

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

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**Food and Agriculture
Organization of
the United Nations**



**World Health
Organization**

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CL 2010/34-LAC
July 2010

TO: Codex Contact Points
Interested International Organizations

FROM: Secretariat,
Codex Alimentarius Commission

DEADLINE: 30 September 2010

SUBJECT: Request for comments on matters referred from the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the Executive Committee

1. Processed Cheese
2. Strategic Plan 2008-2013: Activity 4.5
3. Private standards

COMMENTS:

To:

Secretariat,
Codex Alimentarius Commission,
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme,
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla 00153
Rome, Italy
Fax: +39 06 57054593)
E-mail: codex@fao.org (preferably)

With a copy to:

Chairperson of the Committee,
Dr. Francisco Ramos Gómez,
Director General de Normas,
General Bureau of Standards (DGN),
Av. Puente de Tecamachalco 6, 2do piso,
Lomas de Tecamachalco Sección Fuentes,
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For background information on the questions put forward below please refer to CX/LAC 10/17/2. Background information as regards the Trust Fund is provided in the Annex to this Circular Letter.

PROCESSED CHEESE: Proposed Draft Standard on Processed Cheese

Comments are requested on the (i) the need for a standard on processed cheese and the rationale for such a standard i.e. whether there is a problem or potential problem in the trade of these products; and (ii) the scope of such a standard i.e. compositional aspects of the products to be covered by the standards.

STRATEGIC PLAN 2008-20013: ACTIVITY 4.5

Information is requested on whether Codex members have mechanisms and evaluation criteria at country level to improve horizontal coordination and communication among national delegates to various food-standards-related international organizations for further consideration by the Executive Committee and the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

Goal 4: Promoting cooperation between Codex and other relevant international organization

Activity 4.5: Promote interdisciplinary coordination at the national and regional level

DESCRIPTION: Encourage Codex member countries to establish effective mechanisms within their own countries so that horizontal coordination and communication occurs among national delegates to various food-standards-related international organizations. Invite members to develop evaluation criteria to assess the success of the mechanisms that they have established and report progress in this activity through their respective Codex Regional Coordinating Committees to the CAC.

PRIVATE STANDARDS

Information is requested by replying to the following questions:

QUESTION 1: Have food producers/processors in your country experienced any problems in meeting private standards?

Please provide a description of the problems encountered (where these problems are encountered, which industries are mainly affected) and give specific examples.

QUESTION 2: What are the financial implications of meeting private standards, especially implications for SMEs?

Please provide specific examples and data to support your response.

QUESTION 3: What measures have been taken to overcome/ease the problems in implementing private standards?

Please provide a description of measures taken and how it has helped to limit the problems associated with private standards, if relevant.

QUESTION 4: What should the CAC/ FAO/WHO do in the context of private standards?

Please make recommendations for follow up action by CAC (or FAO/WHO) bearing in mind that legal trade implications of private standards are dealt with in WTO.