

**European Union comments for the
CODEX COMMITTEE ON CONTAMINANTS IN FOOD
12th Session**

Utrecht, The Netherlands, 12-16 March 2018

Agenda Item 15

**Discussion paper on aflatoxins and sterigmatocystin
contamination in cereals**

(CX/CF 18/12/15)

*European Union Competence
European Union Vote*

The European Union (EU) welcomes and appreciates the work done by the electronic working group chaired by Brazil to elaborate the discussion paper on aflatoxins and sterigmatocystin contamination in cereals.

The EU wishes to make the following comments:

- The General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed (CXS 193-195) establishes maximum levels for Aflatoxins, Total (and Aflatoxin M1). The recommendation provided in the first bullet point of §13 and the project document in Appendix I needs therefore to specify that the new work to set a Codex ML for aflatoxins is for Aflatoxins, Total as the discussion document does not provide evidence on the appropriateness to set Codex MLs for aflatoxins other than Aflatoxins, Total.
- The recommendation provided in the first bullet point of §13 mentions to start new work to set a ML for aflatoxins in cereals and cereal-based products and in food for infants and small children while the project in Appendix I refers only to cereals and cereal-based products. This needs to be aligned.
- The EU understands that the reference to the category "cereals and cereal products" in the first bullet of §13 refers to the definition of the commodity or product provided in the *Classification of Food and Feed* (CAC/MISC 4) and not to the food category "cereals and cereal based products" used elsewhere in the discussion document (see clarification in §6 first bullet as regards the use in the discussion document of the category "cereals and cereal products").
- As regards the recommendation in the first bullet point of §13 that "specific levels should be set for other cereal food groups if data available at the time show it is essential to do so" is not clear what cereal food groups other than "cereals and cereal products" are meant by this.

- As regards the recommendation in the second bullet point of §13, the EU notes that there are validated methods of analysis for the analysis of sterigmatocystin available. The EU proposes to align this recommendation with the conclusion in §11 mentioning that there is a need for **internationally** validated analytical methods and **certified reference materials**.

- As regards the recommendation in the third bullet point of §13, the EU notes that the discussion paper does not contain information as regards prevention and reduction of sterigmatocystin contamination in cereals.