

codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



E

JOINT OFFICE: Viale delle Terme di Caracalla 00153 ROME Tel: 39 06 57051 www.codexalimentarius.net Email: codex@fao.org Facsimile: 39 06 5705 4593

Agenda Item 2

**CX/FICS 10/18/2
December 2009**

**JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME
CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD IMPORT AND EXPORT INSPECTION
AND CERTIFICATION SYSTEMS**

Eighteenth Session

Surfars Paradise, Australia, 1-5 March 2010

**MATTERS REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE BY THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS
COMMISSION AND OTHER CODEX COMMITTEES AND TASK FORCES ¹**

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE 32ND SESSION OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Items for Information

Proposed Draft Generic Model Official Certificate (Annex to Guidelines for Design, Production, Issuance and Use of Generic Official Certificate (CAC/GL 38-2001) (N08-2008))²

1. The Commission noted that the issues raised by one delegation concerning a multiple products certificate and importer responsibilities had been addressed by the Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS) and that the generic model official certificate proposed for adoption allowed for multiple products certification and could accommodate the inclusion of information not known at the moment the certificate was issued, without changing the certificate. The Commission also noted that the generic model certificate, as an annex to the *Guidelines for Design, Production, Issuance and Use of Generic Official Certificate*, was consistent with the provisions of the Guidelines. In view of these clarifications, the Commission adopted the proposed draft Generic Model Official Certificate, as an Annex in the *Guidelines for Design, Production, Issuance and Use of Generic Official Certificate (CAC/GL 38-2001)*.

2. In view of the adoption of the Proposed Draft Generic Model Official Certificate, the Commission agreed to request the Committees on Fish and Fishery Products and on Milk and Milk Products to revise respectively the *Model Certificate for Fish and Fishery Products (CAC/GL 48-2004)* and the *Model Export Certificate for Milk and Milk Products (CAC/GL 67-2008)* to ensure consistency with the Generic Model Official Certificate.

Elaboration of new Standards and Related Texts³

3. The Commission approved the elaboration of *Principles and Guidelines for National Food Control Systems (N06-2009)* as new work for the Committee.

Review of Codex texts on emergency situations and exchange of information on rejected food⁴

4. When discussing future work on animal feeding, the Commission agreed to establish an electronic working group, hosted by Denmark and co-hosted by the United States of America, to, among others, review

¹ This document only contains information on matters arising from or referred by the Codex Alimentarius Commission that are specific to the activities of the Codex Committee of Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems. Other decisions and guidance of the 32nd Session of the Commission are found in ALINORM 09/32/REP. The Codex Secretariat will report verbally on matters of horizontal nature as appropriate to the discussion of the Committee.

² ALINORM 09/32/REP, para 33, 195 and Appendix III

³ ALINORM 09/32/REP, para. 113 and Appendix VI.

⁴ ALINORM 09/32/REP, para. 175

Codex texts on emergency situations and exchange of information on rejected food as to their applicability to animal feed.

Development of Guidelines for Traceability/Product tracing⁵

5. The Commission endorsed the recommendation of the Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems to request the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee to discuss whether there was a need for further guidance on traceability/product tracing and report back to the 34th Session of the Commission.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE 62ND AND 63RD SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Items for Information

Critical review - Monitoring progress of standards development⁶

6. The 62nd Executive Committee noted that standards development of CCFICS was progressing according to schedule.

Use of the term “competent authority”⁷

7. The 62nd Executive Committee noted the concern raised by the Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Purposes regarding the inconsistent use of the terms “national competent authority” and “competent national authority” or other versions and similar discussions in the Committee on Food Labelling. The Committee recommended that the Committee on Food Labelling and the Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Purposes Secretariat harmonise the different terms to read “competent authority”. With regard to the proposal to have a Codex wide definition of that term the Committee noted that presently the term “competent authority” was defined differently in the *Guidelines for the Production, Processing, Labelling and Marketing of Organically Produced Foods* (CAC/GL 32-1999) and the *Code of Hygienic Practice for Meat* (CAC/RCP 58-2005). The Committee noted further that the term was used in several texts from the Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems, but was not defined and that CCFICS could be asked to develop a definition for the terminology within their own texts.

8. In view of the varying situations stated above, the Committee recommended that the Committee on General Principles could be requested to look into the merit of developing a general definition for “competent authority” for inclusion in the Procedural Manual. Concern was raised that a single definition would have to be sufficiently broad to cover a variety of circumstances currently prevailing internationally.

Critical Review – Monitoring of standards development⁸

9. The 63rd Executive Committee noted that CCFICS had recently initiated work on two new items and that this work would be monitored as it progressed to comply with the target dates.

MATTERS ARISING FROM OTHER CODEX COMMITTEES AND TASK FORCES

Items for Information

Thirty session of the Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products (CCFICS) – Agadir, Morocco, 28 September to 2 October 2009⁹

10. The Committee noted the need to limit the number of certificates used in international trade and considered a proposal that the Generic Model Certificate be revised to include specifics related to fish and fishery products and to revoke the *Model Certificate for Fish and Fishery Products*. The Committee noted that the comparison in CRD 3 provided a good basis for consideration of those matters specific to fish and fishery products to be included in the Generic Model Certificate and agreed that a Circular Letter would be issued requesting comments on the list of matters specific to fish and fishery products in the *Model Certificate for Fish and Fishery Products* that could be incorporated into the Generic Model Certificate for further consideration by the next session and possible forwarding to the CCFICS.

⁵ ALINORM 09/32/REP, para. 176

⁶ ALINORM 09/32/3, para. 18

⁷ ALINORM 09/32/3, paras 62-64

⁸ ALINORM 10/33/3, para. 13

⁹ ALINORM 10/33/REP, para. 10