



**JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME  
FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE EUROPE**

Twenty seventh Session

Warsaw, Poland, 5 - 8 October 2010

**USE OF CODEX STANDARDS AT NATIONAL AND REGIONAL LEVEL**

**Comments in reply to CL 2010/23-EURO – Part C**

**(Denmark, Hungary)**

**(i) Use of Codex standards and related texts at national and/or regional level**

**DENMARK**

Codex standards are usually integrated into EC legislation. A code of practice for reduction of a contaminant by GAP/GMP can be used for inspiration in guidance for food producers, but is then simplified and translated into Danish.

**HUNGARY**

The legal limits are set at EU level taking into account the applicable Codex Standards. Hungary adheres to the relevant EU regulations and has very limited possibility for decisions on national level.

**(ii) Non-use of Codex standards and related texts at national and/or regional level (provide reasons where applicable)**

**DENMARK**

Codex standards which differs from EC standards and where EC can present arguments and documentation to defend the EC legislation will not change the EC legislation. A code of practice with no relevance to Danish food production will not be used (as an example, Codex code of practice for reduction of aflatoxins in peanuts – DK has no production of peanuts).

**HUNGARY**

See (i)

**(iii) Difficulties encountered in the use or application of Codex standards and related texts at national, regional and/or international level (including import/export matters)**

**DENMARK**

In cases where EC/risk analysis differs from the scientific advice on which Codes standards are based – it may give rise to disputes. One example is when establishing MRL's on pesticide residues where intake considerations often differs

- (iv) **Difficulties encountered in the non-use or application of Codex standards and related texts at national, regional and/or international level (including import/export matters)**

**DENMARK**

In cases of non-use or application of Codex standards on produce which are largely traded internationally it can lead to a trade dispute among trade partners if one of the partners refuse to apply a Codex standard. The trade dispute may have to be solved within the WTO-system which is very burdensome.

- (v) **Relevance of Codex standards and related texts as a basis for harmonization of legislation and regulations, including in the perspective of economic integration**

**DENMARK**

As Denmark is a member of EC and as EC has a harmonized legislation in most of the areas where Codex has activities the consequences of adopting codex standards is less than when EC legislation was adopted. Codex standards are always taken into consideration in the process of establishing EC legislation. Thus Codex standards plays a major role in harmonizing EC legislation towards all other Codex Member States. Denmark favours very much this harmonization process

**HUNGARY**

See (i)

- (vi) **Any other health and/or trade problems related to standardization at the national or regional level**

**DENMARK**

In general, we find that the ALARA principle is not always followed when setting Codex standards. For contaminants like aflatoxins we have had discussions for many years without agreement and when JECFA is asked they say that it makes no difference if the low or high level is adopted due to the low content of aflatoxins in the products. Denmark favours very much basing legislation on ALARA principle with the purpose of consumer protection and consumer trust.

**HUNGARY**

No

**(vii) Identified ways forward to strengthen use of Codex standards and related texts at national, regional and/or international level - Based on the shortcomings identified, in particular those outlined in points (iii), (iv) and (vi), have you identified possible ways forward to facilitate the implementation of Codex standards and related texts at national, regional and/or international level, in addition to those identified for points B.1(vii) and B.2(v) that may be relevant to this question?**

**HUNGARY**

See (i)