

# CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



World Health  
Organization

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Agenda Item 8

CRD14x

## JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD IMPORT AND EXPORT INSPECTION AND CERTIFICATION SYSTEMS

Twenty-third Session

### DISCUSSION PAPER ON REGULATORY APPROACHES TO THIRD PARTY CERTIFICATION IN FOOD SAFETY

Comments of Ecuador, India, Paraguay, Peru and FoodDrinkEurope

#### Ecuador

##### COMENTARIO GENERAL:

Luego del análisis correspondiente, el Subcomité concluye lo siguiente: Ecuador no tiene observaciones al documento. En este sentido, apoya el avance del mismo, al siguiente trámite.

#### India

India appreciates the work done by Canada and United Kingdom, and supports the development of guidance on regulatory approaches to third party certification in food safety. However, scope of such guidance document should clearly specify that third party certification schemes should not be considered as replacement to the official control and will serve as means to support the national competent authorities in risk profiling and prioritization of their activities.

#### Paraguay

Paraguay would like to thank Canada and The United Kingdom for their work on the preparation of the document.

Paraguay supports the new work and the establishment of an electronic working group to develop draft guidelines on third-party certification systems. Paraguay also considers that is very important to have a coherent approach, without promoting or recognising third party systems as substitutes for core regulatory requirements, but rather as part of the NFCS.

#### Peru

##### Observaciones generales:

Perú considera el tema aun en evaluación ya que lo que se prioriza es la certificación de las Autoridades Sanitarias.

Consideramos que el Codex tiene un papel que desempeñar para responder a los desafíos y oportunidades planteados por el uso emergente de programas de certificación por terceros en algunos países, destinados a fortalecer los controles oficiales, por las nuevas normativas que surgen en países.

##### Observaciones específicas:

Actualmente en Perú se está trabajando la armonización de los certificados Sanitarios oficial de exportación con las Autoridades Sanitarias en los mismos que se detallan los requisitos sanitarios y zoonos (para el caso de alimentos industrializados para consumo humano de origen animal).

Consideramos importante los objetivos detallados en el documento:

Objetivos

6. El presente documento está elaborado desde la perspectiva de la autoridad competente a fin de:

a. Contribuir a una comprensión común de la función que desempeñan los programas de certificación por parte de terceros en el logro del cumplimiento de los requisitos reglamentarios;

- b. Analizar cómo pueden utilizarse los elementos de los programas de certificación por parte de terceros para sustentar una planificación basada en el riesgo y la asignación de los recursos destinados a las inspecciones oficiales;
- c. Promover un enfoque sistemático para el uso de los programas de certificación de terceros por parte de las autoridades competentes;
- d. Delinear una serie de consideraciones de política pública, y
- e. Servir de base para la elaboración de orientaciones de alcance internacional para el uso de los programas de certificación por parte de terceros en el fortalecimiento de los Sistemas Nacionales de Control de los Alimentos.

### FoodDrinkEurope

FoodDrinkEurope welcomes the discussion paper on regulatory approaches to third party certification in food safety prepared by Canada and the United Kingdom for consideration of the 23rd Session of the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS)<sup>1</sup>.

A proven concept in many industries, including food, a third party certification scheme is a voluntary scheme that provides many benefits for the whole food chain –, manufacturers including suppliers, retailers and food service operators- conducting business and purchasing on an international scale. Bringing consistency, reliability and efficiency throughout the food supply chain, third party certification is a process by which accredited certification bodies, based on an audit, provide written assurance that food safety controls and management systems and their implementation conformed to requirements.

With no intention to replace regulatory inspections, third party certification results may be used by regulatory agencies, as a tool to optimize the use of budgeted resources and to determine not only the frequency of their own audits, but also the areas to concentrate on during these audits. As stated in the Codex discussion paper, until recently, competent authorities have paid little attention to third party certification schemes. However, a trend is emerging in some countries' regulatory modernisation programs to recognise certain aspects of third party certification schemes as part of the national food safety control systems. This is the case in Europe when, in March 2017, the European Parliament has adopted the new Regulation on Official Controls<sup>2</sup>, proposed by the European Commission, referring to the results of the operators' checks performed by third parties in the Article 9(1) '*Competent authorities shall perform official controls on all operators regularly, on a risk basis and with appropriate frequency, taking account of [...] the reliability and results of own controls that have been performed by the operators, or **by a third party at their request**, including, where appropriate, **private quality assurance schemes**, for the purpose of ascertaining compliance with the rules referred to in Article 1(2)*'

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<sup>1</sup> CODEX Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification systems - Twenty-third Session – Discussion Paper on regulatory Approaches to Third Party Certification in Food safety. Prepared by Canada and the United Kingdom - CX/FICS 17/23/8  
February 2017

<sup>2</sup> Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 March 2017.