

# codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE  
ORGANIZATION  
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD  
HEALTH  
ORGANIZATION



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 5**

**CX/EURO 08/26/7**  
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## **JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME** **FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR EUROPE**

**Twenty-sixth Session,**  
**Warsaw, Poland, 7-10 October 2008**

### **USE OF CODEX STANDARDS AT NATIONAL AND REGIONAL LEVEL (CL 2008/4-EURO, PART B)**

#### **ARMENIA**

The following Codex standards requirements have been taken into consideration in establishing technical regulations and national standards approved by the Government of Armenia:

Technical Regulation on juices and juice product (Gov. Decree 1602-N, 13.12.2007)

[CODEX STAN 44-81, 45-81, 46-81, 47-81, 48-81, 49-81, 57-81, 64-81, 82-81, 83-81, 85-81, 101-81, 120-81, 121-81, 122-81, 134-89, 138-83, 139-83, 148-85, 161-89, 164-89, 179-91, 247-2005, 192-1995]

Technical Regulation on requirements for wheat, its production, storage and utilization (Gov. Decree 22-N, 11.01.2007)

[CODEX STAN 199-1995, 153-1985, 169-1989, 1-1985, 192-1995]

Technical Regulation on requirements for milk, dairy products and their production (Gov. Decree 1925-N, 21.12.2006)

[CODEX STAN 207-1999, 232-2001, 1-1985, 192-1995]

Jams and Jellies: General Technical Conditions (Armenian Standard 48-2007)

[CODEX STAN 192-1995, 79-1981]

Wheat Flour: General Technical Conditions (Armenian Standard 280-2007)

[CODEX STAN 152-1985 (amended 1-1995), 192-1995 (re-published in 2007 with 7 amendments)]

Animal Fats: General Technical Conditions (Armenian Standard 278-2007)

[CODEX STAN 211-1999, 192-1995]

Vegetable Oils: Olive Oils: General Technical Conditions (Armenian Standard 287-2007)

[CODEX STAN 210, 33-1981, 192-1995]

Standardization, Metrology and Certification Council of CIS countries (former USSR countries) has prepared Intergovernmental Standards List, which includes provisions for implementation of safety requirements stipulated by technical regulations. The mentioned list should be reviewed according to Codex standards' requirements.

**AUSTRIA**

Codex standards and related texts are used in Austria either via EC legislation or national legislative measures

**DENMARK**

Codex standards are usually integrated into EC legislation. A code of practice for reduction of a contaminant by GAP/GMP can be used for inspiration in guidance for food producers, but is then simplified and translated into Danish.

**ESTONIA**

The Codex standards and related texts are used mainly indirectly via their influence on the preparation of the EU food legislation in Estonia.

**FINLAND**

Use of Codex standards and related texts in Finland is mainly indirect via their influence on the preparation of the EU food legislation. Within the area there is no EU legislation, the Codex standards and related texts have been used as a basis for national measures.

**FRANCE**

This issue relates in part to a domain harmonized by the European Community. The Codex standards are used in the absence of EC or national regulations or in certain situations of conflict with another national regulation.

**GEORGIA**

There is not any mechanisms and evaluation criteria to improve horizontal coordination and communication among national delegates to various food-standards-related international organizations.

**HUNGARY**

Codex standards are used through their influence on EU legislation and international trade issues.

**IRELAND**

Used indirectly at national level via EU law. No regional variations.

**LATVIA**

The Codex standards and related texts are used mainly indirect via their influence on the preparation of the EU food legislation in Latvia.

**POLAND**

Codex standards and related texts are used at the national level mainly indirect via their influence on the EU food legislation.

National food legislation is based on Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) System and Guidelines for its Application, which can be found in the Annex to CAC/RCP 1-1969, Rev. 3 (1997).

Codex Standards are increasingly appreciated by the industry and traders as they are the basis for stakeholders in food trade, especially outside the EU market.

**SERBIA**

Standards for foodstuffs (food supplements, dietetic products, salt, additives ...), standards for sampling, standards for mayonese, etc.

**SLOVAK REPUBLIC**

Slovak Republic as a member of European Union has to obligatory implemented EU legislation - *acquis communautaire*. Codex standard are utilised during preparation *acquis communautaire*. In the area which is not subject of EU legislation, Codex standards and related texts are used in preparing of the national legislation, particularly in Slovak Food Codex, which is the executive legislation to the Act No. 152/1995 Coll. on Foodstuff as amended by Act No.195/2007 (e.g. milk and milk products, fish and fishery products). Codex standards and related texts are used in the process of risk assessment too.

**UNITED KINGDOM**

Use of Codex standards and related texts is largely through their influence on the formulation of EU food legislation. They are taken into account in other aspects of policy making and are noted as important factors in harmonising international trade issues.

***(II) NON-USE OF CODEX STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS AT THE NATIONAL AND REGIONAL LEVEL, WITH REASONS WHERE APPLICABLE.*****ARMENIA**

Non-use of Codex standards is conditioned by the fact, that some of Armenian technical regulations and national standards determines norms which are more drastically defined in the hygienic requirements for food raw and food safety and nutritional value of Sanitary Rules and Hygienic Norms No. 2-III-4.9-01-2003 (approved by Decision No. 181 of the Minister of Health of Armenia on 28.03.2003), than in Codex standards (regarding permissible levels of toxic elements).

**DENMARK**

Codex standards which differs from EC standards and where EC can present arguments and documentation to defend the EC legislation will not change the EC legislation. A code of practice with no relevance to Danish food production will not be used (as an example, Codex code of practice for reduction of aflatoxins in peanuts – DK has no production of peanuts).

**FINLAND**

Some of the Codex Standards and related texts are quite old and not always relevant at the national level.

see also 3.B(i)

**FRANCE**

This issue relates to a domain harmonized by the European Community.

**GEORGIA**

Main reason of non-using Codex standards is that they are voluntary standards.

**IRELAND**

Not applicable.

**SLOVAK REPUBLIC**

The SR uses Codex standards and related text in the areas of national legislation which is not harmonised on the EU level. (see (i)).

**UNITED KINGDOM**

This is a European Commission competence.

***(III) DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED IN THE USE OR APPLICATION OF CODEX STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS AT THE NATIONAL AND REGIONAL LEVEL*****ARMENIA**

The main difficulty encountered in the use of Codex standards is language barrier.

**DENMARK**

In cases where EC/risk analysis differs from the scientific advice on which Codes standards are based – it may give rise to disputes. One example is when establishing MRL's on pesticide residues where intake considerations often differs.

**FRANCE**

This issue relates to a domain harmonized by the European Community.

**IRELAND**

None.

**POLAND**

One of the difficulties encountered in the use of Codex standards and related texts is their unavailability in national language.

**SLOVAK REPUBLIC**

There are no evident difficulties encountered in the use or application of Codex standards and related texts at the national level.

**UNITED KINGDOM**

Not applicable.

***(IV) RELEVANCE OF CODEX STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS AS A BASIS FOR HARMONIZATION OF LEGISLATION AND REGULATIONS, INCLUDING IN THE PERSPECTIVE OF ECONOMIC INTEGRATION*****ARMENIA**

As it was mentioned above, the following Codex standards requirements have been taken into consideration in establishing technical regulations approved by the Government of Armenia:

1. Technical Regulation on juices and juice product (Gov. Decree 1602-N, 13.12.2007)

[CODEX STAN 44-81, 45-81, 46-81, 47-81, 48-81, 49-81, 57-81, 64-81, 82-81, 83-81, 85-81, 101-81, 120-81, 121-81, 122-81, 134-89, 138-83, 139-83, 148-85, 161-89, 164-89, 179-91, 247-2005, 192-1995]

2. Technical Regulation on requirements for wheat, its production, storage and utilization (Gov. Decree 22-N, 11.01.2007)

[CODEX STAN 199-1995, 153-1985, 169-1989, 1-1985, 192-1995]

3. Technical Regulation on requirements for milk, dairy products and their production (Gov. Decree 1925-N, 21.12.2006)

**DENMARK**

As Denmark is a member of EC and as EC has a harmonized legislation in most of the areas where Codex has activities the consequences of adopting codex standards is less than when EC legislation was adopted. Codex standards are always taken into consideration in the process of establishing EC legislation. Thus Codex standards plays a major role in harmonizing EC legislation towards all other Codex Member States. Denmark favours very much this harmonization process.

**FRANCE**

This issue relates to a domain harmonized by the European Community.

**HUNGARY**

EU legislation is in generally in line with relevant Codex standards.

**IRELAND**

Very relevant – see EU reply.

**SERBIA**

Based on very good previous experience, Codex standards and related texts are considered and used as a relevant basis for harmonization of national regulations and standards.

**SLOVAK REPUBLIC**

Codex standards and related text play very important role mainly in world trade; they can help improving food safety mainly in development countries and increase confidence of consumers.

**UNITED KINGDOM**

Legislation agreed/adopted in the EU is generally consistent with Codex standards.

**(V) ANY OTHER HEALTH AND/OR TRADE PROBLEMS RELATED TO STANDARDIZATION AT THE NATIONAL OR REGIONAL LEVEL**

**DENMARK**

In general, we find that the ALARA principle is not always followed when setting Codex standards. For contaminants like aflatoxins we have had discussions for many years without agreement and when JECFA is asked they say that it makes no difference if the low or high level is adopted due to the low content of aflatoxins in the products. Denmark favours very much basing legislation on ALARA principle with the purpose of consumer protection and consumer trust.

**FRANCE**

Nothing to report.

**GEORGIA**

- Producers do not know requirements (are not translated in Georgian) for exporting food in Europe.
- There is not proceeding farm-to-table measures and adequate monitoring;

**HUNGARY**

No.

**IRELAND**

No.

**SERBIA**

No problems.

**SLOVAK REPUBLIC**

The SR is a Member State of the EU, thus consequently, other health and/or trade problems related to standardization at the national or regional level are not raised.

Some problems appeared with third world countries only, as regards the GMO not approved within EU, as well as beta agonists, hormones with growth promoting effect and pesticides with more benevolent MRLs than those ones established within the EU.