

# codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE  
ORGANIZATION  
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD  
HEALTH  
ORGANIZATION



JOINT OFFICE: Viale delle Terme di Caracalla 00100 ROME Tel: 39 06 57051 www.codexalimentarius.net Email: codex@fao.org Facsimile: 39 06 5705 4593

Agenda Item 4a)

CX/FFP 03/4

## JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME CODEX COMMITTEE ON FISH AND FISHERY PRODUCTS

Twenty-sixth Session  
Ålesund, Norway, 13 - 17 October 2003

### CERTIFICATES FOR FISH AND FISHERY PRODUCTS: DRAFT MODEL CERTIFICATE FOR FISH AND FISHERY PRODUCTS (SANITARY CERTIFICATE) GOVERNMENT COMMENTS AT STEP 6

#### COTE D'IVOIRE

##### French version

Point 5.2.1 de L'ALINORM 03/18 Annexe V. Ce point devrait être formulé comme suit :

5.2.1 Le Numéro de référence: devrait être unique pour chaque chargement "*ou chaque lot exporté*" et devrait être maintenu et assigné par l'autorité compétente du pays exportateur. Lorsque plus d'un certificat est émis pour un chargement comme stipulé au paragraphe 5.1.3 ci-dessus, chaque certificat devrait porter le même numéro de référence.

Ces observations sont suscitées par le fait qu'il y a un nombre important de chargement voire de lot de poissons ou de produits de la pêche exporté sous un certificat sanitaire avec un numéro de référence, tel est le cas pour les produits en conserve qui font l'objet d'envois de plusieurs conteneurs de produits en conserve issus du même lot.

##### English version

Point 5.2.1 ALINORM 03/18, Appendix V. This point should read as follows :

5.2.1 Reference Number should be unique for each consignment "or each exported lot" and should be maintained and assigned by the competent authority of the exporting country. Where more than one certificate is issued for a consignment as stipulated in 5.1.3 above, each certificate should bear the identical reference number.

These comments arise from the fact that there is a large number of consignments or lots of fish and fishery products exported under a sanitary certificate with a reference number, as in the case of canned fish that are dispatched in several containers of canned products coming from the same lot.

#### UNITED STATES

##### Specific Comments on Appendix V, Agenda Item 4 (a), Step 6

###### 5.1.1

The United States recommends that the following sentence be added at the end of this section: "The Model Sanitary Certificate should be regarded as the 'default' certificate in international trade, i.e., the certificate that is routinely used."

**Reason:** If the Committee agrees to discontinue work on Model Inspection Certificate per our previous recommendation, this addition not required.

### 5.1.2 (new Subsection)

"When a single certificate is not practical to handle all the requirements of the importing country or where special inspection requirements for importing country exist, a model statement document could also be considered. The model statement document can be attached to the primary certificate stating that actual monitoring tests conducted and the resulting levels. For example, such tests might include monitoring radioactivity or trace metals contaminant."

### 5.2

The United States believes that the words "Sanitary or Inspection" should be deleted from the first sentence of Subsection 5.2 and throughout the document.

**Reason:** The Model Sanitary Certificate should be the default certificate for international trade.

#### 5.2.1

We recommend that the Subsection be modified to read: "Identification Number should be unique for the certificate and should be authorized by the competent authority of the exporting country. Where a Model Statement Document is issued for a consignment as stipulated in 5.1.2, it should reference the identification number of the primary certificate."

**Reason:**

The United States agrees with Canada that each certificate should have a unique identification number in accordance with CCFICS norm (CAC/GL 38). We are therefore proposing the language that is being offered by Canada, although with some minor adjustments as follows: The Canadian language retains the existing idea that identification numbers "should be maintained and assigned by the competent authority" to accurately reflect situations where the competent authority delegates the issuance of certificate to a certifying body. We are also recommending deletion of the words "sanitary/inspection" in reference to types of certificates because we are recommending deletion of inspection certificates.

#### 5.2.2

The United States requests clarification on how one bracket choice differs from the other in terms of meaning.

#### Appendix V, Annex I

Change "Reference Number" to "Identification Number" in the Model Certificate.

**Reason:** See above.

#### Appendix V, Annex I, Section IV, Attestation

Change "1)" of the Attestation to read: "The products described above originate from (an) establishment that has been approved by, or otherwise determined to be in good regulatory standing with the competent authority in the exporting country."

**Reason:**

Not all countries "approve" establishments in a literal sense. In the United States, for example, establishments are allowed to ship food or not based on their performance and whether the food is contaminated, but these determinations do not literally constitute "approvals".

Delete Item 2 in its entirety of the Attestation.

**Reason:**

Codex Codes of Practice for Fish and Fishery Products are not mandatory requirements.