

## INFORMATION NOTE TO SUBMIT DATA ON LARGE PORTIONS OF CONSUMED FOOD

### 5 BACKGROUND

For dietary exposure assessment, the FAO/WHO scientific advice relies on food consumption data as collected by the WHO GEMS/Food Programme.

10 For its chronic (long-term) dietary risk assessment (IEDI) the Jmpr relies on the 13 GEMS/Food Cluster diets, containing mean consumption values derived from FAO Food Balance Sheets (FBS). The cluster diets were last updated in 2006 and as new FAO FBS are now available the cluster diets should be updated. The WHO GEMS/Food programme will raise funding to accomplish this task.

15 In contrast for its acute (short-term) dietary risk assessment (IESTI) the Jmpr relies on national food consumption survey data. Starting about 10 years ago, individual Codex Member States have supplied their so-called 'Large Portions' (97.5<sup>th</sup> percentile of the consumption distribution, "consumers only") to GEMS/Food. In its 2010 Report, 20 Jmpr highlighted the importance of concurrent consumption data for a reliable risk assessment (General Considerations 2.2 and 2.3). Some issues were identified with respect to the Large Portion database:

- 25 1. In the current GEMS/Food LP database, data on the consumption of Large Portions are available from Australia, France, The Netherlands, Japan, South Africa, Thailand, the UK and the USA. Data on unit weights and percent edible portions are available from Belgium, France, Japan, Sweden, the UK and the USA. This shows that several regions of the world are not, or not very well, represented in the LP database.
- 30 2. The GEMS/Food LP data are sometimes older than those used by the same country in national or regional assessments (e.g. Europe).

Therefore there is an urgent need to expand and update the current LP database, and Codex Member States are requested to prioritize the submission of their most recent 35 data on Large Portions and unit weights to WHO/GEMS/Food, to ensure that Jmpr uses the best available information in its dietary exposure assessments.

### GUIDANCE FOR DATA SUBMISSION

40 An Excel template was developed and is provided on [www.who.int/foodsafety/chem/Large\\_portions\\_template\\_final\\_WHO.xlt](http://www.who.int/foodsafety/chem/Large_portions_template_final_WHO.xlt) for submission of the data. The template contains **three worksheets** corresponding to 3 levels of detail for the information on food consumption. For risk assessment purposes, the highest available level of detail is preferable and therefore the "Level 3" worksheet should preferably be 45 filled when detailed data are available. The level 3 is based on the Codex Classification of Foods and Animal Feeds, (Codex Alimentarius Commission, Rome, 1993).

For certain food categories, the information available from national food consumption survey could be less detailed than this Codex Classification e.g. consumers are often reporting “salad” and not “chicory leaves”. In such a case information should be reported for level 2 and even for level 1. It must be noted that reporting at level 2 or 1 for some categories does not prevent of reporting at level 3 for other food categories for which the detailed information is available.

General guidance on how to derive Large Portions is described in EHC 240 (WHO 2009), Principles and methods for the risk assessment of chemicals in food and can be summarized as follows:

1. For use in an acute dietary exposure assessment for pesticide residues, the LP value should be matched to the raw Codex commodity to which the residue data relate. In the case of commodities that are eaten predominantly fresh, such as fruits and vegetables, the LP value should be derived for the raw commodity. When a high proportion of the commodity, such as cereal grains, is consumed in a processed form, the LP value should relate to the processed commodity (e.g. bread, flour), provided matching residue concentration data are also available for the processed food.

2. In estimating acute dietary exposures to chemical residues in a single commodity or food, it is appropriate to use food consumption data for only those people who consume the single food (consumers only).

3. Large portion (*LP*) values should be based on the 97.5th percentile of food consumption derived from records of individual consumer days (i.e. survey days on which the food or foods of interest were consumed). For surveys collecting multiple days of consumption data per person, the individual consumer days are assumed to be independent observations in the derivation of upper percentiles as follows:

- ❖ If the survey includes multiple days per participant, only the valid consumer days on which consumption of the food of interest occurs should be used.
- ❖ If a survey participant has multiple valid consumer days, these consumer days should be considered as independent observations in the database and not averaged.
- ❖ The number of consumer days on which the percentile is based should be explicitly stated, as the purpose of the assessment may determine how these records are treated.

It is recommended to derive the 97.5<sup>th</sup> percentile when at least 120 consumer \* days are available from the survey. However Member States should submit percentiles based on less consumers. Alternatively, if the number of consumers reporting correctly at the most refined level (e.g. “chicory leaves”) is not sufficient to derive a robust 97.5<sup>th</sup> percentile (i.e. 120 consumer \* days), consumption of similar commodities (e.g. various green salads) could be aggregated to reach a sufficient number of consumers. In any case, Member States are encouraged to provide the number of consumer \* days on which the percentile is based.

5 Member States are also encouraged to submit, next to the data itself, an explanation of how the Large Portions were derived. In addition, if Member States are only able to provide part of the data they are strongly requested to submit those nevertheless. A very important piece of information that should always be included is the name and affiliation of a contact person to which WHO GEMS/Food can turn in case of further questions. WHO GEMS/Food reserves the right to exclude data from the database that do not comply with the general guidance.

10 The deadline for data submission is **1 July 2011**. WHO GEMS/Food will make an effort to make the data that have been submitted before this deadline available for use by the JMPR in September 2011. Data submitted after the deadline is still very welcome, but cannot yet be implemented in the risk assessments of JMPR in 2011.

15 **DATA TO BE SUBMITTED BY E.MAIL TO: [vergerp@who.int](mailto:vergerp@who.int)**