

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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CL 2021/52/OCS-FICS

July 2021

TO: Codex Contact Points
Contact Points of international organizations having observer status with Codex

FROM: Secretariat, Codex Alimentarius Commission,
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme

SUBJECT: Request for Comments, at Step 8, on the draft Principles and Guidelines for the assessment and use of voluntary Third-Party Assurance (vTPA) programmes

DEADLINE: 30 September 2021

BACKGROUND

1. For background information, please refer to document [REP 21/FICS, para 37](#) and Appendix II.

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

2. Codex Members and observers are invited to submit comments, at Step 8, on the draft Principles and Guidelines for the assessment and use of voluntary Third-Party Assurance (vTPA) programmes, which is uploaded to the Codex Online Commenting System (OCS): <https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org/>, as per the guidance below.
3. Comments should address whether the text is ready for adoption or not at Step 8; and if not, provide the rationale and proposals to facilitate adoption.
4. Comments should be provided in conformity with the Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Standards and Related Texts (Part 3 – Uniform Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Standards and Related Texts), Procedural Manual of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

GUIDANCE ON THE PROVISION OF COMMENTS

5. Comments should be submitted through the Codex Contact Points (CCPs) of Codex Members and observers using the OCS.
6. CCPs of Codex Members and observers may login to the OCS and access the document open for comments by selecting “Enter” in the “My reviews” page, available after login to the system.
7. CCPs of Codex Members and observers organizations are requested to provide proposed changes and relevant comments/justifications on a specific paragraph (under the categories: editorial, substantive, technical and translation) and/or at the document level (general comments or summary comments). Additional guidance on the OCS comment categories and types can be found in the OCS [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#).
8. Other OCS resources, including the user manual and short guide, can be found at the following link: <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/ocs/en/>.
9. For questions on the OCS, please contact Codex-OCS@fao.org.