

codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



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Agenda Item 8

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USE OF CODEX STANDARDS AT NATIONAL AND REGIONAL LEVEL (CL 2008/15-ASIA, Part B)

(i) USE OF CODEX STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS AT THE NATIONAL AND REGIONAL LEVEL

Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Because not all the risk analysis including risk assessment for food contaminants, additives, and pesticide residues etc. can be conducted at national level, FAO/WHO Codex standards and related texts are used as basic reference data in the national food standards and codex setting. In particular, the Academy of Health and Food Science, Codex Contact Point, compiled database of food hygiene standards in the form of electronic media with the data from the FAO/WHO Codex documents and related texts of recent decade for evaluating food safety and disseminated it to several institutions and organizations associated with food safety and involved in production, and food import/export agencies in the country.

Japan

Japan establishes or revises food control measures in accordance with the Codex standards and related texts as a member of WTO. In this regard when establishing standards regarding food safety in Japan, risk management bodies (e.g. MHLW, MAFF) request FSC, an independent risk assessment body, to conduct risk assessment taking into consideration various kinds of data and information including factors specific to our country, and make their decision based on the results of the risk assessment.

Japan considers that it is not practical to simply categorize the application of such standards and regulatory measures as Use or non-Use for the following reasons.

- (1) There are a number of numerical standards such as MRLs and then it would be a heavy burden for member countries to report their situation. In addition, WTO requires its member countries to notify regulations (e.g. MRLs) and then it is a duplication of work for member countries.
- (2) There are so-called process or system standards such as Principles for Traceability/Product Tracing and these are applied by member countries as appropriate according to its situation.

Mongolia

There are total 589 national standards and out of them, 154 CAC standards were translated and approved as national standards. 13 out of them were approved in 2007. :

- **Codex General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Food, CAC 1932:1995, 2-2006** approved in 1995 and made an amendment in 2006 which was approved as **MNS CAC 193:2007** by 37th decree of the National Committee of the Standard and Metrology dated on 20 October, 2007 and valid since 1 November 2007.

- **Codex General Standard for the Labeling of Prepackaged Foods, CAC 1985, 7-2006**– approved in 1985 and made an amendment in 1991, 1999 and 2005 which was approved as **MNS CAC 1:2007** by 37th decree of the National Committee of the Standard and Metrology dated on 20 October, 2007 and valid since 1 November 2007.
- **Guidelines on Nutrition Labeling CAC GL 2-1985¹**- approved in 1985 and made an amendment in 1993, 2003 and 2006 which was approved as **MNS CAC GL 2:2007** by 37th decree of the National Committee of the Standard and Metrology dated on 20 October, 2007 and valid since 1 November 2007.
- **(Codex Standard for the Food Salt, Technical Requirements, CAC 150:1985, 1-1999, 2-2001, 3-2006)** approved in 1985 and made an amendment in 1999, 2001 and 2006 which was approved as **MNS CAC 150:2007** by 37th decree of the National Committee of the Standard and Metrology dated on 20 October, 2007 and valid since 1 November 2007.
- **Codex General Standard for Irradiated Foods, CAC 106:1983, 1-2003**)– approved in 1983 and made an amendment in 2003 which was approved as **MNS CAC 106:2007** by 37th decree of the National Committee of the Standard and Metrology dated on 20 October, 2007 and valid since 1 November
- **Recommended International Code of Practice for radiation Processing of Food, CAC RCP 19-1979, 2-2003** – approved in 1979 and made an amendment in 2003 which was approved as **MNS CAC RCP 19-2007** by 37th decree of the National Committee of the Standard and Metrology dated on 20 October, 2007 and valid since 1 November
- **General Guidelines on Claims, CAC GL 1:79 (91)**- approved in 1979 and made an amendment in 1991 which was approved as **MNS CAC GL 1:2007** by 37th decree of the National Committee of the Standard and Metrology dated on 20 October, 2007 and valid since 1 November
- **Codex General Standard for the labeling of Food Additives When Sold as Such, CAC 107:81)** – translated and approved as **MNS CAC 107:2007** by 37th decree of the National Committee of the Standard and Metrology dated on 20 October, 2007 and valid since 1 November
- **Codex General Standard for the Food Additives CAC 192:1995, 7-2006** approved in 1995 and made an amendment in 2006 which was approved as **MNS CAC 192:2007** by 37th decree of the National Committee of the Standard and Meteorology dated on 20 October, 2007 and valid since 1 November
- **Guidelines Levels for Methyl-mercury in Fish, CAC GL 7:91**- translated and approved as national standard **MNS CAC GL 7:2007** by 37th decree of the National Committee of the Standard and Metrology dated on 20 October, 2007 and valid since 1 November
- **Guidelines Levels For Radiation in Foods Following Accidental Contamination for Use in International Trade, CAC GL 5-89** – translated and approved as national standard **MNS CAC GL 5:2007** by 37th decree of the National Committee of the Standard and Metrology dated on 20 October, 2007 and valid since 1 November
- **Code Ethics For International Trade in Food, CAC RCP 20:1995** – translated and approved as national standard **MNS CAC GL 5:2007** by 37th decree of the National Committee of the Standard and Metrology dated on 20 October, 2007 and valid since 1 November, 2007
- **Guidelines Levels for Vinyl Chloride Monomer and Acrylonitrile in Food and Packaging Material, CAC GL 6:91** translated and approved as national standard **MNS CAC GL 6:2007** by 37th decree of the National Committee of the Standard and Metrology dated on 20 October, 2007 and valid since 1 November, 2007

Pakistan

All standards are being reviewed /revised to bring them in line with codex standards. The departments involved in framing standards of quality have been directed to review the existing standards and update them, wherever necessary.

Philippines

Yes, Codex standards and related texts are used as reference materials in drafting and harmonization of national standards, guidelines and codes of practices.

Singapore

Reference is taken from Codex standards and related texts when reviewing or developing food standards in Singapore.

Viet Nam

A number of Codex standards and guidelines are already adopted and converted into Viet Nam National Standards (TCVN) these include standards for fruits and vegetables, milk, food labelling, food additives, sugars, fats and oils...

(ii) NON-USE OF CODEX STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS AT THE NATIONAL AND REGIONAL LEVEL, WITH REASONS WHERE APPLICABLE**Democratic People's Republic of Korea**

It goes without saying that Codex standards and related texts are very useful in food standards setting and food safety evaluation at national level because those are of scientific basis and reasonable objectivity. In a word, there may not be any non-use of Codex standards and related texts, with reason where applicable in the country.

Mongolia

Under the principal framework of upgrading national standards to international and regional level, policy on enforcement of utilization of non nationalized CAC standards should be encouraged.

Pakistan

The existing standards for export at federal level and food laws enforced by the various provinces need to be updated in view of the emerging challenges. The provincial pure food laws need radical changes to make them codex compliant. Efforts are being made to pursue the provinces to revisit the food laws.

Philippines

In some agencies as the Bureau of Food and Drug, Codex standards are adopted in accordance with national legislation.

Singapore

Not applicable.

Viet Nam

Codex standards are widely used as reference documents for government and food industry in food production, processing, marketing and trade.

(iii) Difficulties encountered in the use or application of Codex standards and related texts at the national and regional level**Democratic People's Republic of Korea**

There are not difficulties in the use or application of Codex standards and related texts itself, but we have very difficulties with insufficient information and data, for example, all the codex documents and related texts and documents are not available regularly in the form of CD and even hard copy. With the support from the Codex Trust Fund from this year we could have participated in some Codex meetings and, herein, kindly request CAC to send Codex standards and related texts regularly to the Codex Contact Point to facilitate Codex works in the DPRK.

Mongolia

There is not very much difficulties since CAC and national standards are used at 1:1 basis.

Pakistan

Although Acts / Laws exist for enforcement of standards including Codex standards, there is lack of awareness amongst the stakeholders about efficacy of Codex standards and their role in international trade. The instruments to apply standards are lacking, whereas, in some cases: the role of implementing agencies is not clear. The Codex Standards also require financial support to implement them especially in technical areas like laboratory testing costs and certification.

Philippines

There is need to strengthen manpower capability to access and use Codex texts through training and establishing facilities for internet connection especially in areas outside metro manila.

Singapore

There is no current issue.

Viet Nam

Lack of human and financial resources in translating, submitting Codex standards guidelines for adoption for use as national standards

(iv) Relevance of Codex standards and related texts as a basis for harmonization of legislation and regulations, including in the perspective of economic integration

Democratic People's Republic of Korea

The Codex standards and related texts are very relevant as a basis for harmonization of legislation and regulations because those are based on the scientific data from the recognized experts and are elaborated through consultation between the member states.

Pakistan

Codex standards are a good means to promote international trade and ensure supply of uniform quality products according to pre-determined standards. 1-larmonization of standards helps ensure better trade prospects including regional trade in food. Codex standards can also help foster international trade, protect consumers against sub-standard products & help minimize barriers to market entry.

Philippines

The following standards are strongly relevant. Codex Standards on Infant Formula, Codex Standard on Follow-up Formula, Code on Health & Nutrition claims, Code of Hygienic Practice, Food Labelling, Food Contaminants, Food Additives

Singapore

Codex standards and related texts serve as useful tools in harmonisation of legislation and regulations.

Viet Nam

Most of national regulations on food additives, MRLs, MLs of pesticides, veterinary drug residues, contaminants in food are based on the Codex standards

(v) Any other health and/or trade problems related to standardization at the national or regional level

Democratic People's Republic of Korea

It is certain that standardization plays a key role for preparation of the criteria to ensure production and distribution of hygienically sound foods in protecting consumer's health and promoting international trade. In the Codex work and standardization there is a great significance not only with Codex standards setting itself, but with its thorough implementation in every stage from food production to the catering including storage.

The government of DPRK is conducting food standardization on the principle of that it must preferentially serve for protection of people's health, giving a great importance to standardization to ensure food safety.

Mongolia

- With increased number of objects required for food safety control, demands more inspectors. However, shortage of such controlling inspectors causes negative impact for quality of inspection in food processing and food service industry that increases risk to be affected by food borne diseases. It will cause a consecutive impact by increased loads for healthcare workers.
- Weakness of food safety laboratories and lack of information network among themselves cause to incomplete utilization of laboratory capacity and more burdens for business entities and citizens by being their independent and separate activities.
- In 2000, The Government has approved 162nd decree to establish Government's implementing agency by combining food safety, infectious and health and hygiene laboratories in order to coordinate and develop national level information network and surveillance on incidences of food borne diseases, food poisoning and poisonous infections. However, there is still lack of comprehensive plan and approaches to prevent and protect from such incidences
- Recent years, there has not been done any studies on food safety related scientific research areas, because of funding was not approved in the state budget. Generally, there is not any national level comprehensive study or report on Food safety areas in Mongolia.
- During transition period, previously state owned large food service and trade entities were collapsed that contributed to establish large number of small, private enterprises, which are engaged in non professional food processing and servicing activities, that impacts serious risk for food safety of population because of low quality of their food products.
- Monitoring results on food safety quality of domestically produced and imported products do not show any improvements, which is some point related to lack of professionally trained workers and laboratory capacity.

Singapore

There is no current issue.