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European Community COMMENTS
Codex Committee for residues of Veterinary Drugs in Food
Thirteenth Session
Charleston, South Carolina, USA, 4 - 7 December 2001

Agenda Item 12: Review of performance based criteria for methods of analysis for veterinary drug residues in foods.

The European Community supports attempts to harmonise performance criteria for methods to be employed for the control of residues.

The European Community would also support the confirmation of the general statement of CCMAS that single laboratory validation could be used for Codex purposes. We agree that guidance on the general technical details should be developed. The establishment of a laboratory network including routine and reference laboratories is also recommended for this purpose.

We agree with the statement that a key feature of the single laboratory evaluation procedure is quality assurance. Laboratories involved in residue testing programmes for regulatory purposes should be requested to implement quality assurance systems according to international standards such as EN 45001/ISO or Guide 25.

We consider it necessary that the existing international or multi-organisational method validation documents are considered. During the previous 12th Codex Committee for residues of Veterinary Drugs in Food, a draft "*proposal on performance based criteria for routine methods of analysis for residues of veterinary drugs in food*" was distributed as a conference room document [CRD 10]. This document includes performance criteria and validation parameters for analytical methods and we therefore suggest that a working group should also take this document into account.