

CODEX COMMITTEE ON CONTAMINANTS IN FOOD
14th Session

Virtual session, 3-7 and 13 May 2021

Agenda Item 10 (b):

Sampling plans and performance criteria for total aflatoxins in certain cereals and cereal-based products including foods for infants and young children
(CX/CF 21/14/10 – Part II)

European Union Competence
European Union Vote

The European Union (EU) welcomes and appreciates the work done on the sampling plans and performance criteria for total aflatoxins in certain cereals and cereal-based products by the electronic Working Group chaired by Brazil and co-chaired by India.

COMMENTS ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN CX/CF 21/14/10 – Part II, paragraph 9

In reply to the recommendations in CX/CF 21/14/10-Part II, paragraph 9, the EU has following comments:

a. If sampling plans and methods performance criteria should be developed once the MLs for each of the food categories are established by CCCF.

The EU is of the opinion that the sampling plans and methods performance criteria should be discussed in parallel with the discussion on MLs to ensure that the sampling plans and method performance criteria are available once the MLs are established. For a contaminant that can heterogeneously be distributed in a given lot, as is the case for aflatoxins in cereal grains, it is important that an appropriate method of sampling of sampling is specified so that the maximum level is applied to a representative sample of the lot.

b. Whether the sampling plans and the decision rule should be aligned with the sampling plans already mentioned in the CXS 193-1995 or whether different approaches such as ISO 24333:2009, may be considered in the discussion;

The EU is of the opinion that the sampling plan and decision rule should be aligned with the sampling plans already provided in CXS 193-1995 for the control of Codex MLs for deoxynivalenol and for fumonisins (B1 + B2). As the maximum levels for total aflatoxins in cereals and cereal products under consideration and the established maximum levels for deoxynivalenol and fumonisins (B1 + B2) relates to a certain extent, it is important that the sampling procedures are aligned so that the same representative sample of the lot can be analysed for total aflatoxins, deoxynivalenol and fumonisins (B1 + B2). In addition, it is appropriate to consider to extend the sampling procedure also for the control of the Codex MLs for ochratoxin A in wheat barley and rye.

c. If CCMAS should be consulted regarding the establishment of performance criteria for a sum of components

The EU is of the opinion that it is not necessary to consult CCMAS regarding the establishment of criteria for a sum of components.

In case the maximum level applies to a sum of different components, then the criteria for precision apply to both the sum and the individual components.