

## Revision in the Codex Classification of Foods and Animal Feeds (2013)

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**Abstract** Since the year of 2006 when the extended revision of the Codex Classification of Foods and Animal Feeds was undertaken, considerable progresses have been made in revising the Classification. This paper aimed to summarize the present status on revision of the Codex Classification of Foods and Animal Feeds, focusing remarkable achievements such as 1) the draft revision of the Codex Classification for the fruit commodity group and 2) the draft Principles and Guidance on the Selection of Representative Commodities for the Extrapolation of Maximum Residue Limits for Pesticides to Commodity Groups, adopted by the Codex Alimentarius Commission in 2012. Additionally, it included information on lists of crop group or subgroup which are holding at Step 7 and were adopted at Step 5, and further have not been yet discussed by the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues. These information will be very helpful for a pesticide regulatory regime.

**Key words** Codex Classification of Foods and Animal Feeds, Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues, Pesticide residue

### Revising the Codex Classification of Foods and Animal Feeds

The extended revision of the Codex Classification of Foods and Animal Feeds was undertaken by the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues, called as the Committee in this paper, when the new work was approved by the Codex Alimentarius Commission in 2006. Since then, considerable progresses have been made in revising the classification by adding new commodities and proposing new crop groups or subgroups.

At the beginning of the revision process (2007), the Committee agreed that revised individual commodity groups should not be adopted until all the revisions had been completed, in order to avoid problems, especially with the transfer of commodities from one group to the other. However, in 2010, the Committee noted the importance of the early completion of the revision of the Classification so that the revised commodity groups could be implemented in

international trade as soon as possible. Then it was agreed to advance the draft revision of the classification for the fruit types for inclusion in the classification system when all of the fruit types were completed.

### The Classification for the fruit commodity groups

In 2012, the draft revision of the Codex Classification for the fruit commodity groups was adopted by the Commission at Step 8 of an elaboration procedure of Codex Standards. In addition, revocation of the corresponding provisions in the Classification in force (CAC/MISC 4-1993) was made. Thus the revised fruit commodity groups became to supersede existing corresponding provisions in the Classification.

In parallel with the adoption of the revision of the classification for the fruit commodity groups, the draft Principles and Guidance on the Selection of Representative Commodities for the Extrapolation of Maximum Residue Limits for Pesticides to Commodity Groups was adopted by the Commission at Step 8 in 2012. The adopted one included Table 1: Examples of the Selection of Representative

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Commodities-fruit commodity groups. The examples of representative commodities by the crop group or subgroup are listed below.

Group 001 Citrus fruit: lemon or lime; mandarin; orange and pummelo or grapefruit

001A Lemons and limes: lemon or lime

001B Mandarins: mandarin

001C Oranges, Sweet, Sour: orange

001D Pummelos: pummelo or grapefruit

Group 002 Pome fruits: apple or pear

Group 003 Stone fruits: cherry, sweet or cherry, sour; plum or prune plum or peach or apricot

003A Cherries: cherry, sweet or cherry, sour

003B Plums: plum or prune plum

003C Peaches: peach or apricot

Group 004 Berries and other small fruits: blackberry or raspberry; blueberry or currants, black, red or white; elderberry; grape and strawberry

004A Cane berries: blackberry or raspberry

004B Bush berries: blueberry or currants, black, red or white

004C Large shrub/tree berries: elderberry

004D Small fruit vine climbing: grapes

004E Low growing berries: strawberry

Group 005 Assorted tropical and sub-tropical fruits - edible peel: table olives; fig or guava and date

005A Small: table olives

005B Medium to large: fig or guava

005C Palms: date

Group 006 Assorted tropical and sub-tropical fruits - inedible peel: litchi or longan or Spanish lime; avocado; pomegranate or mango; banana and papaya; atemoya; pineapple; pitaya; prickly pear; kiwifruit or passion fruit and muriti or palmyra palm

006A Small: litchi or longan or Spanish lime

006B Medium to large fruits, smooth peel: avocado; pomegranate or mango; banana and papaya

006C Medium to large fruits, rough or hairy peel: atemoya and pineapple

006D Cactus: pitaya and prickly pear

006E Vines: kiwifruit or passion fruit

006F Tropical palm fruits: muriti or palmyra palm

Some commodities were moved to another crop group as below.

Kumquat: subgroup 001A lemons and limes from tropical fruit group

Persimmon, Japanese (or Chinese), Kaki: group 002 pome fruits from tropical fruit

Jujube, Chinese: subgroup 003B plums from tropical fruit group

Tamarillo, tree tomato: inedible peel group from edible peel group of tropical fruits

## Consideration for the relevant group MRLs of fruit commodities

Regarding with the need for revision of relevant group MRLs (maximum residue limits) for fruit commodity groups, the Committee (2003) agreed that no changes would be made to existing relevant group MRLs until such a time JMPR would revise the group MRLs following the procedures in place for the establishment of Codex schedules and priority list of pesticides:

*“The Committee considered that the procedure used by JMPR for recommending MRLs acknowledged that the consumption and residue data for the commodities on which data are available are thought to adequately cover commodities for which no data are available (“unless there is information to the contrary, the group MRL covers the added minor commodities with no further dietary risk assessment required”) and noted that MRLs were established if there was an approved use however it would be a large task to verify the GAP for the group MRLs when they were applied to the new lists of commodities.”*

Furthermore, for citrus fruits, it was agreed that the indication “excluding kumquats” would be inserted in the MRLs for citrus fruits for 19 pesticides which dietary risk assessment was conducted based on residues in pulp by JMPR during 1997-2012. In the next 46<sup>th</sup> Session of the CCPR (2014), Japan is supposed to provide results from dietary risk assessment using consumption data for kumquat.

## The other commodities except fruit type

For the other commodities except fruit type, the Committee has made progresses on revision of the Classification as follows:

i) Commodity groups that have been holding at Step 7

Group 009 Bulb vegetables (2010)

009A Bulb onions

009B Green onions

Group 010 Brassica vegetables (except Brassica leafy vegetables) (2013)

10A Flowerhead Brassicas

10B Head Brassicas

10C Stem Brassicas

Group 012 Fruiting vegetables, other than Cucurbits (2010)

012A Tomatoes

012B Pepper and pepper-like commodities

012C Egg plant and egg-like commodities

Group 013 Leafy vegetables (including Brassica leafy vegetables) (2013)

013A Leafy greens

013B Brassica leafy vegetables

013C Leaves of root and tuber vegetables

013D Leaves of trees, shrubs and vines

013E Leafy aquatic vegetables

013F Witloof

013G Leaves of Cucurbitaceae

013H Baby leaves

013I Sprouts

Group 017 Stalk and stem vegetables (2013)

017A Stems and petioles

017B Young shoots

017C Others

Group 018 Edible fungi (2010)

Group 022 Tree nuts (2011)

Group 023 Oilseed (2010)

023A Small seed oilseeds

023B Sunflower seeds

023C Cotton seed

023D Other oilseeds

023E Oilfruits (fruits of palm trees)

Group 027 Herbs (2011)

027A Herbs (Herbaceous plants)

HH 3200 Edible flowers (2012) commodity was included in this subgroup.

027B Leaves of woody plants (leaves of shrubs and trees)

Group 028 Spices (2011)

028A Spices, seeds

028B Spices, fruit or berry

028C Spices, bark

028D Spices, root or rhizome

028E Spices, buds

028F Flower or stigma

028G Spices, aril

028H Spices, Citrus peel

ii) Commodity groups that have been adopted at Step 5

Group 016 Root and tuber vegetables (2013)

016A Root vegetables

016B Tuberous and corm vegetables

016C Aquatic root and tuber vegetables

iii) Commodity groups that have not been discussed by the Committee

Group 011 Fruiting vegetables, Cucurbits

Group 014 Legume vegetables

Group 015 Pulses

Group 020 Cereal grains

Group 021 Grasses for sugar or syrup production

Group 024 Seed for beverages and sweets

Primary Food Commodities of Animal Origin

Primary Animal Feed commodities

Processed Foods of Plant Origin

Processed Foods of Animal Origin

For primary food commodities of plant origin, which are the most important commodity group regarding a pesticide regulation, it is prospected that the revision of the Codex Classification be completed within several years. The revised one will have a great impact on a pesticide regulatory regime.

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