



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
HEALTH & CONSUMERS DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Directorate E - Safety of the food chain
E3 - Chemicals, contaminants, pesticides

Brussels, 24th November 2009
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**MANDATE FOR STANDARDISATION
ADDRESSED TO CEN
in the field of
METHODS OF ANALYSIS FOR HEAVY METALS AND IODINE IN FOOD**

1. MOTIVATION.

- 1.1 This mandate falls within the framework of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 on official controls performed to ensure the verification of compliance with feed and food law, animal health and animal welfare rules¹.

This Regulation provides that sampling and analysis methods used in the context of official controls shall comply with relevant Community rules or if no such rules exist, with internationally recognised rules or protocols, for example those that the European Committee for Standardisation (CEN) has accepted.

Following Regulation contain provisions requiring methods of analysis:

- Council Regulation (EC) No 315/93 of 8 February 1993 laying down Community procedures for contaminants in food².

- 1.2 The establishment of standardized methods of analysis is of utmost importance to guarantee a uniform application and control of the European legislation in all Member States. Standardized methods of analysis are an indispensable element in guaranteeing a high level of food safety.

¹ Official Journal of the European Union, L 165, 30.04.2005, p. 1. Corrigendum published in OJ L 191, 28.5.2004, p. 1)

² Official Journal of the European Communities, L 37, 13.2.1993, p. 1

2. DESCRIPTION OF THE MANDATED WORK

The Commission invites the CEN to establish standardised methods of analysis in order to enable the control in a harmonised way of the compliance with the provisions of Community legislation in the field of trace elements/heavy metals in food for the methods of analysis listed in the table in the Annex. Column 4 of the table indicates the stage reached by the work already done by the CEN on its own initiative on some of these methods. Column 5 indicates the Directives or Regulations which set quantitative limits/levels that must be checked by the methods of analysis covered by this mandate.

3. BODIES TO BE ASSOCIATED.

The elaboration of the standards should be undertaken in co-operation with the broadest possible range of interested groups, including international and European level associations, including the main industrial associations concerned (associations representing food manufacturers, trade associations...) and representatives of European consumers and regulatory bodies.

Co-operation with CIAA (Confederation of the Food and Drink Industries of the EU), IDACE (Association of the Food Industries for particular Nutritional Uses of the EU), CAOBISCO (Association of the Chocolate, Biscuit and Confectionary Industries of the EU), ESA (European Snacks Association), CEEREAL (European Breakfast Cereal Association), OIV (Organisation Internationale de la Vigne et du Vin), CEV (Comité Européen des Entreprises Vins), COCERAL (European association representing trade in cereals, feedstuffs, oilseeds, olive oil and agro-supply at the European Union), COPA-COGECA (Association representing the farmers and farmer co-operatives of the UE) is regarded as important. The CEN will also invite the Commission to participate in the standardisation work covered by this mandate.

Also the co-operation with organisations such as ANEC (European association for the co-ordination of consumer representation in standardisation), ECOS (European Environmental Citizens Organisation for Standardisation) and NORMAPME (European Office of Crafts, Trades and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises for Standardisation) is considered as relevant.

4. EXECUTION OF THE MANDATE

- 4.1 The mandate will be carried out before December 2011 according to the programme described in the Annex. The programme itself could be adapted and/or completed depending on the progress made. The European standards bodies will transmit amendments to this programme to the Commission, which will inform the Committee on standards and technical regulations. The work to be undertaken and their results should be inter-connected, compatible and mutually acceptable to CEN.
- 4.2 CEN will have to present the draft standards mentioned above by the date specified in column 3 of the table in the Annex. The European standards will have to be adopted by the agreed dates. On these dates, the three linguistic versions (DE, EN, FR) must be available as well as the correct titles in the other official Community languages.

- 4.3 The acceptance of this standardisation mandate by CEN will provide a more complete set of standardised methods of analysis and thereby contributing to a higher level of food safety and to a proper functioning of the internal market.
- 4.4 To improve transparency, the CEN will inform the Commission of any new programme of activities, not covered by this mandate, planned on methods of analysis in the field of trace elements/Heavy metals in food
- 4.5 The CEN will keep the Commission informed of the measures taken to execute this mandate and of any difficulties, which arise in the process. By 30 November each year, the CEN will submit a progress report on the activities of the various working parties concerned by this mandate and will indicate the persons and bodies participating in the working parties' meetings and activities. In this context, the CEN will also indicate whether the standards adopted need to be adapted to technical progress.
- 4.6 The mandate covers the revision of adopted standards in accordance with this mandate according to the internal rules of the CEN
- 4.7 The standstill period referred to in Article 7 of Directive 98/34/EC of 22 June 1998 shall commence when the CEN accepts this standardisation mandate³.

Annex: STANDARDISATION PROGRAMME

³ OJ L204 of 21.07.98, p. 37, as amended by Directive 98/48/EC (OJ L 217 of 5.8.1998, p. 18)

ANNEX

METHODS OF ANALYSIS TO BE MANDATED

N.	Title	Deadlines for EN	Stage at CEN level	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1	Determination of total tin in canned foods (solid foods, beverages, including fruit and vegetable juices, foods for infants and young children by flame and graphite furnace atomic absorption spectrometry (FAAS and GFAAS) after pressure digestion) ⁴	31/12/2010	New item	Council Regulation (EC) 315/93 of 8 February 1993 laying down Community procedures for contaminants in food ⁵ .
2	Determination of total tin in canned foods (solid foods, beverages, including fruit and vegetable juices, foods for infants and young children) by inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry (ICP-MS) after pressure digestion ⁴	31/12/2010	New item	Council Regulation (EC) 315/93 of 8 February 1993 laying down Community procedures for contaminants in food ⁵ .
3	Determination of lead, cadmium, arsenic and mercury in a wide range of foodstuffs (including foods for infants and young children) by induced coupled plasma mass spectrometry (ICP-MS) after pressure digestion ⁴	30/12/2010	New item	Council Regulation (EC) 315/93 of 8 February 1993 laying down Community procedures for contaminants in food ⁵ .
4	Determination of iodine in seaweeds	31/12/2010	New item	Council Regulation (EC) 315/93 of 8 February 1993 laying down Community procedures for contaminants in food ⁵ .
5	Determination of inorganic arsenic in food (must include food of plant origin and food of marine origin)	31/12/2011	New item	Council Regulation (EC) 315/93 of 8 February 1993 laying down Community procedures for contaminants in food ⁵ .
6	Determination of methylmercury in food of marine origin	31/12/2011	New item	Council Regulation (EC) 315/93 of 8 February 1993 laying down Community procedures for contaminants in food ⁵ .

⁴ Equivalent extraction procedures can be applied for which it can be demonstrated that the used extraction procedure has an equal extraction efficiency

⁵ Maximum levels for several contaminants in a wide range of foodstuffs are established by implementing legislation, i.e. Commission Regulation (EC) No 181/2006 of 19 December 2006 setting maximum levels for certain contaminants in food (OJ L 364, 20.12.2006, p. 5).