

CODEX COMMITTEE ON METHODS OF ANALYSIS AND SAMPLING
42nd Session
Budapest, Hungary
13 – 16 June (physical) and 20 June 2023 (virtual)

European Union Comments on

Agenda Item 3.1:

**Endorsement of methods of analysis and sampling plans for provisions in CODEX standards
(CX/MAS 23/42/3 Add.1)**

European Union Competence
European Union Vote

The European Union (EU) welcomes the initiative from CCCF16 to align sampling plans for flour meal, semolina and flakes derived from maize and cereal-based foods for infant and young children with the DON and fumonisins sampling plans in the same commodities.

The EU wishes to make the following comments regarding the method performance criteria for aflatoxins in cereals:

Aflatoxin B1, B2, G1 and G2 are analysed with the same method of analysis and aflatoxin B1 is not the most challenging compound for achieving a reasonably low limit of quantification (LOQ). Applying the criteria approach for methods which use a 'sum of components' as described in the CCMAS Information Document, for unequally weighted components, results in limit of detection (LOD) and LOQ values that are very low and, therefore, difficult to attain with collaboratively tested methods currently available.

The EU is of the opinion that the proposed solution to allow LOD and LOQ for AFB2, AFG1 and AFG2 assuming the LOD and LOQ values of AFB1 in case that those parameters cannot be validated (marked by an asterisk in Table 3) is acceptable in principle. However, the EU would favour an amendment of the CCMAS Information Document to account for situations where the components included in the ML definition are not present in constant ratios and where the inclusion of weighing factors of the individual components results in LOD/LOQ values that cannot be validated. For such cases the EU proposes $0.5 \cdot ML/n$ as the single criterion for the LOQ of the individual components, with n being the number of components included in the ML definition.