

European Union comments on

CL 2015/8-CF

PART I: MATTERS FOR ADOPTION BY THE 38TH SESSION OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Point 2: Draft maximum levels for deoxynivalenol (DON) in cereal-based foods for infants and young children; in flour, meal, semolina and flakes derived from wheat, maize or barley; and in cereal grains (wheat, maize and barley) destined for further processing including sampling plans and performance criteria for methods of analysis at Step 8

*European Union Competence
European Union Vote*

The European Union (EU) can support the adoption of the draft MLs for DON with the exception of the ML of 1 mg/kg for flour, meal, semolina and flakes derived from wheat, maize or barley for which the EU would like to reiterate its concerns already expressed at the CCCF Session.

The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) has identified a potential public health risk caused by increased exposure to DON as a result of the draft ML, which is higher than the current ML applicable in the EU.

The overall conclusion of the EFSA risk assessment is that “The exposure estimations in this statement indicate that the group Health Based Guidance Values (HBGVs) are already exceeded by the parent compound DON in a number of cases. An increase of the DON ML can be expected to be associated with an increase of the levels of DON and Ac-DONs in barley flour, wheat flour and semolina, and can therefore increase the exposure and consequently the exceedances of the group HBGVs.”

Given this conclusion, the EU cannot agree on the draft maximum level of 1 mg/kg for DON in flour, semolina, meal and flakes derived from wheat, maize or barley. The EU requests that this reservation is included in the report of the CAC 38.

Point 3: Proposed draft maximum level for inorganic arsenic in husked rice (para 69, Appendix V) at Step 5

*European Union Competence
European Union Vote*

The EU would like to reiterate its reservation already introduced at CCCF on the proposed draft ML of 0.35 mg/kg for inorganic arsenic in husked rice, as the ML is considered to be too high, based on representative sampling performed within the European Union on rice from global origin. In view of these data, the proposed ML of 0.35 mg/kg for husked rice will not lead to a significant reduction of consumer exposure.