

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

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Committee of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

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INFORMATION ON ACTIVITIES OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Submission by the Codex Alimentarius Commission

The following communication, received on 18 October 2004, is being circulated at the request of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

I. CODEX SESSIONS SINCE THE LAST MEETING OF THE SPS COMMITTEE (22-23 JUNE 2004)

- The 54th Session Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (Geneva, Switzerland, 24-26 June 2004).
- The 27th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (Geneva, Switzerland, 28 June - 3 July 2004).
- The 14th Session of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Asia (Jeju, Republic of Korea, 7-10 September 2004).
- The 24th Session of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Europe (Bratislava, Slovak Republic, 20-23 September 2004).
- The 22nd Session of the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables (Washington DC, United States, 27 September -1 October 2004).

1. In particular, the SPS Committee may wish to draw its attention to the following.
2. The 27th Session of the **Codex Alimentarius Commission**, among others:
 - a) Adopted amendments to several sections of the Procedural Manual, including amendments to *Procedures for the Elaboration of Codex Standards and Related Texts* and to *Definitions for the Purpose of the Codex Alimentarius*, namely the definition for "Traceability / Product tracing";
 - b) Adopted 19 new or revised Codex standards or related texts, including the *Code of Practice for Good Animal Feeding* and the *Standard for Oranges* (see **Appendix I**);
 - c) Approved a number of new work proposals, including the re-establishment of the *Ad Hoc* Intergovernmental Task Force on Foods Derived from Biotechnology;

- d) Agreed that a new Strategic Plan should cover the period 2008-2013 and, once adopted, be renewed every two years on a rolling basis;
 - e) Approved the procedures for the review of the Committee structure and mandates of Codex Committees and Task Forces;
 - f) Agreed, in regard to its relations with other international organizations, that:
 - FAO and WHO initiate discussion with OIE on how to foster and oversee the relations between Codex and OIE; and
 - the Secretariat maintain its contacts with ISO and report to the Executive Committee and the Commission on ISO's activities of relevance to Codex work;
 - g) Welcomed that the FAO/WHO Trust Fund for Enhanced Participation in Codex had become operational, expressed its appreciation to the donor countries, and requested that the criteria used in the distribution of funds be kept under review; and
 - h) Expressed its appreciation to FAO and WHO for their efforts to improve the scientific advice provided to the Commission, agreed to further consider how to address the issue of antimicrobial resistance at its 28th session, and noted the capacity building activities provided by FAO and WHO.
3. The full report of the meeting is available at: <http://www.codexalimentarius.net/>

II. FORTHCOMING CODEX MEETINGS

- The 8th Session of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for North America and South West Pacific (19-22 October 2004, Apia, Samoa).
- The 15th Session of the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods (26-29 October 2004, Washington DC, United States)
- The 26th Session of the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (1-5 November 2004, Bonn, Germany)
- The 21st Session of the Codex Committee on General Principles (8-12 November, Paris, France)
- The 14th Session of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean (29 November- 3 December 2004, Buenos Aires, Argentina)
- The 13th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (6-10 December 2004, Melbourne, Australia)
- The 16th Session of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Africa (14-17 December 2004, Venue to be confirmed)
- The 55th Session of the Executive Committee (9-11 February 2005, Rome, Italy)
- The 11th Session of the Codex Committee on Meat Hygiene (14-18 February 2005, Christchurch, New Zealand)
- The 19th Session of the Codex Committee on Fats and Oils (21-25 February 2005, London, United Kingdom)
- The 27th Session of the Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products (28 February- 4 March 2005, venue to be determined)

- The 3rd Session of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Near East (7-10 March 2005, Amman, Jordan)
 - The 37th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (14-19 March 2005, Buenos Aires, Argentina)
4. In particular, the SPS Committee may wish to draw its attention to the following:
- (a) The 15th Session of the **Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods** will consider the recommendations arising from the 60th and 62nd meetings of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Consultation on Food Additives (JECFA) and will proceed with its work on draft *Maximum Residue Limits for Veterinary Drugs*. In addition, the Committee will continue its work on the revision of *Codex Guidelines for the Establishment of a Regulatory Programme for the Control of Veterinary Drugs in Foods* and on the development of the *Code of Practice to Minimize and Contain Antimicrobial Resistance*. It will discuss the paper on *Risk Management Methodologies, including Risk Assessment Policies*, which aims at defining risk assessment policies and risk management guidelines related to the establishment of *Maximum Residue Limits for Veterinary Drugs* in the Committee.
 - (b) The 13th Session of the **Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems** will consider three new work items: i) proposed draft *Appendices on the Judgement of Equivalence of Sanitary Measures Associated with Food Inspection and Certification*; ii) proposed draft *Principles for Electronic Certification*; and iii) proposed draft *Guidelines for Risk-based Inspection of Imported Foods*. The Committee will continue its discussion on the development of work on Traceability/Product Tracing in the context of food import and export inspection and certification systems in the light of the definition of Traceability/Product Tracing, which was adopted by the 27th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. As requested by the Commission, the Committee will consider the submission of a proposal for new work on principles for the application of Traceability/Product Tracing as a matter of priority.
 - (c) The 11th Session of the **Codex Committee on Meat Hygiene** will be primarily involved in the discussion and finalisation of the draft Codex *Code of Hygienic Practice for Meat*, in view of its submission for final approval by the 28th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

III. MEMBERSHIP OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Ukraine has become a member of the Codex Alimentarius Commission since the last session of the SPS Committee. The membership currently comprises 171 member nations and one member organization.

Appendix I

Standards and Related Texts Adopted by the 27th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission

Part 1. Standards and Related Texts Adopted at Step 8 as Final Texts

Standard and Related Text	Reference
Code of Practice on Good Animal Feeding	ALINORM 04/27/38; Appendix II and ALINORM 03/38A: Appendix II
Food Category System of the Codex General Standard for Food Additives	ALINORM 04/27/12; Appendix V, para. 68
Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Aflatoxin Contamination in Peanuts	ALINORM 04/27/12; Appendix XV, para. 140
Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Lead Contamination in Food	ALINORM 04/27/12; Appendix XVI, para. 168
Revisions to Table 1 of the Codex General Standard for Food Additives	ALINORM 04/27/12; Appendix VI, para. 81
Standard for Salted Atlantic Herring and Salted Sprat	ALINORM 04/27/18; Appendix II, para. 54
Model Certificate for Fish and Fishery Products (sanitary certificate)	ALINORM 04/27/18; Appendix III, para. 68
Amendment to the Standard for Quick Frozen Lobsters	ALINORM 04/27/18; Appendix IV, para. 74
Standard for Oranges	ALINORM 04/27/35; Appendix II, para. 18
Code of Hygienic Practice for Milk and Milk Products	ALINORM 04/27/13; Appendix II, para. 53
Guidelines for Use of Nutrition and Health Claims	ALINORM 04/27/22; Appendix III, para. 51
Amendment to the Standard for Quick Frozen Fish Sticks (Fish Fingers), Fish Portions and Fish Fillets, Breaded or in Batter (Labelling Section)	ALINORM 04/27/22; Appendix II, para. 11
Amendment to the Guidelines for the Production, Processing, Labelling and Marketing of Organically Produced Foods: Revised Annex 2 – Tables 1 and 2	ALINORM 04/27/22; Appendix IV, para. 75
General Guidelines on Sampling	ALINORM 04/27/23; Appendix III, para. 25
Guidelines on Measurement Uncertainty	ALINORM 04/27/23; Appendix IV, para. 37
Methods of Analysis for Additives and Contaminants	ALINORM 04/27/23; Appendix VI- Part E
Methods of Analysis (for inclusion in the Standard of Olive Oils and Olive Pomace Oils)	ALINORM 04/27/23; Appendix VI- Part A
Methods of Analysis (for inclusion in the Standard of Named Vegetable Oils)	ALINORM 04/27/23; Appendix VI- Part A

Standard and Related Text	Reference
MRLs for Pesticides	ALINORM 04/27/24; Appendix II, paras 60-175

**Part 2. Standards and Related Texts Adopted at Step 5 and Step 8
as Final Texts with Recommendations to Omit Step 6 and 7**

Standard and Related Text	Reference
Revisions to Table 1 of the Codex General Standard for Food Additives	ALINORM 04/27/12; Appendix VI, para. 81
Specifications for the Identity and Purity of Food Additives (Category I) arising from the 61 st JECFA Meeting	ALINORM 04/27/12; Appendix XI, para. 99
Amendments to the International Numbering System for Food Additives	ALINORM 04/27/12; Appendix XII, para. 103
Code of Practice for Fish and Fishery Products (quick frozen coated fish products) ¹	ALINORM 04/27/18, Appendix V, para. 113; ALINORM 06/27/13, paras. 13-14
Principles and Guidelines for the Exchange of Information in Food Safety Emergency Situations	ALINORM 04/27/30; Appendix II, para. 61
MRLs for Pesticides	ALINORM 04/27/24; Appendix III, paras 60-175

¹ The Code of Practice supersedes the provisions on fish products in the Code of Practice for Frozen Battered and/or Breaded Fishery Products (CAC/RCP 35-1985).