



Information for Delegates

Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems

**Surfers Paradise Marriott Resort & Spa
158 Ferny Avenue
Surfers Paradise
Gold Coast, Queensland
Australia**

26 – 30 November 2007



Location

Surfers Paradise is in the heart of Australia's famous Gold Coast, a strip of coastline that stretches 70km north from the south-east corner of Queensland.

The Gold Coast region is located less than one hour's drive from Brisbane, the capital city of Queensland. The Gold Coast is famous for its stunning beaches with 70 kilometres of uninterrupted coastline; and its subtropical rainforests located in the hinterland.

The 16th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems will be held from Monday 26 to Friday 30 November 2007 at the Surfers Paradise Marriott Resort & Spa, 158 Ferny Avenue, Surfers Paradise, Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia.



Accommodation

Codex Australia has arranged a block booking for CCFICS delegates at the meeting venue - Surfers Paradise Marriott Resort & Spa.

The Surfers Paradise Marriott Resort & Spa offers five star accommodation at a special rate of AUD\$210 (including GST) per night for delegates attending the Codex meeting.

There is also a range of other high standard hotel accommodation within walking distance or public transport to the CCFICS venue. A number of options are detailed in the document "16CCFICS – Accommodation". Delegates are required to make their own accommodation bookings directly with hotels.



Time Zone

Australian Eastern Standard Time (EST) is GMT + 10 Hours.



Climate and Clothing

The region enjoys a subtropical climate and an average of 300 days of sunshine a year.

Average temperatures for November are Min 17°C / 62 F - Max 27°C / 81 F.

Sun protection is required all year round, even on cloudy days. It is recommended to wear a hat, a shirt with a collar and sleeves and to apply high-protection sunscreen to all exposed skin.

The Gold Coast's dress style is generally casual; however a jacket may be required at some clubs and restaurants.



Currency, Banks and Foreign Exchange

Australian dollar AUD \$1.00 = 100 cents

Coin denominations

5c, 10c, 20c, 50c, \$1, \$2

Note Denominations

\$5, \$10, \$20, \$50, \$100

Currency exchange facilities are available at all international airports and key tourist centres such as Surfers Paradise. Traveller's cheques can also be cashed at banks and major hotels.

ATMs are widely available.

Major credit cards are accepted at most shops, hotels and restaurants, with American Express, Bankcard, Diners Club, MasterCard and Visa the most common.

Banks are open from 9.30am to 4.00pm Monday to Thursday and from 9.30am to 5.00pm on Friday.

Bureau de Change facilities have more flexible hours and are generally open at night and on weekends.



Electrical Power Supply

Australia's public mains power supply is 240/250 volts AC, 50 Hz. It is advisable to carry an adaptor for use in Australian sockets with hairdryers and electric shavers. Adaptors are also available from most major hotels.

Vaccinations

Vaccinations are not required for Australia; however if you are coming from or have visited a country or zone that is yellow fever infected within 6 days prior to your arrival, you will need to present a yellow fever vaccination certificate upon entry to Australia.





Immigration, Customs & Quarantine Declaration Forms

Prior to landing in Australia you will be handed an Immigration form to fill out, as well as Customs and Quarantine Declaration Forms. Australia has strict quarantine laws which require you to declare for inspection all food, plant material and animal products to ensure they are free from pests and diseases. If you are concerned about bringing any item into Australia, declare it. If you have been snacking on the flight, place any leftovers in the amnesty quarantine bins in the arrival area or on the way to the luggage collection bay. To obtain information about items which are not permitted to be brought into Australia consult the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service website www.daff.gov.au/aqis/travel/entering-australia/cant-take



Visa Information

Citizens of all countries apart from New Zealand will require a visa to enter Australia. Please see separate document “Visa Information for CCFICS Delegates”, which details visa application processes.

It is important that you lodge your visa application as soon as possible and no later than six weeks before your intended travel to allow sufficient time for processing.

With your application you should lodge:

- The official invitation letter for CCFICS;
- A letter from your current employer confirming your employment, the purpose of your visit and employer contribution (if any) to your expenses;
- Evidence of travel arrangements (flight itinerary, tickets, etc);
- Evidence of sufficient funds to meet any personal expenses; and
- Your valid passport and application fee.

Flight Information

Gold Coast – Coolangatta Airport

Gold Coast Airport is located 30 minutes south of Surfers Paradise at Coolangatta and services Australian domestic flights and international flights from New Zealand, Japan, Hong Kong and Singapore.

For more information on the Gold Coast Airport see www.goldcoastairport.com.au

Brisbane International Airport

Brisbane’s International and Domestic Airports are within an hour’s drive of the Gold Coast. The airport is a main international gateway to 26 destinations worldwide, provided by more than 28 airlines.

For information on the Brisbane Airport see www.brisbaneairport.com.au



AirtrainConnect - Transfers between Brisbane and the Gold Coast

AirtrainConnect is the most convenient and reliable way to reach your Gold Coast accommodation from Brisbane Airport. You'll be personally met in the airport arrivals hall and assisted with your luggage to the air-conditioned trains for a direct service to the Gold Coast, where you will be met by a driver to take you directly to your hotel.

AirtrainConnect also serves passengers that need to travel from the Gold Coast to the Brisbane Airport.

Online bookings can be made 24 hours a day at www.airtrain.com.au/conferences.php

If your arrival into Brisbane Airport is outside train operating hours (6:00am - 7:30pm), a coach transfer will be arranged for you at the same rate as a normal AirtrainConnect service. Please note that bookings for the AirtrainConnect service need to be made at least 48 hours in advance.



Beach Safety

The Gold Coast has some of the best beaches in Australia. When visiting beaches observe the following flags and always swim between the red & yellow flags on patrolled beaches.



Red & Yellow Flag
(Safety)



Red Flag (Stop)
Do Not Enter the
Water



Yellow Flag
(Caution)
Dangerous
Conditions



Green Flag (Go)
Safe to Swim in
Flagged Area

Beach Safety Rules:

DO NOT

- Swim alone or surf at beaches not patrolled by Lifeguards or Lifesavers.
- Swim outside the red and yellow flags that mark safe swimming areas.
- Swim directly after a meal or under the influence of alcohol.
- Swim when the beach is closed. (Observe the visual signal "Danger- Reserve closed to bathing" and the red flag.)
- Swim when there are no safety flags in position.
- Panic if caught in a current or undertow - raise one arm straight up and float until help arrives.
- Struggle if seized with a cramp. Raise one arm for help, float and keep the affected part of the body perfectly still.
- Go out far when a yellow flag is flying- it means the surf is dangerous.
- Swim if unsure of safe conditions. Seek the advice of the nearest Lifeguard.
- Struggle against a rip or current - swim diagonally across it.

