

codex alimentarius commission

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD HEALTH
ORGANIZATION

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Agenda Item 3

**CX/FICS 99/3
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**JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME
CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD IMPORT AND EXPORT INSPECTION
AND CERTIFICATION SYSTEMS
Seventh Session
Melbourne, Australia, 22 - 26 February 1999**

**Draft Guidelines for the Development Of Equivalence Agreements Regarding Food Import
and Export Inspection and Certification Systems**

Comments at Step 6

EGYPT

With reference to the document CL 1998/20-FICS dated June, 1998, concerning the request for comments at step 6 of the draft guidelines for the development of equivalence agreements regarding Food import and export inspection and certification systems. We would like to inform you that we agree with all the provisions mentioned in the draft guidelines.

SLOVAK REPUBLIC

In response to the CL 98/20-FICS, please, find attached an official comment of the Slovak Republic.

Section 7, para 25

Our suggestion of wording the last sentence:

Where certain health risks, such as foodborne pathogens, are known to exist in the exporting country and not in the importing country, the exporting country should eliminate them, while the risks and measures taken should be identified.

Section 7, para 26

Considering the antagonism of the second section, we propose to omit it. ("Equivalence agreement for all other...")

The comment was prepared under auspice and at presence of experts of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Slovak Republic and with co-operation of the Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic.

USA

The United States, as the lead country for the preparation of these guidelines, continues to strongly support this document. We would, however, suggest that two changes be made:

In Section 4 (Types of Agreements), paragraph 13, first sentence: insert the word “equivalence” between “multi-lateral” and “agreements”. This change helps to clarify the nature of agreements to which the Draft Guidelines refer.

Also in Section 4, paragraph 14, first sentence; add “including its appropriate level of protection” after “requirements”. this change helps to clarify the nature of the agreements covered under this document; that is, equivalence agreements rather than compliance agreements.

With these changes, we believe the document will provide the needed guidance to countries for the establishment of equivalence agreements. We look forward to reviewing the country comments submitted through this Circular Letter and to advancing this document in the Codex process.

OECD

While we appreciate the opportunity to comment, we have no remarks to make as we have no relevant activities in this matter in OECD.