



Agenda Item 13

CX/CAC 11/34/13

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

34th Session

Geneva, Switzerland, 4-9 July 2011

RELATIONS BETWEEN THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

BACKGROUND

1. In accordance with Rule IX.4 of the Rules of Procedure, the Directors-General of FAO or WHO may invite intergovernmental and international non-governmental organizations to attend as observers sessions of the Commission and of its subsidiary bodies. Participation of international organizations in the work of the Commission, and the relations between the Commission and such organizations are governed by the relevant provisions of the Rules of Procedure of the Commission and of the Constitutions of FAO or WHO, as well as by the applicable regulations of FAO or WHO on relations with international organizations; such relations are handled by the Director-General of FAO or of WHO as appropriate.
2. The present document describes the relations with intergovernmental organisations (Part A) and nongovernmental organisations (Part B)
3. Following the request of the 63rd Session of the Executive Committee, the information is presented according to Activities 4.1 to 4.3 where applicable in the case of standard-setting organisations, taking into account available information, and with an analysis of how Codex works with IGOs. As regards NGOs, the only relevant organisation is ISO.

A. RELATIONS BETWEEN THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

World Trade Organization (WTO)

4. The Codex Secretariat regularly participated in the sessions of the SPS and TBT Committees of the WTO and informed the Committees, orally and in writing, of the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission relevant to the WTO. The Codex Secretariat also participated in, and provided support to selected regional or sub-regional workshops on the SPS or TBT Agreements organised by WTO. The Codex Secretariat provided inputs to the meetings of the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF), as required. Representatives of WTO, in return, participated in selected meetings of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and its subsidiary bodies.

5. The information provided by the WTO Secretariat on activities relevant to Codex work is contained in document CAC/34 INF/3 and an update on STDF is presented in CAC/34 INF/4.

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

6. Representatives of FAO/IAEA regularly participate in relevant Codex Committees, especially the Committee on Contaminants in Foods and the Committee on Pesticide Residues, in which IAEA provides important technical input on the work of the Committee on methods of analysis and sampling.

7. Information provided by the IAEA Secretariat on activities relevant to Codex work is contained in document CAC/34 INF/7.

World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)

Relevant activities (update since 33rd CAC) (Activity 4.1 of the Codex Strategic Plan)

8. Information provided by the OIE Secretariat on activities relevant to Codex work to the 34th Session of the Commission will be presented in document CAC/34 INF/2.
9. Continued collaboration between Codex and OIE has resulted in a number of Codex and OIE texts which have been developed with inputs of the two organizations and which include cross reference to relevant texts of the two organizations (Annex 1 provides a lists Codex and OIE texts, which include cross-references to reference to the work of OIE and Codex).

Codex contributions to the work of other international bodies (update since 33rd CAC) (Activity 4.2 of the Codex Strategic Plan)

OIE Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety

10. The Codex Secretariat attended the 10th meeting of the OIE Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety, held in Paris (France) on 2-4 November 2010. At the meeting the Codex Secretariat provided an update on texts adopted by 33rd Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and ongoing work in Codex subsidiary bodies.
11. In the reporting period no invitation was received to attend OIE *ad hoc* Groups.
12. FAO representatives presented a report on relevant Codex activities at the 79th OIE General Session (Paris, 22-27 May 2011).

Contributions to Codex work (update since 33rd CAC) (Activity 4.3 of the Codex Strategic Plan)

13. As an Observer organization to Codex, OIE contributes to the work of Codex providing comments and participating in the sessions of the Commission and of its Codex subsidiary bodies and in the work of electronic and physical working groups. The OIE is also invited to prepare information papers on relevant activities at the Codex Alimentarius Commission and at a number of Committees and Task Force, including the Codex Committees on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods, on Food Hygiene, Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems, Fish and Fish Products and the Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance.
14. Since the 33rd Session of the Commission (July 2010), OIE has attended and /or provided inputs to a number of Codex Committees and Task Force as outlined below:
 - 19th Session of the Committee for Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods (Burlington, United States of America, 30 August – 3 September 2010) (Ref. CX/RVDF 10/19/4);
 - 4th Session of the Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance (Muju, Republic of Korea, 18-22 October 2010) (Ref. CX/AMR 09/3/3);
 - 42nd Session of the Committee on Food Hygiene (Kampala, Uganda, 29 November – 3 December 2010) (Ref. CX/FH 09/41/3 Add.1);
 - 31st Session of the Committee on Fish and Fishery Products (Tromsø, Norway, 11-16 April 2011) (Ref. CX/FFP 11/31/2, Add.2).
15. OIE also participated in the CCFICS physical Working Group on the Proposed Draft Principles and Guidelines for National Food Control Systems (Natal, Brazil, 1-3 March 2011).
16. New work of Codex, which would benefit from a coordinated approach with OIE, includes the activities of the new established Task Force on Animal Feeding and the CCFH work on specific zoonotic parasitosis (to be approved by the 34th CAC).

Quality standards and related texts for fruits and vegetables

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

4.1 Track the activities of other international standard-setting bodies

17. The *UNECE Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards* develops agricultural marketing standards to facilitate trade with and within the ECE Region covering a wide spectrum of agricultural products. This work is carried out through a number of Specialized Sections such as the *Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables*. UNECE standards are used internationally by governments, producers, traders, importers, exporters and international organizations. Membership to the Working Party and its Specialized Sections are open to all members of the United Nations.

18. The Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables is entrusted to elaborate worldwide standards and related texts as may be appropriate for fresh fruits and vegetables. As established in its Terms of Reference, this task is performed in consultation with the *UNECE Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards* and its *Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables* to ensure harmonization of texts, that they follow the same broad format and to avoid duplication of work.

19. The following meetings were attended by both Secretariats as part of their collaborative work: 66th Session of the UNECE Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards (Geneva, Switzerland, November 2010); 58th and 59th Sessions of the UNECE Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (Geneva, Switzerland, November 2010 and May 2011); and 16th Session of the Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (Mexico City, Mexico, May 2011).

4.2 Encourage Codex contributions to the work of other international bodies

20. The Codex Secretariat regularly attends meetings of the UNECE Working Party and its Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables as Observer to exchange information on standardization work being performed by the two parties and to provide inputs on matters of common interest that are being discussed both in the Specialized Section and the Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables.

4.3 Encourage contributions from other international bodies in Codex work

21. The UNECE Secretariat regularly attends meetings of the Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables as Observer to exchange information on standardization work being performed by the two parties and to provide inputs on matters of common interest that are being discussed both in the Specialized Section and the Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables.

22. The Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables takes UNECE standards as a starting point for the development of corresponding Codex standards and, in order to facilitate this process, relevant UNECE standards are distributed as working documents for the Committee when like products were being considered as recommended by the Codex Alimentarius Commission. Also, information on matters arising from other international organizations on the standardization of fresh fruits and vegetables, i.e. UNECE and OECD, constitutes a standing item on the agenda of the Committee.

23. In addition, Codex standards for fresh fruits and vegetables are currently presented in a combination of the UNECE layout and the Format of Codex Commodity Standards in accordance with the decision of the Commission, by which UNECE format would be respected for quality characteristics elaborated under Codex standards, while the Codex format would be respected for those provisions not dealing exclusively with commercial quality". This is in term in correspondence with the mandate of the Committee as regards consultation with the UNECE in order to ensure that the standards follow the same broad format.

24. Furthermore, the Terms of Reference of the Committee allows the Working Party: to recommend that a worldwide Codex standard for fresh fruits and vegetables be elaborated and submit its recommendation to the Committee for consideration or to the Commission for approval; may also prepare "proposed draft standards" for fresh fruits or vegetables at the request of the Committee or of the Commission for distribution by the Codex Secretariat at Step 3 of the Codex Procedure or for further action by the Committee; may consider "proposed draft standards" and "draft standards" for fresh fruits and vegetables and transmit comments on them to the Committee at Steps 3 and 6 of the Codex Procedures; and may perform specific tasks in relation to the elaboration of standards for fresh fruits and vegetables at the request of the Committee. Moreover, Codex "proposed draft standards" and "draft standards" for fresh fruits and

vegetables at Steps 3 and 6 of the Codex Procedures should be submitted to the UNECE Secretariat for obtaining comments.

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

4.1 Track the activities of other international standard-setting bodies

25. The OECD Scheme for the Application of International Standards for Fruits and Vegetables aims at facilitating the mutual recognition of the export quality inspection regimes by participating countries of the Scheme through the harmonization of implementation and interpretation of internationally recognized marketing standards which includes the development of explanatory brochures, guidelines on sampling plans and testing methods for conformity checks, inspections and certification procedures, etc. Membership to the Scheme is open to any OECD or non-OECD country that is a member of the United Nations or of the World Trade Organization. The OECD Scheme

26. The Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables cooperates on a regular basis with the OECD Scheme on various standardization-related activities concerning fresh fruits and vegetables aimed at facilitating the implementation of international agricultural grade standards.

27. The Codex Secretariat regularly attend meetings of the OECD Scheme the later the 69th Plenary Meeting (Paris, France, December 2010) and has recently been involved in OECD capacity building activities to make presentations on Codex work in the area of quality of fresh fruits and vegetables namely the 15th International Training Course on Harmonization of Fruit and Vegetable Quality Assessment (Mojmirovce, Slovakia, September 2010) and the 15th OECD Meeting of Heads of National Inspection Services (Budapest, Hungary, March 2011).

4.2 Encourage Codex contributions to the work of other international bodies

28. The Codex Secretariat regularly attends Plenary Meetings of the OECD Scheme as Observer to exchange information on standardization-related work being performed by the two parties and to provide inputs on matters of common interest that are being discussed both in the OECD Scheme and the Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables.

29. In addition, the OECD Council Decision C(2006)95 revising the OECD Scheme includes a reference to the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme so that also the relevant standards adopted by the Codex Alimentarius Commission, once approved by the Plenary Meeting of the OECD Scheme, shall be applied under the “Scheme” to the products specified in this Decision, at the export stage, when they enter into international trade between countries participating in the “Scheme”. The standards approved by the Plenary Meeting could be also used in the elaboration of explanatory brochures to facilitate inspection and other procedures for conformity to quality standards. In this regard, the 69th Plenary Meeting adopted the Codex Standard for Bananas as an OECD Standard. The same consideration could be applied for the development of an OECD brochure on pomegranate if possible in parallel with the development of the Codex Standard for Pomegranate in the Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables. Further details on this matter can be found in the report of the 16th Session of the Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (REP11/FFV, paras. 24-26 and 106) and in Information Paper INF 1 Activities of the OECD relevant to the work to the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

4.3 Encourage contributions from other international bodies in Codex work

30. The OECD Secretariat regularly attends meetings of the Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables as Observer to exchange information on standardization-related work being performed by the two parties and to provide inputs on matters of common interest that are being discussed both in the OECD Scheme and the Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables.

International Olive Council (IOC)

4.1 Track the activities of other international standard-setting bodies

31. The International Olive Council is an intergovernmental organization that brings together olive oil and table olive producing and consuming stakeholders. The Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables is entrusted with the elaboration of worldwide standards for all types of processed fruits and vegetables including canned, dried and quick frozen fruits and vegetables.

32. The Committee usually takes into account the work done or being done by other international organizations active in the area of standardization of processed fruits and vegetables such as the IOC for the revision of the Codex Standard for Table Olives. In this regard, the past IOC Expert Meeting on Table Olives held in Madrid, Spain in March 2011 was devoted to the harmonization of the IOC Standard for Table Olives in view of the ongoing revision of the Codex Standard for Table Olives.

33. As regards the IOC work on olive oils, the Codex Committee on Fats and Oils took into account the work of the IOC when revising the standard for olive oils and olive pomace oils, with the result that the IOC and Codex Standards for Olive Oils and Olive Pomace Oils are mostly harmonised, with the exception of a few parameters.

34. The Codex Secretariat receives the documents for the meetings on olive oil chemistry organised by the IOC, and participated twice in these meetings, and provided an update on the ongoing work of the Committee on Fats and Oils on olive oil. As the methods are under regular revision and new methods are developed for various parameters, it is expected that when new methods are developed in the IOC they would be forwarded to the Committee on Fats and Oils for consideration.

4.2 Encourage Codex contributions to the work of other international bodies

35. The Codex Secretariat has actively been exchanging information with and providing inputs to the IOC Secretariat on the harmonization and revision of the IOC Standard for Table Olives the latter in relation to the preparatory work of the February 2011 IOC Meeting vis-à-vis the outcome of the discussion on the revision of the Codex Standard for Table Olives at the 25th Session of the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables (Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia, October 2010) where the IOC was present as an observer organization.

4.3 Encourage contributions from other international bodies in Codex work

36. The IOC has a long-standing cooperation with Codex in the development and revision of Codex texts concerning olive-related products. The revised text produced by the February 2011 IOC Meeting will be taken into account by the CCPFV Working Group on Table Olives when further revising the Codex Standard for Table Olives for consideration by the 26th Session of the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables in 2012.

37. The IOC participates regularly in the meetings of the Committee on Fats and Oils, and the Committee took into account the parameters for olive oils in the revision of the Codex Standard for Olive Oils and olive Pomace Oils. The survey carried out by IOC was considered when discussing the level of linolenic acid in the Standard, for which discontinuation of work was subsequently proposed by the Committee.

International Organisation of Vine and Wine (OIV)

4.1 Track the activities of other international standard-setting bodies

38. The International Organisation of Vine and Wine (OIV) is an intergovernmental organisation of a scientific and technical nature in the field of vines, wine and wine-based beverages, table grapes and raisins and other vine-based products. The Organisation's missions and objectives are in particular to:

- a) Inform its members of measures whereby the concerns of producers, consumers and other parties in the viticulture and viniculture sector may be taken into consideration;
- b) Assist other international organisations both intergovernmental and non-governmental, especially those which carry out standardisation activities;
- c) Contribute to the international standardisation of existing practices and standards and, as necessary, to the preparation of new international standards in order to improve the conditions for producing and marketing viticulture and viniculture products, and ensure that consumers' interests are taken into account.

39. OIV participates in the Codex Alimentarius Commission and several Codex Committees, in particular the Committee on Food Additives, the Committee on Contaminants in Foods and the Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables.

4.2 Encourage Codex contributions to the work of other international bodies

40. Several standards and principles laid down by the Codex Alimentarius have been taken into consideration when drafting specific OIV standards. These include, in particular:

- The role of science in developing standards
- The principles established by the Committee on food import and export inspection and certification systems adopted by the Commission, in developing the OIV draft resolution regarding the traceability guidelines in the wine and viticulture sector
- The principles and definitions established by the Codex Alimentarius on biotechnologies which were taken into account when drafting certain definitions specific to the vine and wine sector with regard to biotechnologies.

4.3 Encourage contributions from other international bodies in Codex work

41. The OIV took an active participation in the work of the Committee on Contaminants in Foods on the development of the *Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Ochratoxin A Contamination in Wine*, in view of the work carried out by OIV on “Code of good vitivincultural practices in order to minimise the presence of Ochratoxin A in vine-based products”, adopted by OIV Member States, and is involved in the review of lead levels.

42. The OIV also participates in the work by the Codex Committee on Food Additives, especially during discussions concerning provisions relating to food additives in the General Standard for Food Additives (GSFA), in particular for the “grape wine” category and its sub-categories and in the review of the food category system.

43. As regards the Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables, OIV contributed to the work on the Standard for Table Grapes.

44. Detailed information on OIV activities and cooperation with Codex is available in CAC/34 INF/5.

International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)

4.4 Consider cooperation with other relevant international intergovernmental organizations

45. The Codex Secretariat regularly attends sessions of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures of the International Plant Protection Convention the latter the 6th Session of the CPM held in Rome, Italy, in March 2011. In addition, informal liaison between Codex and IPPC Secretariats continues on matters of common interest to both parties.

OIML International Organization of Legal Metrology (OIML)

46. The OIML, the International Organization of Legal Metrology participates frequently in the Codex Committees on Food Labelling (CCFL) and on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS). The organization presented a discussion paper to the CCFL on the need to align the General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods (Codex Stan 1-1985) in line with OIML recommendations regarding the declaration of the quantity of product in pre-packages and is presently finalising work on their recommendations before presenting a new discussion paper to one of the next sessions of the CCFL.

B. RELATIONS BETWEEN THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND INTERNATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Procedure for Observer Status

47. In accordance with Article 6 of the *Principles Concerning the Participation of International Non-Governmental Organizations in the Work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission*, a report is made to the Commission on the relations between the Codex Alimentarius Commission and international non-governmental organizations established in accordance with the present procedures and provides a list of organizations granted Observer Status, with an indication of the membership that they represent.

48. The review of the organisations which have applied for observer status and were considered by the 63rd and 64th Sessions of the Executive Committee in the light of the criteria set out in the *Principles* will be presented to the Commission in the reports of these sessions.

International Organization for Standardization (ISO)

4.1 Track the activities of other international standard-setting bodies

49. Codex has liaison status with ISO TC 34 on food products and more recently was granted liaison status with ISO Policy Committee on Conformity Assessment (ISO/CASCO) (2008). The Secretariat therefore receives all the documents for the relevant sub-committees of TC 34, and participates in some meetings when the subject is of direct relevance and according to practical possibilities. Since 2008, the Codex Secretariat participated once in the plenary meeting of TC 34, regularly followed subcommittee TC 34/SC 4 on cereals and pulses and ISO/CASCO plenary sessions, and either participates or provide written updates to CASCO STAR (Strategic Alliance and Regulatory Group).

4.2 Encourage Codex contributions to the work of other international bodies

50. As regards methods of analysis, in view of the nature of Codex work and the fact that Codex Committees generally do not develop methods but use existing methods, Codex committees cannot contribute directly to ISO work.

51. As indicated above, the Secretariat participated in the ISO CASCO workshop on “Risk Based Approaches to designing conformity assessment strategies” in November 2010, and provided an update of Codex work related to conformity assessment, mainly the Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling and the Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems to the ISO CASCO plenary meeting and CASCO STAR. An update of the general issues under discussion in the Commission was also presented, especially issues related to participation of developing countries and private standards.

4.3 Encourage contributions from other international bodies in Codex work

52. ISO participates regularly in the Codex Alimentarius Commission and in the Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling, where its technical contribution is very important.

53. The contribution of ISO in the area of methods of analysis and sampling is very substantial, as indicated in the document provided by ISO CAC/33 INF/6, approximately 310 methods of analysis refer to ISO methods especially ISO/TC 34 (food products) or water quality methods. As regards milk and milk products, reference is made in Codex standards to a large number of joint ISO and IDF methods for these products, developed by ISO/TC 43/SC 5 Milk and Milk Products. In March 2011, the joint work ISO/TS 15495 | IDF/RM 230:2010, *Milk, milk products and infant formulae - Guidelines for the quantitative determination of melamine and cyanuric acid by LC-MS/MS* was endorsed by CCMAS and forwarded to the Commission for adoption.

54. Reference is made in several general Codex texts to ISO/IEC17025 for testing and calibration laboratories. ISO sampling plans are also referred to in the Codex General Guidelines on Sampling.

Annex 1

Codex and OIE texts with cross-references to OIE and Codex

Codex standards		
Reference	Title	Notes
CAC/GL 60-2006	<u>Principles for Traceability / Product Tracing as a Tool Within a Food Inspection and Certification System</u>	
(CAC/RCP 58-2005)	<u>Code of Hygienic Practice for Meat</u>	
CAC/RCP 61-2005	<u>Code of Practice to Minimize and Contain Antimicrobial Resistance</u>	
CAC/RCP 57-2004	<u>Code of Hygienic Practice for Milk and Milk Products</u>	
CAC/GL 62-2007	<u>Working Principles for Risk Analysis for Food Safety for Application by Governments</u>	
CAC/GL 67-2008	<u>Model Export Certificate for Milk and Milk Products</u>	
CAC/RCP 54-2004	<u>Code of Practice on Good Animal Feeding</u>	
CAC/GL 38-2001	<u>Guidelines for design, production, issuance and use of generic model official certificates</u>	
	Proposed Draft Guidelines for the Control of <i>Campylobacter</i> and <i>Salmonella</i> spp. in Chicken Meat	Sent to the 34 th CAC for adoption
N01-2008, N02-2008, N03-2008	Draft Guidelines for risk analysis of foodborne antimicrobial resistance	Sent to the 34 th CAC for adoption
OIE standards		
OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code:		
Chapter	Title	Notes
Chapter 4.1.	General principles on identification and traceability of live animals	
Chapter 4.2.	Design and implementation of identification systems to achieve animal traceability	
Chapter 6.1.	The role of the Veterinary Services in food safety	
Chapter 6.2.	Control of biological hazards of animal health and public health importance through ante- and post-mortem meat inspection	
Chapter 6.3.	Control of hazards of animal health and public health importance in animal feed	
Chapter 6.4.	Hygiene and disease security procedures in poultry breeding flocks and hatcheries	
Chapter 6.5.	Prevention, detection and control of <i>Salmonella</i> in poultry	Under revision
Chapter 6.6.	<i>Salmonella enteritidis</i> and <i>Salmonella typhimurium</i> in	Under revision

	poultry	
Chapter 6.7.	Introduction to the recommendations for controlling antimicrobial resistance	
Chapter 6.8.	Harmonisation of national antimicrobial resistance surveillance and monitoring programmes	
Chapter 6.9.	Monitoring of the quantities of antimicrobials used in animal husbandry	
Chapter 6.10.	Responsible and prudent use of antimicrobial agents in veterinary medicine	
Chapter 6.11.	Risk assessment for antimicrobial resistance arising from the use of antimicrobials in animals.	
<i>OIE Aquatic Animal Health Code:</i>		
Chapter	Title	Notes
Chapter 4.5.	Control of aquatic animal health hazards in aquatic animal feed.	
Chapter 6.1.	Introduction to the recommendations for controlling antimicrobial resistance	Under development
Chapter 6.2.	Responsible and prudent use of antimicrobial agents in veterinary medicine.	Under development