

**European Union comments for the
CODEX COMMITTEE ON CONTAMINANTS IN FOOD
11th Session**

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 3 – 7 April 2017

Agenda Item 9:

**Proposed draft annex on ergot and ergot alkaloids in cereal grains (Annex
to the Code of Practice for the prevention and reduction of mycotoxin
contamination in cereals (CAC/RCP 51-2003)**

(CL 2017/27-CF)

*Mixed Competence
Member States Vote*

The European Union and its Member States (EUMS) welcome and appreciate the work done on the draft annex on the prevention and reduction of ergot and ergot alkaloids contamination in cereal grains by the electronic working group (eWG) chaired by Germany and co-chaired by the United Kingdom.

The EUMS wish to make following comments as regards

- §5 point a): An important factor for the reduction of infection and contamination with ergot sclerotia and ergot alkaloids is to ensure that seeding material does not contain sclerotia.

Therefore it would be appropriate to add this element to §5 point a: "Ensure **ergot free seeding material and** good establishment with optimum plant populations, applications of fertiliser and plant growth regulators and good drainage."

- § 5 point b): It is important to add the requirement to continue to control grass weeds in particular after ergot contamination as the presence of grass weeds as host to *Claviceps* maintain the inoculum present in the soil and the infection potential of the field.

Therefore it would be appropriate to add the following to §5 point b): "**The control of grass weeds should be continued in particular after a contamination by ergot has occurred on a field**".

- § 12: Sclerotia present in the harvested grain has a softer, more supple structure than the harvested cereal grains. Movement within the harvested bulk or loosely contained grains while transport or storage causes abrasion of sclerotia. This rubbed-off material has highly adhesive properties and therefore sticks to the grains. In addition, breakage can occur very easily, also meaning that very fine ergot dust can be released. This dust can deposit itself on e.g. the grain's surface, in the furrow of the grain,

Therefore the harvested grains should not be frequently transported, rolled around or relocated before cleaning, so as to minimize the breaking of sclerotia and the adhesion of ergot dust.

Therefore it would be appropriate to add the following paragraph before § 12 "**§12a:** **“Sclerotia present in the harvested grain has a softer, more supple structure than the harvested cereal grains. Therefore rubbed off materials from sclerotia that are highly adhesive can stick to the grains. In addition, breakage can occur very easily, also meaning that very fine ergot dust can be released. This dust can deposit itself on the grain's surface. Therefore it is important that the ergot sclerotia are removed from the cereal grains as soon as practicable in the cereal chain.”**”

Related to addition of §12a, and in particular the last sentence, it is appropriate to add to the current § 12 "12. **In addition,** it is important..."