

# codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE  
ORGANIZATION  
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD  
HEALTH  
ORGANIZATION



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Agenda Item 5 (b)

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## JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME CODEX COMMITTEE ON MEAT AND POULTRY HYGIENE

Ninth Session

Wellington, New Zealand, 17-21 February 2003

### APPENDICES AND ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS TO THE PROPOSED DRAFT CODE OF HYGIENIC PRACTICE FOR FRESH MEAT

#### PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES IN SYSTEMS FOR MICROBIOLOGICAL PROCESS CONTROL FOR MEAT, INCLUDING ESTABLISHMENT OF PERFORMANCE PARAMETERS FOR OUTCOMES OF PROCESS CONTROL AND IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL MICROBIOLOGICAL DATABASES

(prepared by New Zealand)

**Government Comments**

Comments from: European Community

#### EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

The European Community (EC) would like to thank New Zealand for the work involved in developing this document. The EC would like to make the following comments.

##### General

The European Community is interested in the development of an Annex I to the proposed draft Code of Hygienic Practice for Fresh Meat, on principles and guidelines in systems for microbiological process control for meat. However, the EC finds it difficult to discuss these principles and guidelines in detail as long as the discussions in the framework of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene, on subjects such as *performance parameters* and *FSOs*, have not been concluded.

The terminology used should be reviewed on some places in the text. It is not always clear what the difference is between the terms 'guideline', 'regulatory guideline', 'regulatory standard' and 'mandatory regulatory standards', and how these terms relate to the term 'microbiological criteria' as mentioned in paragraph 3.

At least one paragraph should be added on the microbiological sampling of production areas and equipment.

##### Title

The issue of 'national microbiological databases' figures in the title but has not been developed very much in the document. This is not balanced. It should be considered to develop the issue more in the text.

##### Paragraph 5, first bullet point

It is proposed to delete the words 'by the competent authority' in the first sentence, as microbiological monitoring is also a tool for the establishment operator.

Paragraph 6

The last sentence should be clarified.

Chapter 3 vii

It would be helpful to have a definition of 'statistical process control'.

Paragraph 20

The third sentence should be amended as follows: ~~Compulsory~~ Inter-laboratory testing should be a feature of a microbiological monitoring programme.

Paragraph 22

The first sentence should be amended as follows: ~~Recording and~~ Analysis *and interpretation* of results should be subject to regulatory specification.

Paragraph 25

The meaning of the third sentence is not clear.