

**CODEX COMMITTEE ON METHODS OF ANALYSIS AND SAMPLING  
(41<sup>st</sup> Session)**

**Budapest, Hungary, 17 – 21 May 2021**

**European Union Comments on**

**Agenda item 7**

**Revision of the General Guidelines on Sampling (CXG50-2004)**

**(Codex Circular Letter CL 2020/27/OCS-MAS)**

*Mixed Competence*

*Member State Vote*

The European Union and its Member States (EUMS) congratulate the eWG under the lead of New Zealand and the co-lead of the United States of America for the further development of the revision of CXG50-2004. Sampling is an essential element for the verification of provisions in Codex standards and the current version of CXG50 is a useful information source, though sometimes difficult to read and understand for non-specialists. Therefore, a revision of CXG50 with the overall aim to simplify its structure and language to provide effective guidance to all CAC subsidiary bodies and interested parties for designing/selecting sampling plans is highly welcome. The EUMS are of the opinion that the presented draft succeeded in principle in reaching the goals set out by CCMAS39 and CCMAS40 in providing not only guidance in the main document but also technical solutions in form of an e-book. The presented draft, however, could benefit from:

- Avoiding redundancy, e.g. the aspect of ‘fair and valid sampling procedures’, though of highest relevance, is over emphasised throughout the text;
- clarifying the relationship between relevant ISO standards (i.e. ISO 2859 and ISO ISO 3951) and CXG50, in particular as it relates to the presented roadmap (see 4.1.1);
- focusing on the most common scenarios encountered when developing/selecting sampling plans and providing more detail to help users of the guidance to select the correct approach related to attribute plans for sampling from discrete items/units and variable plans for sampling of bulk materials. In particular, more information regarding composite sampling (e.g. number and amount of increments, homogeneity of composite sample, sub-sampling, test portion size, etc) will be helpful. Background and plans for niche applications could be explained in the e-book.

The EUMS are aware that the proposed CGX50 text follows a different approach and style compared to the current version, which was the intent of the re-draft. Information provided as tables and figures in the current CGX50 will be moved to an e-book and will be provided in form of software apps, which is an appropriate and smart way of helping users to understand the impact of certain plans. NZL and USA as chair and co-chair are invited to inform CCMAS41 whether the software has been validated and how maintenance and access to the software can be ensured in a sustainable manner.