Cadmium in food commodities

Request for data on Cadmium in chocolates and cocoa powder

Issued July 2018

Background

The 12th Session of the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF12), held in Utrecht, Netherlands, from March 12 to March 16, 2018, agreed to establish an Electronic Working Group (EWG) led by the Ecuador to prepare proposals for maximum levels (MLs) for cadmium in the following food categories: chocolates; and cocoa powder, for consideration by CCCF13 in 2019. The breakdown of the aforesaid categories is indicated in the Annex. When possible, concentration of total cocoa solids in the product should be indicated as specified in the identified categories.

We are requesting submission of new data covering approximately the last 11 years. Data should be submitted by the September 30, 2018, to allow time for data analysis and drafting and review of the paper. The call for data can also be viewed online at http://www.who.int/foodsafety/en/.

Date for submission

The submission of data is requested before

30 September 2018

This deadline applies to all data to be submitted.

WHO will be compiling data for the EWG. All new data must be submitted to WHO through the GEMS database, which is now easily accessible on the web. To access the GEMS database, go to http://www.who.int/foodsafety/areas_work/chemical-risks/gems-food/en/. Please read the “GEMS/Food Database Manual” before attempting to submit data to GEMS. To submit data, you will need an account, and instructions on creating an account are found on page 2 of the manual. For technical questions about submitting data to GEMS, please contact Philippe Verger at WHO (vergerp@who.int) with copy to Israel Vaca Jimenez (cccf.ewg.ecuador@agrocalidad.gob.ec).

Note that data already submitted to the GEMS Food Database do not need to be re-submitted.

When submitting data to the GEMS/Food database for this work, please:

- Provide complete information on the LOQ and LOD of analytical methods.
- Provide information in the “Local Food Identifier” or “Notes” fields of the database to allow more specific identification of samples, e.g., Is a food fresh or processed, including canned, preserved, salted, etc.?
- Provide information on “State of Food Analysed,” e.g., cooked or raw, concentrate or ready to drink.
Annex
Categorization of chocolates and cocoa powder and dry mixtures of cocoa and sugars
(for development of the MLs for cadmium)

a) Categorization for chocolates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commodity / Product Name</th>
<th>Maximum Level (ML) (mg/kg)</th>
<th>Notes/Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chocolate products containing or declaring &lt;30% total cocoa solids on a dry matter basis</td>
<td></td>
<td>Including milk chocolate, family milk chocolate, milk chocolate couverture, Gianduja milk chocolate, table chocolate, Milk chocolate Vermicelli/milk chocolate flakes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chocolate and chocolate products containing or declaring ≥ 30% to &lt; 50% total cocoa solids on a dry matter basis</td>
<td></td>
<td>Including sweet chocolate, Gianduja chocolate, semi – bitter chocolate para mesa, Chocolate Vermicelli / chocolate flakes, bitter table chocolate</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

b) Categorization for cocoa powder and dry mixtures of cocoa and sugars sold for final consumption

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commodity / Product Name</th>
<th>Maximum Level (ML) (mg/kg)</th>
<th>Notes/Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cocoa powder (100% total cocoa solids on a dry matter basis)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Product sold for final consumption</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>