

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda Item 9

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ORIGINAL LANGUAGE ONLY

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME CODEX COMMITTEE ON CONTAMINANTS IN FOODS

Eleventh Session
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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)) (AT STEP 4)

*Comments submitted at Step 3 (in response to CL 2017/27-CF) by Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba,
Egypt, EU, Kenya, New Zealand, USA and AU*

CHILE

Chile agradece la oportunidad de presentar observaciones sobre el anteproyecto de Anexo para la prevención y reducción de la contaminación por el cornezuelo y los alcaloides del cornezuelo en los cereales en grano.

Chile revisó el anexo indicado y considera que el documento es muy completo, por lo que no tiene comentarios al respecto. Este anexo será un aporte al Código de prácticas para prevenir y reducir la contaminación de los cereales por micotoxinas.

COLOMBIA

En adelante tomamos como referencia el Apéndice del documento CL 2017/27-CF de la versión en español. Los cambios propuestos se indican con adiciones en **texto subrayado y en negrita** o con supresiones en ~~texto tachado~~, junto con la respectiva justificación.

Apéndice

ANTEPROYECTO DE ANEXO PARA LA PREVENCIÓN Y REDUCCIÓN DE LA CONTAMINACIÓN POR EL CORNEZUELO Y LOS ALCALOIDES DEL CORNEZUELO EN LOS CEREALES EN GRANO (PARA SU INCLUSIÓN EN EL CÓDIGO DE PRÁCTICAS PARA PREVENIR Y REDUCIR LA CONTAMINACIÓN DE LOS CEREALES POR MICOTOXINAS

(En el Trámite 3 del Procedimiento)

12 Es importante que los esclerocios del cornezuelo y las partículas de polvo se eliminen ~~en cada~~
previo a cada etapa de la cadena de elaboración de los alimentos para evitar la transferencia a la
siguiente etapa de la elaboración.

Se solicita el cambio por que en el proceso debe realizarse una verificación de esclerocios del cornezuelo y las partículas de polvo, antes de iniciar cada etapa, para minimizar el riesgo de transferencia durante este procedimiento

18 Asegurar **que no hay residuos de polvo previo a la actividad de molienda** ~~que todo el polvo se elimina mucho antes del proceso de molienda~~, incluyendo la opción de eliminación y sustitución del filtro de harina en el área de triturado de la unidad de molido.

Se solicita el cambio por que en el proceso debe realizarse una verificación de esclerocios del cornezuelo y las partículas de polvo, antes de iniciar la actividad de molienda, para minimizar el riesgo de transferencia durante este procedimiento.

COSTA RICA

Costa Rica felicita a Alemania y Reino Unido por el trabajo realizado y, agradece la oportunidad de emitir comentarios. En ese sentido, desea externar el apoyo a lo propuesto en el Apéndice I, Anexo 6.

CUBA

Cuba está de acuerdo con el documento, no teniendo observaciones que añadir.

EGYPT

We would like to thank the Electronic Working Group and inform you that Egypt does not have any comment.

EU

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...”

KENYA

COMMENT

We support for Annex on ergot alkaloids for inclusion in the COP (CAC/RCP 51-2003)

NEW ZEALAND

In response to the circular letter CL 2017/27-CF, New Zealand thanks the delegations from Germany and the UK for the proposed draft Annex on the Prevention and Reduction of Ergot and Ergot Alkaloids contamination in cereal grains, and acknowledges the work done to date. New Zealand comments on the draft Annex as follows.

In para 2 - can it be stated why the possible sources named in the second to last sentence are not considered further, and we believe the words "Code of Practice" should read "*this Annex?*".

Para 5 (c) – should this read "...*agricultural vehicles to avoid damage to the green shoots...*"?

Para 10 – can it be stated from what the ergot sclerotia and dust is being removed from?

USA

The U.S. appreciates the work that Germany has done in preparing this draft Annex and supports advancing the draft Annex in the Step process (Step 5 or 5/8).

Specific Comments:

- Paragraph 6.e. states: "Where low and zero tillage crop rotation practices are normally followed, other mitigation measures take on greater importance."
 - The U.S. recommends providing illustrative examples of "other mitigation measures" that take on greater importance.
- Paragraph 12 states: "It is important that ergot sclerotia and dust particles are eliminated at each stage of the food processing chain to prevent carryover to the next stage of processing."
 - The U.S. considers it impractical and impossible to "eliminate" or "completely remove" ergot sclerotia and dust particles and. suggests the following revision:
 - "Where possible and practical, eliminate as many ergot sclerotia and dust particles as possible at each stage of the food processing chain to reduce carryover to the next stage of processing."
- Paragraph 18 states: "Ensure that any dust is removed well before the milling process including, the option of removing and replacing the flour filter in the crusher are of the mill unit."
 - The U.S. suggests the following revision for clearer understanding:
 - "To prevent ergot dust from accumulating in milled flour, consider removing and replacing, as needed, the flour filter in the crusher area of the mill unit."

AU

Position: AU supports the proposed draft Annex and recommends its adoption.

Rationale: Since the commencement on this subject AU has supported the need for a new annex on ergot and ergot alkaloids to be developed for inclusion in the Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Mycotoxin Contamination in Cereals as Annex 6. Although ergot and the associated alkaloids are more commonly a problem associated with temperate northern climates, a serious outbreak of gangrenous ergotism was reported from Ethiopia in the 1970's resulting in nearly 50 deaths. The producing fungal species (*Claviceps* species, mainly *C. purpurea*) have been identified on African small grains. Hence, the inclusion of a separate Annex can be justified on the basis of inclusivity of all mycotoxin problems in different areas of the world and which may require more specific interventions than are contained in the General Code of Practice.