



TO: Codex Contact Points
Interested International Organisations

FROM: Secretariat, Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme,
Codex Alimentarius Commission
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00153 Rome, Italy

SUBJECT: **Request for comments and information on gaps in the safety and quality provisions of Codex texts to justify new work on processed cheese**

DEADLINE: **28 February 2013**

COMMENTS TO: Secretariat
Codex Alimentarius Commission
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00153 Rome, Italy
E-mail: codex@fao.org

BACKGROUND

1. The 35th Session of the Commission agreed to discontinue work on the development of a standard for processed cheese. The Commission further requested the Codex Secretariat to prepare a Circular Letter asking Members to identify the gaps in the safety and quality provisions of Codex texts that would justify new work on processed cheese and describe the scope of any new work to be considered to address such gaps. The Commission further agreed to request the upcoming sessions of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees to further discuss the need for a standard for processed cheese and document the scope of the work that might be needed in this area.

2. The Codex Secretariat would analyse the information received in response to the Circular Letter; the analysis along with the inputs of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees would be presented at the next Session of the Commission, which would decide whether new work addressing safety or quality requirements is necessary and, if so, the scope and the mechanisms for carrying out the work (REP 12/CAC pars 163-165).

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

3. Codex Members and Observers, as directed above, are invited to identify gaps in the safety and quality provisions of Codex texts that would justify new work on processed cheese and describe the scope of any new work to be considered to address such gaps.