

codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD
HEALTH
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Agenda Item 2

CX/FICS 08/17/2

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

Seventeenth Session

Cebu, Philippines, 24-28 November 2008

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

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE 31ST SESSION OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

A. Items for Information

Proposed Draft Appendix to the Guidelines on the Judgement of Equivalence of Sanitary Measures Associated with Food Inspection and Certification Systems (N04-2004)²

1. The Commission adopted the proposed draft Appendix to the Guidelines (CAC/GL 53-2003) at Steps 5/8, with the omission of Steps 6 and 7. The Commission also invited the Delegation of Colombia to forward their comments (included in ALINORM 08/31/5A) to the Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems.

Elaboration of new Standards and Related Texts³

2. The Commission approved the elaboration of *Principles and Guidelines for the Conduct of Foreign On-site Audits and Inspection* (N07-2008) and *Annex to the Guidelines for Design, production, Issuance and Use of generic Official Certificates* (CAC/GL 38-2001): *Generic Model Health Certificate* (N08-2008) as new work for the Committee.

B. Items for Action

Strategic Plan of the Codex Alimentarius Commission 2008-2013 – Goal 3 (Strengthening Codex-Work Management Capabilities) – Activity 3.3 (Develop committee-specific decision-making and priority-setting criteria)⁴

3. The Commission endorsed the recommendation of the 61st Session of the Executive Committee⁵ and agreed that relevant subsidiary bodies be encouraged to finalize the relevant work as early as possible. In reply to a question on the relation between Activities 3.3 and 3.1, it was clarified that there was no direct link between them since Activity 3.3 addressed issues on committee-specific decision-making and priority-setting

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 31st Session of the Commission are found in ALINORM 08/31/REP. The Codex Secretariat will report verbally on matters of horizontal nature as appropriate to the discussion of the Committee.

² ALINORM 08/31/REP, paras 47-48 and Appendix VII

³ ALINORM 08/31/REP, para. 92 and Appendix X

⁴ ALINORM 08/31/REP, paras 137-138

⁵ ALINORM 08/31/3A para. 134

criteria used within relevant subsidiary bodies, while Activity 3.1 aimed at reviewing the horizontal criteria used by the Executive Committee in its critical review process.

4. With regard to this request, the Committee is recalled that at its 12th Session, when considering a proposal to elaborate a prioritization framework, it had decided that, in view of the ongoing work on the revision of the *Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities* in the Committee on General Principles, it would not be advisable to develop work planning criteria specific to the activities of CCFICS (see ALINORM 04/27/30, paras 84-86).

5. The Committee is therefore requested to consider if the *Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities*, approved by the 28th Session of the Commission (see Codex Procedural Manual), are adequate for the assessment of new work proposals by CCFICS and thus no further action is needed on this request. The views of the Committee will be reported to the 63rd Session of the Executive Committee.