

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of
the United Nations



World Health
Organization

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CX 4/20.2

CL 2013/11 - FH
May 2013

TO: Codex Contact Points
Interested International Organizations

FROM: Secretary, Codex Alimentarius Commission
FAO, Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, Italy

SUBJECT: **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR NEW WORK AND/OR REVISION OF
EXISTING STANDARDS**

DEADLINE: **1 September 2013**

COMMENTS:

To:
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Director
Vietnam Codex Office
Vietnam Food Administration
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Copy to:
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2. Ms Barbara McNiff
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Background

1. When considering the Report of the Working Group for Establishment of CCFH Work Priorities, the 44th Session of the Committee agreed to re-establish the Working Group for Establishment of CCFH Work Priorities under the chairmanship of Viet Nam with assistance of the United States of America. The Working Group will consider proposals for new work to be submitted in reply to this Circular Letter. The Working Group will meet the day before the 45th Session of the Committee (10 November 2013).

2. It was agreed that the proposed draft revision of the “Process by which CCFH will undertake its work”, which includes the proposed criteria for evaluating and prioritizing new work will be used by the chair of the working group on priorities on an experimental basis¹.

¹ Information on the development and discussions on the “process by which CCFH will undertake its work”, the criteria for evaluating and prioritizing new work and the “forward workplan” can be found in CRD 2 presented at CCFH44, [ftp://ftp.fao.org/codex/meetings/ccfh/ccfh44/CRDs](http://ftp.fao.org/codex/meetings/ccfh/ccfh44/CRDs)

3. In addition to proposals for new work, the Committee also agreed to request comments on the provisional criteria and their weighting values, and on the “forward workplan” (see Annex I to this Circular Letter). (REP 13/FH, paras 128-131).

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

4. Members and Observers are requested to provide comments on the provisional criteria and their weighting values and on the “forward workplan” (Annex I) and to (i) evaluate each workplan item; and the weighting values given to each workplan item; and (ii) provide weighting values for each criterion for the newly added workplan items, i.e. parasites and cereals¹.

5. Member Governments are invited to propose new work for consideration by the above Working Group and the possible revision and/or revocation of existing codes of practice. In making submissions, Member Governments should keep in mind the discussion papers that are being developed for consideration by the Committee and the CCFH provisional “forward workplan” of the Committee. Proposals should be made in accordance with the *Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities* (see Codex Procedural Manual) and in accordance with the process described in Appendix VI of REP12/FH, to the addresses indicated above by **1 September 2013**.

Annex I**The criteria and their proposed weighting value used to develop the “forward workplan”**

Criteria	Weighting Value
Public health risk – such as a foodborne risk to public health	Actual: 10 Potential: 8
Impact of trade on public health	Global impact: 10 Regional impact: 8
Currency of information – new data/technologies that influence need to review existing codes	5
Duplication of, or inconsistency with, existing codes	5
More than 5 years since implementation, last review and/or last consideration by the Committee	3

CCFH PROVISIONAL FORWARD WORKPLAN

Title of work				Total
	Public Health	New information	Trade impact	
Code of Hygienic Practice on the Control of Parasites in Food				
Code of Hygienic Practice for the Storage of Cereals				
Code of Hygienic Practice for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (CAC/RCP 53-2003) <i>(The annex for fresh leafy greens was completed in 2010, however the code is greater than ten years old and a review would also examine why additional annexes need to be developed)</i>	10		10	20
Development of an annex on tomatoes for the Code of Hygienic Practice for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (CAC/RCP 53-2003)	10		8	18
Development of an annex on carrots for the Code of Hygienic Practice for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (CAC/RCP 53-2003)	10		8	18
Code of Hygienic Practice for Bottled/Packaged Drinking Waters (other than natural mineral waters) (CAC/RCP 48-2001)	8		10	18
Code of Hygienic Practice for Precooked and Cooked Foods in Mass Catering (CAC/RCP 2-1993)	10	5		15
Code of Hygienic Practice for Low-acid and Acidified Low-acid Canned Foods (CAC/RCP 23-1993) Code of Hygienic Practice for Aseptically Processed and Packaged Low-acid Foods (CAC/RCP 40-1993) Guideline Procedures for the Visual Inspection of Lots of Canned Foods for Unacceptable Defects (CAC/GL 17-1993) Code of Hygienic Practice for Canned Fruit and Vegetable Products (CAC/RCP 2-1969)		5		5
Code of Hygienic Practice for the Transport of Food in Bulk and Semi-packed Food (CAC/RCP 47-2001)			10	10
Code of Hygienic Practice for the Processing of Frog Legs (CAC/RCP 30-1983)			8	8
General Principles of Food Hygiene (CAC/RCP 1-2003) Annex: Guidelines for the Application of HACCP Systems				

Code of Hygienic Practice for Refrigerated Packaged Foods with Extended Shelf-life (CAC/RCP 46-1999)		5		5
Code of Hygienic Practice for Milk and Milk Products (CAC/RCP 57-2009)				
Code of Hygienic Practice for Egg and Egg Products (CAC/RCP 15-2007)				
Code of Hygienic Practice for Meat (CAC/RCP 58-2005)				