

PROCEDURE TO MONITOR THE PROCESS
OF INTERNATIONAL HARMONIZATION

Submission by the United States

Corrigendum

Please replace the table on page 3 by the following:

CANNED/BOTTLED PRODUCTS, INCLUDING JAMS

Commodities affected:	Canned/Bottled Products, including Jams
Disease/problem/issue:	<i>Bacilli</i> and other organisms
Is international trade significantly affected because of this issue?	Yes
Does there currently exist an international standard for this disease/problem/issue with these commodities?	Yes
If so:	
Briefly describe the existing standard:	CODEX Standard 79-1981: Jams shall be free from microorganisms in amounts which represent a hazard to health. CODEX Standard CAC/GL21-1997, 5.1.3: The mere finding, with a presence-absence test, of certain organisms known to cause foodborne illness (e.g. <i>Clostridium perfringens</i> , <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> and <i>Vibrio parahaemolyticus</i>) does not necessarily indicate a threat to public health.
Is the international standard inappropriate?	No
Description of how trade is affected by this issue and how the issue can be resolved through new or existing international standards:	
CODEX standards for jam state that products should be "free from microorganisms in amounts which may represent a hazard to health". This standard presupposes that zero tolerance is not necessary to eliminate health hazards. CODEX has recently elaborated its position on zero tolerance and health hazards in Principles for the Establishment and Application of Microbiological Criteria for Foods (CAC/GL21-1997). In this document, CODEX states that "the mere finding, with a presence-absence test, of certain organisms known to cause foodborne illness ... does not necessarily indicate a threat to public health". However, certain countries have rejected jam imports containing bacteria (<i>Bacillus Cereus</i>) without substantiating that the level or stage (e.g. spore) of bacteria detected poses a hazard to health. Other canned and bottled products have been denied entry into markets for similar findings. This is inconsistent with the CODEX standard and appears to be an unnecessary trade restriction.	

*In English only.