TO:      Codex Contact Points  
         International Organisations

FROM:    Secretary, Codex Alimentarius Commission,  
         Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00100 Rome, Italy

SUBJECT: Request for Comments at Steps 6 of the Procedure on:

i) Draft Maximum Residue Limits for Veterinary Drugs (colistin and ractopamine);
ii) Draft Guidelines for the Design and Implementation of National Regulatory Food Safety Assurance Programmes Associated with the Use of Veterinary Drugs in Food Producing Animals

DEADLINE: 30 March 2007

COMMENTS: To:  
U.S. Codex Office  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
US Department of Agriculture  
Room 4861, South Building, 14000 Independence Ave.  
SW - Washington, DC, 2025 USA  
fax. +1 202 720 3157  
e-mail: uscodex@usda.gov

Copies to:  
Secretary  
Codex Alimentarius Commission  
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla  
00100 Rome, Italy  
Fax: +39 06 57054593  
E-mail: codex@fao.org

BACKGROUND

1. The 16th Session of the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods advanced to Step 5 of the Procedure the proposed draft Maximum Residue Limits for Veterinary Drugs (colistin and ractopamine) (ALINORM 06/29/12, para. 77 and Appendix IV) and the proposed draft Guidelines for the Design and Implementation of National Regulatory Food Safety Assurance Programmes Associated with the Use of Veterinary Drugs in Food Producing Animals (ALINORM 06/29/12, para. 86 and Appendix VII).

2. The 29th Session (July 2006) of the Codex Alimentarius Commission adopted the above texts at Step 5 and advanced them to Step 6 (ALINORM 06/29/41, para. 71 and Appendix V). They will be considered by the 17th Session of the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods, tentatively scheduled in September 2007.

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

3. Comments are hereby requested at Step 6 on the above texts as presented in Appendices IV and VII of ALINORM 06/29/31. The texts are available from the Codex website at the following address: ftp://ftp.fao.org/codex/alinorm06/al29_31e.pdf

4. Governments and international organizations wishing to provide comments should do so in writing, preferably by e-mail, to the above addresses before 30 March 2007.