welcomes and appreciates the work on the revision of the maximum levels for lead by the electronic Working Group led by the United States of America.

In general, the EU supports the recommendations for the revision of the maximum levels for lead in selected commodities as expressed in document CX/CF 16/10/7.

As regards the "juices and nectars from berries and other small fruits", it should be clarified that this entry relates to "FRUIT juices and nectars that are obtained EXCLUSIVELY from berries and other small fruits", in order to avoid confusion.

In addition, for this commodity as well as for the entry "passion fruit juice and nectar", the notion "READY TO DRINK" should be added to the entry.

For canned brassica vegetables, the EU acknowledges that insufficient data points are available. However, in view of the maximum level applicable for fresh brassica vegetables and taking into account that nowadays canning processes no longer lead to dramatic increase in lead content of the canned product, the EU proposes to align the maximum level for canned brassica to the maximum level applicable to fresh brassica awaiting new data.

Concerning the commodity "Jams (fruit preserves) and jellies", the EU agrees to lowering the maximum level to 0,1 mg/kg and considers that marmalades can be included in this category.

In view of reducing the number of very specific entries and taking into account the limited chance for additional data for such commodities, the EU proposes to combine the entries "mango chutney" with "jams and jellies", "canned chestnuts and chestnut puree" with "canned fruits" and "pickled cucumbers (cucumber pickles)" with "canned fruits".

As regards mushroom and fungi, the EU can agree to the proposed maximum level of 0,3 mg/kg. In the EU legislation, a maximum level of 0,3 mg/kg is applicable only for three named species, being the common mushroom, the oyster mushroom and the shiitake mushroom.

As regards the acceptable minimum number of samples for revising an ML, the EU considers that statistical reliable figures can be obtained when minimum 60 samples are available. However, in case a lower number of samples shows a consistent pattern of lower contamination, the EU can agree to setting maximum levels based on a lower number of samples.