CODEX GUIDANCE ON IMPORT AND EXPORT REQUIREMENTS INCLUDING SAFETY ASSESSMENT OF FOOD DERIVED FROM BIOTECHNOLOGY

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• Codex provides horizontal guidance and principles on the establishment and functioning of food control systems and their specific components e.g. food import/export inspection/certification systems, accreditation, exchange of information on between competent authorities, etc. → **Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS)**

*Some key texts addressing approval produces (Annexes B and C of the WTO/SPS Agreement)*

• Principles for food import and export inspection and certification systems (CXG 20-1995)
• Guidelines on food import control systems (CXG 47-2003)
• Guidelines on national food control systems (CXG 82-2013)
• Guidelines on exchange of information between countries on rejections of imported foods (CXG 25-1997)
• Guidelines on exchange of information between countries to support food trade (CXG 89-2016)
CCFICS – food import/export inspection/certification/accreditation

Some key texts addressing approval produces
(Annexes B and C of the WTO/SPS Agreement)

• Principles for food import and export inspection and certification systems (CXG 20-1995)
  • Transparency (Principle)
    • Principles and operations of food inspection and certification systems should be open to scrutiny by all relevant stakeholders
    • Importing countries should provide information on existing requirements. Changes to requirements should be published; an adequate time period permitted for comment; the views of exporting countries should be taken into account in taking a final decision. Establishment of new requirements should be allowed a reasonable time period before taking effect so that exporting countries can make necessary changes to production methods and control measures.
    • Importing country should make available to exporting countries timely advice on the basis of the decisions taken regarding compliance of foods with their relevant requirements (upon request)
    • Exporting countries should provide access to view and assess the functioning of their food inspection and certification systems (upon request)
  • Undue delays (Reference)
    Control and inspections procedures: Importing countries should complete without undue delay any procedures necessary to assess compliance with requirements (...)

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS  |  Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations | World Health Organization
CCMAS – Terms of Reference

• to define the criteria appropriate to Codex methods of analysis and sampling;
• to serve as a coordinating body for Codex with other international groups working in methods of analysis and sampling and quality assurance systems for laboratories;
• to specify, on the basis of final recommendations submitted to it by the other bodies referred to in (b) above, Reference Methods of Analysis and Sampling appropriate to Codex Standards which are generally applicable to a number of foods;
• to consider, amend, if necessary, and endorse, as appropriate, methods of analysis and sampling proposed by Codex Committees, except that methods of analysis and sampling for residues of pesticides or veterinary drugs in food, the assessment of micro biological quality and safety in food, and the assessment of specifications for food additives, do not fall within the terms of reference of CCMAS;
• to elaborate sampling plans and procedures, as may be required;
• to consider specific sampling and analysis problems submitted to it by the Commission or any of its Committees; and,
• to define procedures, protocols, guidelines or related texts for the assessment of food laboratory proficiency, as well as quality assurance systems for laboratories.
CCMAS – sampling and testing procedures

• Codex provides horizontal and specific guidance and principles on sampling/testing → Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS) (± specific Codex committees)

  Some key texts addressing sampling and testing (Annexes B and C of the WTO/SPS Agreement)

  • Guidelines for food control laboratory management (CXG 28-1995)
  • Guidelines for the assessment of the competence of testing laboratories involved in the import and export control of food (CXG 27-1997)
  • Guidelines for internal quality control in analytical chemistry laboratories (CXG 65-1997)
  • Guidelines for settling disputes over analytical (test) results (CXG 70-2009)
  • Principles for the use of sampling and testing in international food trade (CXG 83-2013)
  • Guidelines on Performance Criteria and Validation of Methods for Detection, Identification and Quantification of Specific DNA Sequences and Specific Proteins in Foods (CXG 74-2010)

Guidelines on Performance Criteria for Methods of Analysis for the Determination of Pesticide Residues in Food and Feed (CX90-2017) (Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues - CCPR)
Codex work on foods derived from biotechnology

• Codex provides horizontal and specific guidance and principles for a risk analysis framework for trade of food derived from biotechnology and specific guidance for the conduct of safety assessments on the safety and nutritional aspects of such foods to protect public health and ensure fair practices in trade.

  *Key texts addressing food derived from biotechnology*

  • Principles for the Risk Analysis of Foods Derived from Modern Biotechnology (CXG 44-2003)
  • Guideline for the Conduct of Food Safety Assessment of Foods Derived from Recombinant-DNA Plants (CXG 45-2003)
  • Guideline for the Conduct of Food Safety Assessment of Foods Derived from Recombinant-DNA Animals (CXG 68-2008)

(www.codexalimentarius.org)