

CODEX GENERAL STANDARD FOR CONTAMINANTS AND TOXINS IN FOODS

CODEX STAN 193-1995 (Rev.1-1997) ¹

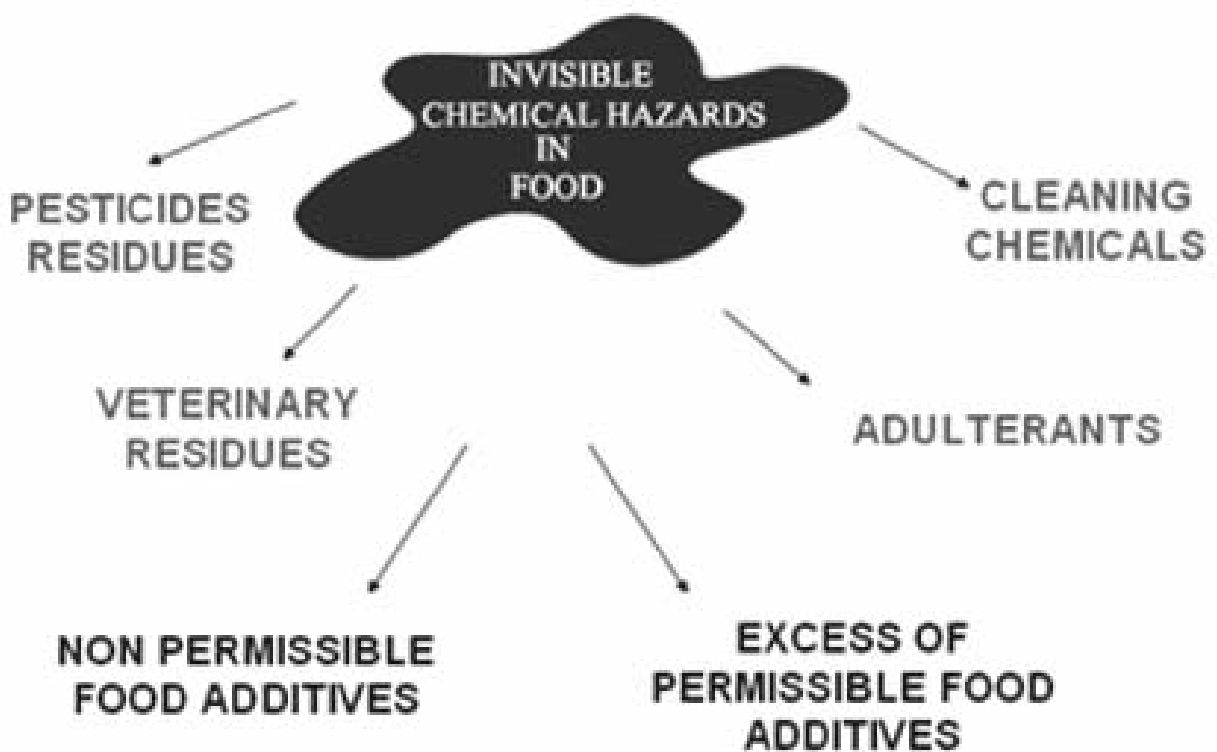
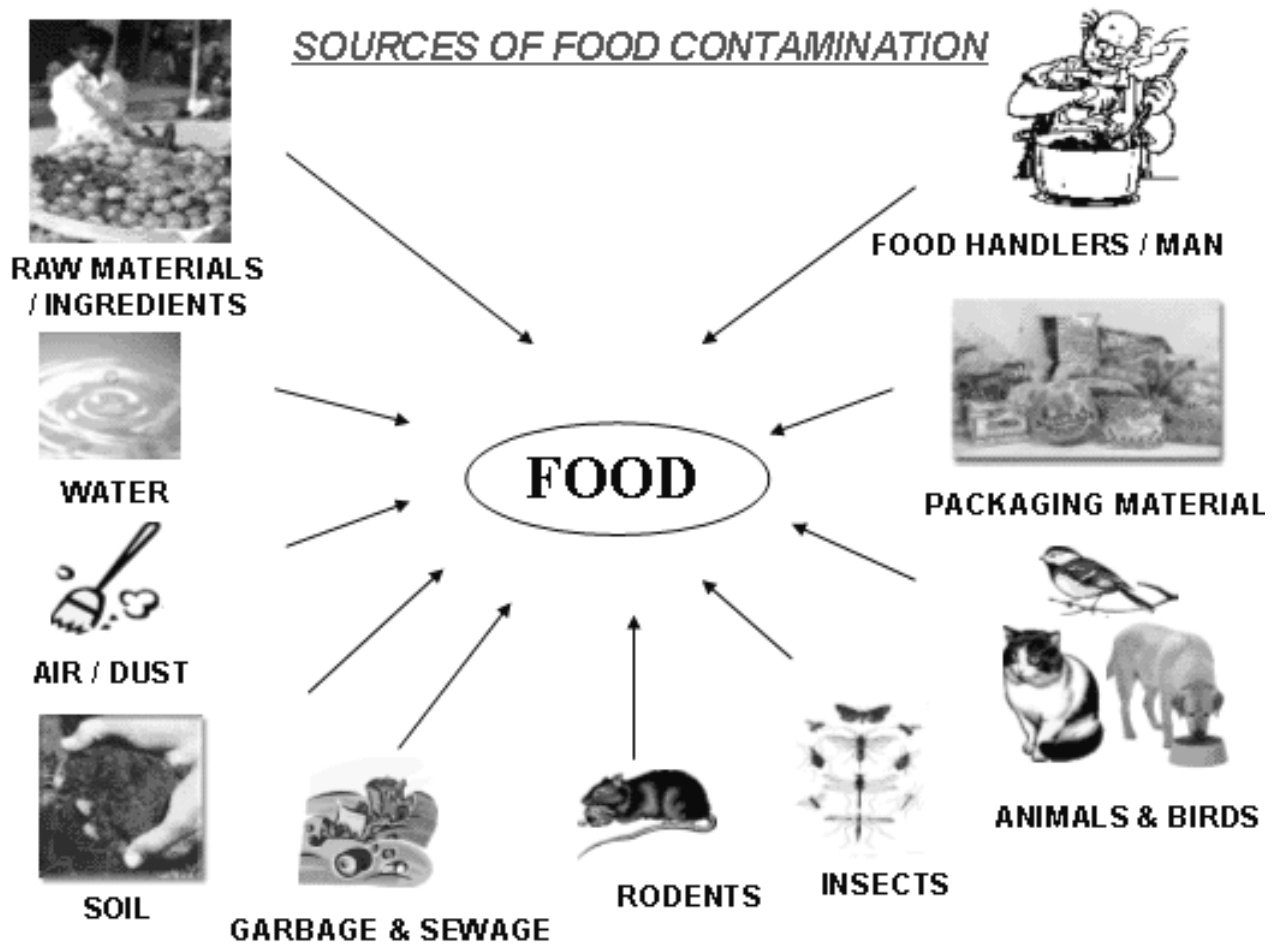
Contaminant

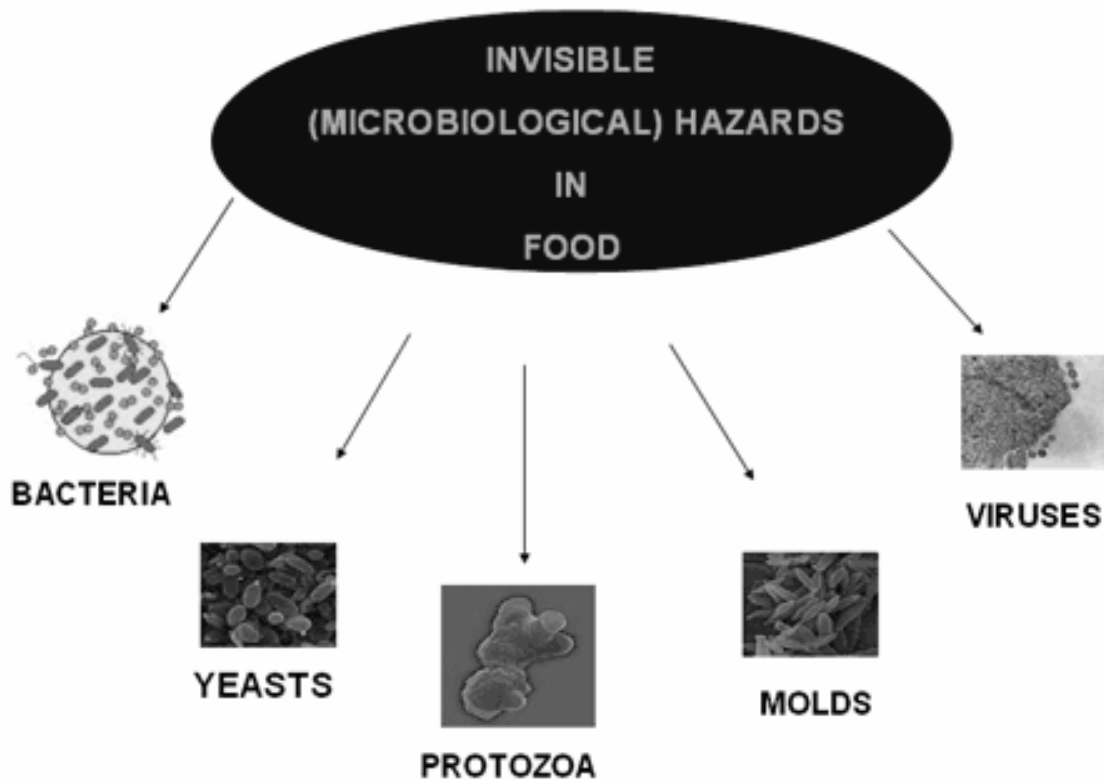
Volume 1 of the Codex Alimentarius defines a contaminant as follows:

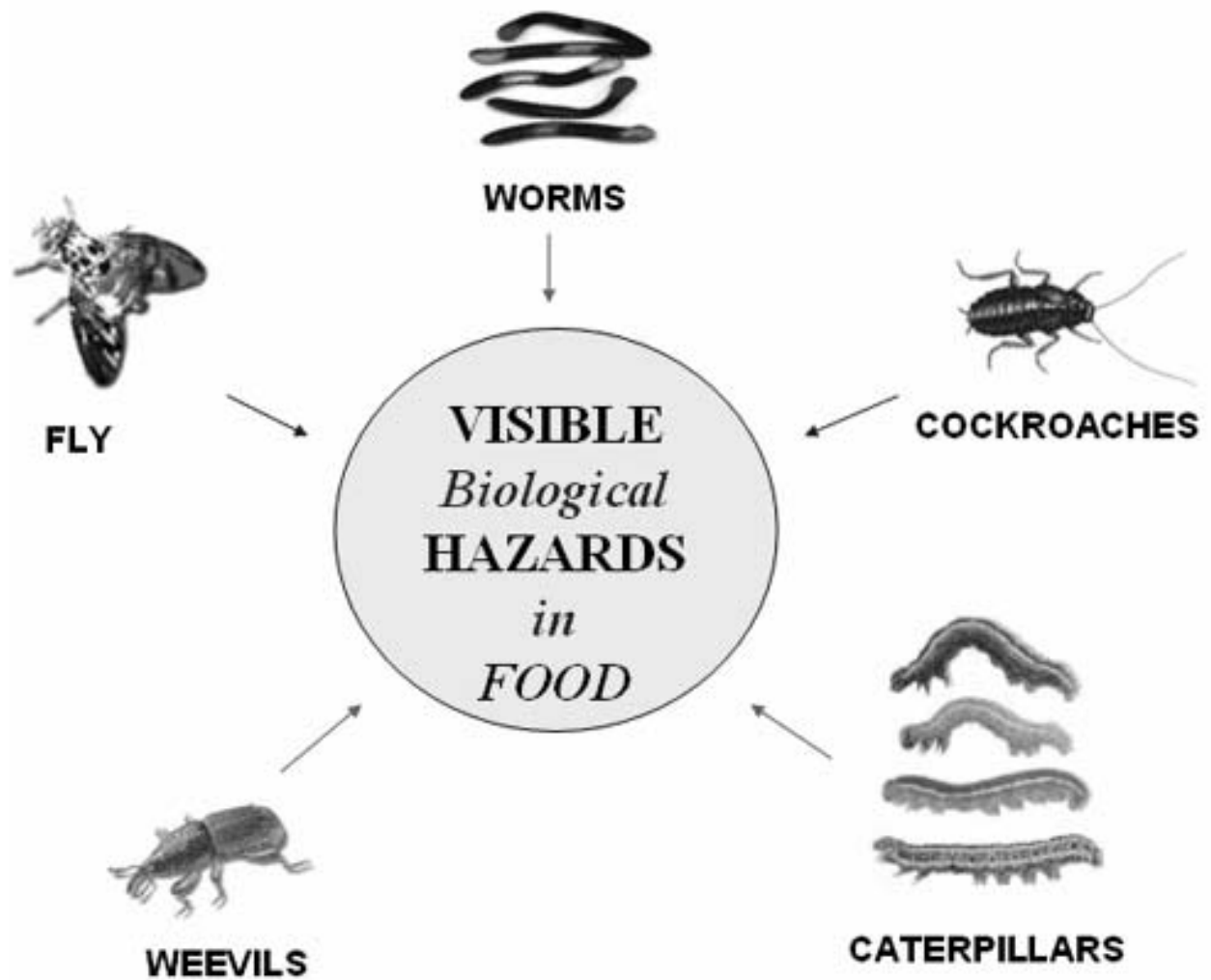
"Any substance not intentionally added to food, which is present in such food as a result of the production (including operations carried out in crop husbandry, animal husbandry and veterinary medicine), manufacture, processing, preparation, treatment, packing, packaging, transport or holding of such food or as a result of environmental contamination. The term does not include insect fragments, rodent hairs and other extraneous matter".

This standard applies to any substance that meets the terms of the Codex definition for a contaminant, including contaminants in feed for food-producing animals, except:

- 1) Contaminants having only food quality significance, but no public health significance, in the food(s).
- 2) Pesticide residues, as defined by the Codex definition that are within the terms of reference of the CCPR. Pesticide residues arising from pesticide uses not associated with food production may be considered for inclusion in the General Standard for Contaminants if not dealt with by the CCPR.
- 3) Residues of veterinary drugs, as defined by the Codex definition, that are within the terms of reference of the CCRVDF.
- 4) Microbial toxins, such as botulinum toxin and staphylococcus enterotoxin, and microorganisms that are within the terms of reference of the CCFH.
- 5) Processing aids (that by definition are intentionally added to foods).







8 Identified Major Risk Factors

- Improper holding temperatures
- Preparing food ahead of planned schedule
- Poor personal hygiene
- Inadequate cooking
- Inadequate cleaning & disinfecting of equipment
- Cross contamination
- Use of left over
- Contaminated raw material

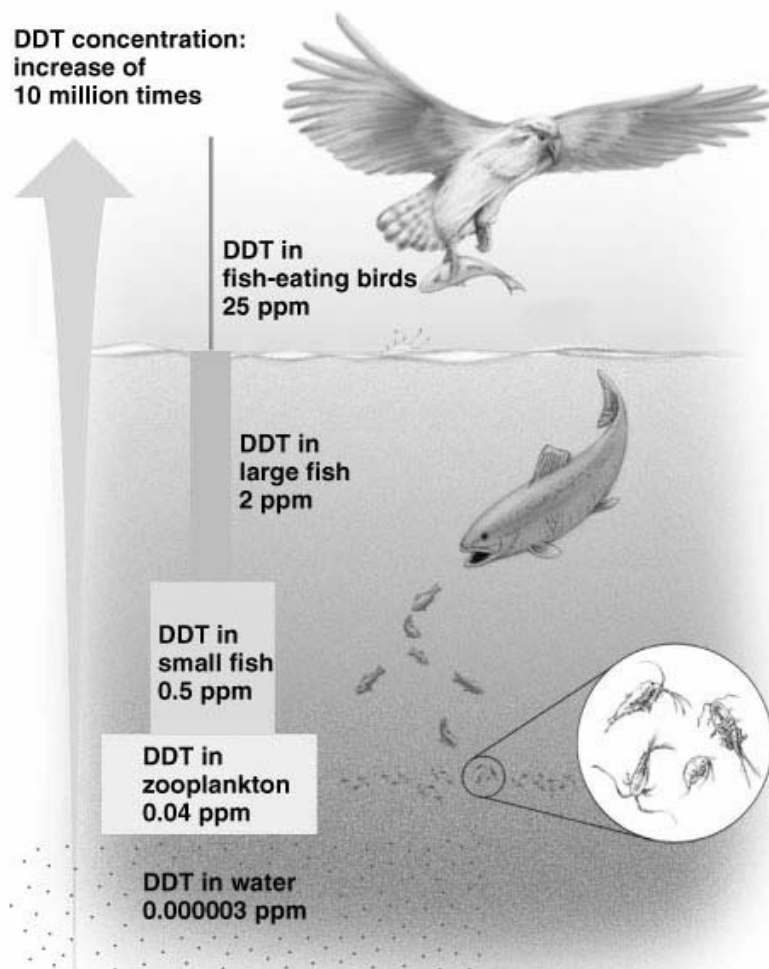


Poisons in Food Chains

A variety of toxic chemicals, including unnatural synthetics, have been and are dumped. Many cannot be degraded by microbes and persist for years or decades. Some are harmless when released but are converted to toxic poisons by reactions with other substances or metabolism of microbes. Organisms acquire toxic substances along with nutrients or water, some of which accumulate in their tissues.

The pesticide DDT is a well known example of biological magnification. This pesticide was used to control mosquitoes and agricultural pests. DDT persists in the environment and is transported by water to areas away from the point of application. Because it is soluble in lipids and collects in fatty tissues of animals. The concentration is magnified and reached such high concentrations in top-level carnivorous birds that calcium deposition in eggshells was disrupted. Reproductive rates declined dramatically since the weight of nesting birds broke the weakened shells.

Effect of DDT



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