



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

Nineteenth Session

Cairns, Australia, 17- 21 October 2011

**MATTERS REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE BY THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS
COMMISSION AND OTHER CODEX COMMITTEES AND TASK FORCES¹**

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE 33RD AND 34TH SESSION OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Standards and Related Texts adopted at Steps 8 and 5/8²

1. The 33rd Session of the Commission adopted with some amendments the proposed draft *Principles and Guidelines for the Conduct of Assessment of Foreign Official Inspection and Certification Systems as an Annex to the Guidelines for the Design, Operation, Assessment and Accreditation of Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems* (CAC/GL 26-1997).

Model Export Certificate for Milk and Milk Products (CAC/GL 67-2008)³

2. The 33rd Session of the Commission adopted the revision of the *Model Export Certificate for Milk and Milk Products* as proposed by the CCMMP.

Development of guidelines for traceability/ product tracing⁴

3. The 34th Session of the Commission referred the views of the coordinating committees⁵ on the need for further guidance on traceability to the CCFICS and recognised that Members may submit proposals for new work directly to the Committee.

Principles for the Use of Sampling and Testing in International Food Trade⁶

4. The 34th Session of the Commission approved the elaboration of Principles for the Use of Sampling and Testing in International Food Trade as new work for the Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS). The document will be developed within the context of relevant documents issued by CCFICS but their scope would be limited to matters within the mandate of CCMAS.

Proposed changes to existing Codex texts on exchange of information and on emergency situations as to their applicability to animal feed (CAC/GL 19-1995 and CAC/GL 25-1997)⁷

5. The report of the electronic working group on future work on animal feeding, established by the 32nd Session of the Commission⁸, was presented at the 33rd Session of the Commission. The report included,

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 CCFICS. Other decisions and guidance of the 33rd and 34th Session of the Commission are found in ALINORM 10/33/REP and REP11/CAC, respectively. The Codex Secretariat will report verbally on matters of horizontal nature as appropriate to the discussion of the Committee.

² ALINORM 10/33/REP, paras 35-36 and Appendix III.

³ ALINORM 10/33/REP, para. 33 and Appendix III.

⁴ REP11/CAC para. 161.

⁵ See REP 11/EURO para. 27; REP11/LAC para. 8; REP11/NASWP para. 27; REP11/AFRICA paras 8-12; REP 11/ASIA para. 22; and REP11/NEA para. 12.

⁶ REP11/CAC para. 131 and Appendix VI; REP11/MAS Appendix IV.

⁷ ALINORM 10/33/REP paras 95-97 and 100-101.

among others, a review of the *Guidelines for the Exchange of Information in Food Control Emergency Situations* (CAC/GL 19-1995) and the *Guidelines for the Exchange of Information between Countries on Rejection of Imported Food* (CAC/GL 25-1997) as to their applicability to animal feed, which identified some gaps in their applicability to animal feed and proposed revision to address these gaps.

6. The Commission agreed to refer the proposed reviews to the relevant committees, i.e. CCGP, CCFA, CCCF, CCPR, CCRVDF and CCFICS for review.

7. **The Committee is invited** to consider the proposed review of the above mentioned texts (attached as Annex 1 to this document).

MATTERS ARISING FROM OTHER CODEX COMMITTEES AND TASK FORCES

Committee on General Principles (CCGP) – 26th Session (Paris, France, 12-16 April 2010)

Definition for the term “Competent Authority”⁹

8. The 26th CCGP agreed that there was no merit in having a general definition of the term “competent authority”.

Committee on Fish and Fishery Products (CCFFP) – 31st Session (Tromsø, Norway, 11-16 April 2011)

Generic Model Official Certificate¹⁰

9. The 31st CCFFP considered a proposal to include specifics related to fish and fishery products in the *Generic Model Official Certificate*, Annex to the *Guidelines for Design, Production, Issuance and Use of Generic Official Certificates* (CAC/GL 38-2001) in order to revoke the *Model Certificate for Fish and Fishery Products* (CAC/GL 48-2004).

10. As a result of the discussion, the CCFFP agreed to request the CCFICS to consider the amendments to the *Generic Model Official Certificate*. The CCFFP agreed not to consider revoking the *Certificate for Fish and Fishery Products* until the amendments to the generic certificate were adopted.¹¹

11. **The Committee is invited** to consider the proposed amendment of the *Generic Model Official Certificate* prepared by the CCFFP (attached as Annex 2 to this document).

⁸ ALINORM 09/32/REP, paras 170-176.

⁹ ALINORM 10/33/33, paras 59-63.

¹⁰ REP11/FFP paras 167-171 and Appendix XII.

¹¹ An excerpt of the relevant discussion of the 31st CCFFP is included in Annex 2.

Proposed Changes to existing Codex texts on emergency situations and exchange of information on rejected food as to their applicability to animal feed (CAC/GL 19-1995 and CAC/GL 25-1997)

Proposal

***PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES FOR THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION IN FOOD SAFETY
EMERGENCY SITUATIONS***

CAC/GL 19-1995

Proposed changes in *italics and bold*

PREAMBLE

1. When a food or *feed*¹ safety emergency arises, in order to minimize potential public health effects, it is essential to communicate the nature and extent of the food safety problem to all relevant parties as expeditiously as possible. This must be done in a manner that avoids unwarranted action against other foods *or feeds* from the same or other countries, which are not involved in the emergency situation. The global nature of food *and feed* trade requires that this communication occur between nations at the appropriate government level.
2. This document provides guidance for use by national governments and regional economic integration organisations for the exchange of information in food safety emergency situations.

SCOPE

3. These Principles and Guidelines apply to situations where the competent authorities in either the importing and/or exporting countries become aware of a food safety emergency situation, and communication of the information and risks surrounding the emergency situation must be undertaken.
4. The Principles and Guidelines apply to situations where the food safety hazard (e.g., a microbiological, chemical, radiological or physical agent) has been specifically identified. It may also apply to situations where the hazard has not been identified, but relevant scientific information suggests a link between consumption of a food and the appearance of serious health effects.
5. The Principles and Guidelines apply to food safety emergencies associated with imported or exported food or food that may potentially be imported or exported. The Principles and Guidelines may also apply to such emergencies where feeds ~~stuffs~~ for food producing animals are implicated.²
6. The Principles and Guidelines do not apply to routine food rejections where importing country standards have not been met. These situations are covered in the *Guidelines for the Exchange of Information between Countries on Rejections of Imported Food **or Feed*** (CAC/GL 25-1997).

DEFINITION

Food Safety Emergency: A situation whether accidental or intentional, that is identified, by a competent authority as constituting a serious and as yet uncontrolled food- or feedborne risk to public health that requires urgent action.

¹ The term "feed" refers to both "feed (feedingstuffs)" and "feed ingredients" as defined in the *Code of Practice on Good Animal Feeding (CAC/RCP 054 2004)*.

² Provisions for emergency situations affecting animal feed are included in the *Code of Practice for Good Animal Feeding (CAC/RCP 54-2004)*: Section 4.3.1 "Special conditions applicable to emergency situations"

PRINCIPLES

7. In the event that a food safety emergency is identified, the following principles apply to the exchange of information:

- a) Its nature and extent should, where possible, be clearly and completely described by the relevant competent authorities.
- b) The exchange of information on food safety emergencies should be between official contact points designated by the competent authorities.
- c) A country detecting a food safety emergency situation, whether it is an importing or an exporting country, should inform all known affected and potentially affected countries without delay.
- d) All relevant information should be shared by competent authorities detecting a food safety emergency to enable all affected and potentially affected countries to make informed risk management and/or risk communication decisions.
- e) Competent authorities should also provide clear, relevant, factual and timely information to relevant stakeholders to the extent possible.
- f) Information flow should be transparent and continue during all phases of the food emergency situation to enable continuous evaluation and development of the emergency response.

NATURE OF THE FOOD SAFETY EMERGENCY

8. The nature of the food safety emergency including its scientific basis as it becomes available should be described in a clear, concise and accurate manner. Even in circumstances where the specific food safety hazard has not been precisely identified any clear and substantial association between the consumption of a food and the appearance of serious adverse public health effects should be provided by the competent authority in accordance with the principles outlined in paragraph 7.

9. In cases where the food safety hazard is associated with a specific food or foods, these foods should be identified in as much detail as is available to facilitate the identification and location of the affected foods. In other cases, where a food safety hazard affects many different categories of foods and potentially involves a given geographical area, all affected foods should be identified. ***If the food safety hazard is associated with feed, the feed and animals that consumed the feed should be identified.***

DESIGNATED OFFICIAL CONTACT POINTS FOR INFORMATION EXCHANGE

10. Each country should designate a primary official contact point for food safety emergency situations, which can act as the national focal point for information exchange in such situations. A list of the primary official contact points for the exchange of information in food safety emergency situations as mentioned in point 7.b is available and an update is distributed to governments on a periodic basis. It is the responsibility of all countries to ensure that they regularly provide updated information on their country primary official contact points to the World Health Organization (WHO) so that the list of contacts can be kept up-to-date. Although the primary official contact point is the first contact, it is understood that in a given food safety emergency national governments may wish to designate a specific contact point for that emergency.

11. The designated contact points for the competent authorities responsible for coordinating the response to the food safety emergency should be clearly identified. Necessary information includes the name of the competent authority and the contact details including name, address, phone numbers, facsimile numbers, and email addresses of the persons or offices that are responsible for managing the emergency situation and who can provide further details about the hazard, the foods ***or feed*** concerned, actions taken and other relevant information. A website address should also be provided if this is used to provide up-to-date information.

INFORMING ALL KNOWN AFFECTED AND POTENTIALLY AFFECTED COUNTRIES

12. Given the global nature of food *and feed* trade, the impact of a food safety emergency may be widespread. The competent authority of the country where the food safety emergency is identified should, to the best of its ability and in cooperation with other competent authorities, determine all potential recipient countries of the implicated food(s) *and feeds* and all countries from which the potentially contaminated food *or feed* or its ingredients was imported. All relevant information in relation to the food *and feed* safety emergency should be provided to the competent authorities of the countries thus identified.

13. Communication should be made by the most expedient means, as early as possible, and with verification of receipt by key parties. Communications by telephone, email, facsimile and if necessary regular mail should all be considered to achieve early communication and to ensure that the message is received by the competent authorities as quickly as possible.

14. It is recognised that the initial information provided may often be incomplete and it is therefore the responsibility of the country identifying the food emergency to ensure that the initial communication is supplemented by further notification(s), as and when more detailed information becomes available.

15. It is recognized that the nature and the extent of the information disclosure to each competent authority will be as determined to be permissible by the disclosing competent authority according to its national law.

INFORMATION TO BE EXCHANGED

16. Competent authorities should exchange with all known affected and potentially affected countries the following information, as relevant upon identification of a food safety emergency.

- a. The *origin and* nature of the food safety emergency including the hazards and risks identified, the methodology used and any assumptions made;
- b. Detailed identification of the food, ~~or~~ foods *or feed* concerned including product markings, certificate information;
- c. Affected and potentially affected populations group(s);
- d. Shipping and related information, e.g. the name and contact information for the exporter, importer, consignee and shippers;
- e. Action taken to reduce or eliminate the hazard;
- f. Full details of the designated official contact point and the relevant competent authority.

17. The communication regarding the nature and extent of a food safety emergency should include relevant scientific substantiation and assessment of risk as they become available, including how international standards have been taken into account.

18. A standard format for the relevant information to be exchanged is recommended for use by both the importing and exporting countries. A model standard format for information exchange in food safety emergency situations is provided in the Annex. Where alternative formats are used, care should be taken to ensure that all the relevant information is included and is clearly presented.

ROLE OF COMPETENT AUTHORITY

19. Upon identification of a food safety emergency, the competent authority identifying the emergency should promptly communicate with and consult the appropriate competent authority/ies of other affected or potentially affected country/ies. The competent authorities responsible for coordinating the response should update countries receiving the affected food of action taken, as appropriate. The accuracy and veracity of the scientific and other information regarding a food safety emergency should be verified to assist in taking risk assessment, risk management and risk communication decisions. Any misinformation should be promptly corrected by competent authorities.

20. It is also essential that all other relevant parties be kept informed, as appropriate, of the nature and status of the food safety emergency. Competent authorities should therefore provide clear, relevant, factual and timely information to their industry, consumers, other stakeholders and the media on the status of the food safety emergency.

INFORMATION FLOW

21. Communications between exporting and importing countries should be transparent and continue through all phases of the emergency situation, from initial notification of the food safety problem including, whenever possible, details of any relevant risk assessments that have been used through to notification of the resolution of the problem. This will enable countries to re-assess their risk assessment, risk management and risk communication strategies as the situation changes.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS FOR INFORMATION EXCHANGE

Level of food or feed distribution

22. In deciding on the appropriate communication measures to apply, the competent authorities should consider the quantity of food *or feed* that is involved, the extent of its distribution and the level (e.g. wholesale, retail) at which it has been distributed. In some cases, the affected food *or feed* may not yet have entered the importing country and communication will focus on the importers. However, in other cases the food will have entered and been distributed within the country or transhipped to other countries. The competent authority should take account of whether the food *or feed* has been, or is likely to have been, distributed at the wholesale, retail or consumer level, and implement risk management and communication measures accordingly, including a notice of recall at one or more of these levels of food distribution.

Re-export of food subject to an emergency situation.

23. Food that is refused entry into a country, or in some cases food that is recalled after entry, should be dealt with in accordance with *Guidelines for the Exchange of Information between Countries on Rejection of Imported Food and Feed* (CAC/GL 25-1997) and taking into account the *Code of Ethics for International Trade in Foods* (CAC/RCP 20-1979, Rev. 1-1985)³.

Food Safety Emergency Plan

24. Importing and exporting countries should develop a food safety emergency plan that would indicate the procedures to be followed in the case of a food safety emergency⁴. The plan should contain specific provision relating to the exchange of information including keeping their public informed, as appropriate, of food safety emergency.

Role of FAO and WHO

25. Although the information exchange components of these guidelines are primarily intended for use between the competent authorities of the importing and exporting countries, copies or summaries of relevant information regarding the emergency should be provided to FAO, WHO or other international organizations on request. In these situations, the FAO and WHO may be able to offer technical advice and assistance to one or more of the affected countries or countries yet to be affected.

Annex

STANDARD FORMAT FOR INFORMATION EXCHANGE IN FOOD SAFETY EMERGENCY SITUATIONS

The following constitutes the information that should be exchanged between competent authorities of both exporting and importing countries involved in a food safety emergency. A food safety emergency is a situation whether accidental or intentional, that is identified by a competent authority, as constituting a serious and as yet uncontrolled food- *or feed*borne risk to public health that requires urgent action.

1. Nature of the food safety emergency

The nature of the food safety hazard causing the food safety emergency should be described, and may include the following:

³ A revision of the Code was under development in the Codex Committee on General Principles at the time this text was developed.

⁴ e.g. Guidelines for Strengthening National Food Control Systems (FAO/WHO); “Terrorist Threat to Food” (WHO).

- biological/microbiological contamination (specify organism or toxin of concern);
- chemical contamination (e.g. pesticides, drugs, industrial chemicals, environmental contaminants);
- physical contamination (e.g. foreign bodies);
- radionuclide contamination (specify radionuclide(s) of concern);
- undeclared allergen (the allergen should be explicitly named);
- other identified hazards (e.g. inherent chemicals in foods or produced through processing, processing/packaging faults);
- unknown agent (specify serious adverse health effects associated with consumption of specified foods).

In each of the above cases the specific food safety hazard and its level or prevalence based on available information and, as appropriate, the sampling and methods of analysis used, and any assumptions made should be notified.

2. Identification of foods or feeds concerned

The foods *or feeds* concerned should be described completely. The following information should be provided if available, as appropriate to the product:

- description and quantity of product(s) including brand, the name(s) of the product listed on the label, grade, preservation method (e.g. chilled or frozen) and shelf life;
- type and size of package(s);
- lot identification, including lot code, dates of production and processing, and identification of premises where last packed or processed;
- other identification marks/stamps (e.g. bar codes, UPC codes);
- name and address of producer, manufacturer, packer, seller, exporter or importer as appropriate;
- pictorial image;
- export certificate(s) reference number(s), official name and mark.

An indication of the countries to which the product has been exported should also be provided, as soon as it is known, to enable countries to quickly identify whether they are likely to be affected, and to help locate the affected foods.

3. Affected or potentially affected population group(s)

Food safety emergency situations may predominantly affect certain segments of a population, e.g. children, pregnant women, immune compromised persons or the elderly. In such instances, this information should be communicated.

The nature and extent of any adverse health effects associated with a food safety emergency should be described, e.g. incubation period, severity, other epidemiological data.

4. Shipping and Related Information

Information on the following should be provided:

- Exporter name and contact information;
- Importer name and contact information;
- Container and shipping details, including port of origin and destination;
- Consignee(s) and shipper(s) and contact information.

5. Action taken by exporting or importing country

Information on action taken, such as:

- measures taken to identify and prevent the sale and export of the food;

- measures taken to recall food from markets including whether these recalls are voluntary or mandatory;
- measures taken to prevent further problems;
- measures taken to reduce the risk by appropriate physical treatment;
- methods of diagnosis and treatment of affected persons;
- measures taken regarding final disposition (e.g. destruction of the food).

6. Details of the designated official contact point and of the relevant competent authority

Full contact details including: the name of the competent authority, address, telephone, email address and facsimile numbers of persons or offices that can supply further information that may be sought by affected or potentially affected countries to assist in the management of the food safety emergency. A website address should be used where available to provide up-to-date information.

Proposal**GUIDELINES FOR THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION BETWEEN COUNTRIES ON REJECTIONS OF IMPORTED FOOD AND FEED¹****CAC/GL 25-1997²**Proposed changes in *italics and bold***PREAMBLE**

1. The following guidelines provide the basis for structured information exchange on import rejections. The most important information elements to be considered in such guidelines are shown in the Annex and each category is discussed in more detail below. The guidelines are intended to cover all types of food. ***These guidelines also cover feed for food producing animals including rejected food used as feed where it can impact food safety.***
2. These guidelines deal only with import rejections caused by failure to comply with importing country requirements. Information exchange in food ***or feed*** control emergency situations is dealt with in the Guidelines for the Exchange of Information in Food Control Emergency Situations (CAC/GL 19-1995).
3. The use of these Guidelines for the Exchange of Information on Rejections of Imported Food ***or Feed*** is intended to assist countries to conform with the Principles for Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification (CAC/GL 20-1995), in particular the transparency provisions contained in paragraph 14 of the Principles.

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

4. When the food ***or feed*** control authorities in an importing country reject a consignment of food ***or feed*** presented for importation they should always provide information to the importer of the consignment giving the reasons for the rejection. Appropriate information should also be provided to the exporter if the control authorities receive such a request.

Attention should be given to ensure that control authorities in charge of feed are properly informed when rejected food may be used as feed.

5. When the rejection of the consignment arises from:
 - evidence of a serious food ***or feed*** safety or public health problem in the exporting country; or
 - evidence of serious misrepresentation or consumer fraud; or
 - evidence of a serious failure in the inspection or control system in the exporting country,***depending on the reason for rejection,*** the food ***or feed*** control authorities in the importing country should notify the food ***or feed*** control authorities in the exporting country forthwith (by telecommunication or other similar rapid means of communication) supplying the details set out in the Annex to these Guidelines.
6. Upon receipt of such a communication, the food ***or feed*** control authorities in the exporting country should undertake the necessary investigation to determine the cause of any problem that has led to the rejection of the consignment. The food control ***or feed*** authority in the exporting country, if requested, should provide the authorities in the importing country with information on the outcome of the necessary investigation, if available. Bilateral discussions should take place as necessary.
7. In other circumstances, for example:
 - where there is evidence of repeated failures of a correctable nature (e.g. labelling errors, mislaying of documents); or

¹ The term "feed" refers to both "feed (feedingstuffs)" and "feed ingredients" as defined in the Code of Practice on Good Animal Feeding (CAC/RCP 054 2004).

² Governments and organizations interested in receiving a List of Contacts for Food Import Control and Information Exchange in Food Control Emergency Situations should contact the Codex Contact Point for Australia, Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service, GPO Box 858, Canberra, ACT, 2601, AUSTRALIA. Telefax: 61-6-272- 3103.

- where there is evidence of systematic failures in handling, storage or transport subsequent to inspection/certification by the authorities in the exporting countries,

the food *or feed* control authorities in the importing country should also make appropriate notification to the food *or feed* control authorities in the exporting country, either periodically or upon request.

8. It is also open to an importing country to supply information on rejections to an exporting country even when this is not specified in these guidelines.

9. In some countries information about the results obtained in public food *and feed* control is freely available, whereas in others legal constraints may prevent or restrict the dissemination to third parties of information on, for example, import rejections. In some cases information cannot be exchanged before a certain time has elapsed. So far as possible countries should minimise restrictions on the disclosure to other countries of information on rejected foods *or feeds*.

10. To enable FAO and WHO to assist exporting countries in their efforts to meet the requirements of importing countries, information on rejections of imported food *and feed* should be made available to FAO and WHO on request.

DETAILED INFORMATION

Identification of the food *or feed* concerned

11. A certain amount of basic information is required in order to be able to identify the consignment or lot of food *or feed* that has been refused entry when presented for importation. The most important information in this respect is a description of the nature and quantity of the food *or feed*, any lot identification or other identification stamps, marks or numbers and the name and address of the exporter and/or food *or feed* producer or manufacturer. Information about importers or sellers is also useful. Where a lot has been certified, the certificate number can provide an important method of identification.

Importation details

12. Information about importation or presentation for importation is necessary. The most important elements here are: place and date of entry, and the identity and contact details of the importer.

Rejection decision

13. It is important to obtain information about the decision to refuse importation, especially the name of the food *or feed* control authority which made the decision, when the decision was made and whether the whole or only part of the consignment was refused entry.

Reasons for rejection

14. The reason(s) why a consignment of food *or feed* has been refused entry should be clearly stated and reference should be made to the regulations or standards which have been contravened.

15. Foods may be rejected because they are found to be unacceptable when subjected to an organoleptic examination or because they have technical/physical defects, e.g. leaking cans, broken seals and damaged boxes. In circumstances where physical examination has led to rejection, a clear description of the criteria used should be provided.

16. When the level of a contaminant in a food *or feed* has been found to be above the maximum permitted level, the contaminant should be specified, together with the level found and the maximum permitted level. In the case of biological contamination or contamination by biological toxins, where no maximum level has been fixed, the identity of the organism or toxin concerned should be given as specifically as possible, and as appropriate, the level of contamination found. Similarly, contraventions of regulations on food additive or compositional standards should be specified. Some countries accept certain foods (e.g. fresh meat) only from specifically approved establishments in the exporting country. If such foods are refused entry because evidence that they come from such an establishment is lacking or incomplete, this should be stated.

17. Where consignments of imported food *or feed* are rejected on the basis of analysis performed in the importing country, the importing country authority should make available upon request details of the sampling and analytical methods employed and the results obtained.

Action taken

18. Information should be supplied about the action taken following the rejection or retention of a consignment of food *or feed*. This should include information about the fate of the consignment, such as whether it was destroyed or detained for reconditioning.

19. If the rejected food *or feed* is re-exported, the conditions attached to such re-export should be stated. For example, some countries permit re-export only to the country of origin or to countries which have stated in advance that they are prepared to accept the consignment knowing that it has been refused entry elsewhere.

20. In addition to the exchange of information between the food *or feed* control authorities of exporting and importing countries it may also be valuable to inform the embassy or other representative body of the exporting country of the situation so that the country concerned can take action to rectify the deficiencies found and thus avoid rejection of future shipments.

ANNEX**STANDARD FORMAT FOR EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION BETWEEN COUNTRIES ON REJECTIONS OF IMPORTED FOOD *OR FEED***

The following information should be provided by countries in relation to rejections of imported food as available and appropriate to the circumstances.

Identification of the food *or feed* concerned

- Description and quantity of product
- Type and size of package
- Lot identification (number, production date, etc.)
- Container number, bill of lading or similar transportation details
- Other identification stamps, marks or numbers
- Certificate number
- Name and address of manufacturer, producer, seller and/or exporter, establishment number, as appropriate

Importation details

- Port or other point of entry
- Name and address of importer
- Date presented for entry

Details of rejection decision

- Whole/part of (specify) consignment rejected
- Name and address of food *or feed* control authority making decision to reject
- Date of decision
- Name and address of food *or feed* control authority which can provide more information on reason for rejection

Reason(s) for rejection

- Biological/microbiological contamination
- Chemical contamination (pesticide or veterinary drug residues, heavy metals, etc.)
- Radionuclide contamination

- Incorrect or misleading labelling
- Compositional defect
- Non-conformity with food additive requirements (*or feed requirements in the case of feed*)
- Organoleptic quality unacceptable
- Technical or physical defects (e.g., packaging damage)
- Incomplete or incorrect certification
- Does not come from an approved country, region or establishment
- Other reasons

Note: Where imported food *or feed* has been rejected on the basis of sampling and/or analysis in the importing country, details should be made available on request as to sampling and analytical methods and test results and the identity of the testing laboratory.

Action taken

- Food *or feed* destroyed
- Food *or feed* held pending reconditioning/rectification of deficiencies in documentation
- Food *or feed* held pending final judgement
- Place where food *or feed* is held
- Import granted for use other than human *or animal* consumption
- Re-export granted under certain conditions, e.g. to specified informed countries
- Importer notified
- Embassy/food *or feed* control authorities of exporting country notified
- Authorities in other likely destination countries notified
- Other

PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF THE *GENERIC MODEL OFFICIAL CERTIFICATE*

(Proposed amendments to the explanatory notes of the *Generic Model Official Certificate in the Guidelines for Design, Production, Issuance and Use of Generic Official Certificates* (CAC/GL 38-2001))

15. Identification of food product(s): give the descriptive information specific to the product or products to be certified.

Where appropriate: nature of the food (or description of the commodity), commodity code (HS code), species (**both common name(s) and scientific name(s) for fish and fishery product(s)**), intended purpose, producer/manufacturer, approval number of establishments (slaughterhouse, production plant, store (cold store or not)), region or compartment of origin, name of the product, lot identifier, type of packaging, number of packages, net weight per type of product.

16. Attestations:

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There may be other attestations covering different issues (cf. paragraph 7 of document CAC/GL 38-2001).

In case of sanitary certification of fish and fishery products, the following attestations should be used:

- 1) **The products described above originate from (an) approved establishment(s) that has been approved by, or otherwise determined to be in good regulatory standing with the competent authority in the exporting country; and**
- 2) **have been handled, prepared or processed, identified, stored and transported under a competent HACCP and sanitary programme consistently implemented and in accordance with the requirements laid down in relevant Codex codes of practice.**

**EXCERPT OF THE DISCUSSION OF THE 31ST CCFPP ON MODEL CERTIFICATE
(REP11/FFP, PARAS 167-171)**

MODEL CERTIFICATES (Agenda Item 14)

167. The Committee recalled that its last session has considered the request from the 32nd Session of the Commission for the Committee to consider revision of the Model Certificate for Fish and Fishery Products to ensure consistency with adopted Generic Model Certificate³. At that session, the Committee had noted the need to limit the number of certificates used in international trade and had considered a proposal that the generic certificate be revised to include specifics related to fish and fishery products and to revoke the Model Certificate for Fish and Fishery Products. It was agreed to issue a circular letter requesting comments on this matter for further discussion at this session.

168. The Committee agreed to continue the objective to request revision of the Model Generic Certificate with the view to revoke the Model Certificate for Fish and Fishery Products. In view of this, it was agreed to request CCFICS to consider the following amendments to the Generic Certificate to take into account specific requirements for fish and fishery products:

- In the note to section 15 on species to require the specification of both common and/or scientific names of species as applicable; and
- To revise section 16 on attestations as covered by the Certificate for Fish and Fishery Products to facilitate discussions between importing and exporting countries. It was recalled that attestations in

³ Annex to the *Guidelines for Design, Production, Issuance and Use of Generic Official Certificates* (CAC/GL 38-2001).

the Certificate for Fish and Fishery Products did not refer to the product itself, but rather to the fact that products should originate from an establishment that has been approved by a competent authority and that has a HACCP and sanitary program in accordance with Codex requirements.

169. The Committee did not agree to request replacement of “place of loading” with “places of loading” as it was clarified that the generic certificate covered several products nor with a proposal for the need to differentiate between wild and aquaculture product in the attestations as this was not covered in the certificate for fish and fishery products.

170. The Committee recalled that CCFICS had removed “sanitary” from the title of the Generic Certificate” and noted a proposal to allow countries to refer to “sanitary” certificate as this is commonly used by exporting and importing countries to clarify the purpose of the certificate.

171. The Committee agreed to request CCFICS to consider the amendments as proposed (Appendix XII). The Committee agreed not to consider revoking the Certificate for Fish and Fishery Products until the amendments to the generic certificate were adopted.