

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 4 (f)

CX/MMP 04/6/9 Add 1
March 2004

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME CODEX COMMITTEE ON MILK AND MILK PRODUCTS

Sixth Session

Auckland, New Zealand, 26 - 30 April 2004

PROPOSED DRAFT MODEL EXPORT CERTIFICATE FOR MILK AND MILK PRODUCTS

COMMENTS AT STEP 3

Comments from: Australia, Canada, Colombia, European Community, Iran, New Zealand, United States and Uruguay

General

AUSTRALIA

Australia supports the development of a model export certificate in order to simplify certification currently required by countries that import milk and milk products. Guidelines for the Model Export Certificate for Milk and Milk Products should mention that, where feasible, certificates may be issued in an electronic format provided the relevant authorities in both the importing and exporting country are satisfied with the security of the certification system.

CANADA

Canada strongly supports the work on drafting a uniform, international export certificate for milk and milk products and would like to thank Switzerland and the drafting group for the work done to date. The major outcome for this certificate will be to have clear, well understood terms used so that there will be no doubt as to the information required on the certificate.

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

The European Community would like to thank Switzerland and its drafting partners for proposing this document for the Committee's consideration. The European Community supports this initiative, but cannot yet agree with the proposed approach.

The current document needs to be further elaborated, with a view to creating a cover note where clarifications on the following should be set down: objectives for laying down a model of certificate, definitions of the terminology used and recommendations on how to use the proposed export certificate model.

The European Community also foresees important difficulties with the requirements proposed in the public health attestation part:

- as the Code of Hygienic Practice for Milk and Milk Products requires very little or even no compliance with precise specifications (microbiological or other) for this type of products;
- as accepting dairy products on the basis of their compliance with the exporting country rules only is not acceptable.

The European Community considers that the drafting group should continue its reflection taking into account the outcome of the discussions held on the draft model certificate for fish and fishery products.

IRAN

Please find Iran comments as follow:

1-Related to the discussion paper on the model export certificate for milk products Cx/MMP 02/12 February 2002 , Agenda Item 6 , in article 3 we propose to add following comment at the end of article :

In according with OIE official "disease free " status it is necessary specify the name of for free zone official certificate.

2- Related to the Cx/MMP 04/6/9 annex 1, we propose to add another statement as follow :

VI food hygiene attestation.

NEW ZEALAND

The New Zealand Government would like to make the following comments:

New Zealand supports the development of this model certificate as a way of simplifying certification procedures that are currently in use.

URUGUAY

We are pleased to advise you that having studied document CX/MMP 04/6/9 concerning the Proposed Draft Model Export Certificate for Milk and Milk Products, Uruguay considers that:

Relative to section I of the Model Certificate, in order to ensure trade transparency and awareness of the sanitary situation with regard to the export of milk products, the Country of Origin of the milk should be declared if different from the Country of dispatch.

Section I

AUSTRALIA

Customs Tariff No (HS Code, 6 digits)

Australia notes that CCFICS “Guidelines for Generic Official Certificate Formats and the Production and Issuance of Certificates” (CAC/GL 38-2001), section “Details of the Consignment” does not list a Customs Tariff N° as a minimum necessary information. We also note that the Codex Committee on Fish and Fish Products has recently finalised its draft model export certificate without including this line on the certificate.

Customs Tariff N° does not provide any information about public or animal health, is not used and therefore generally not known by relevant port authorities that use export certificates. It may thus provide a source of unnecessary error or confusion that may in some situations lead to delays in clearing shipments.

Contact details for manufacturer/exporter and importer

We note that the recently finalised draft model export certificate developed by Codex Committee on Fish and Fish Products does not require “e-mail address” and “fax number” to be automatically provided. We believe CCMMP could handle this issue similarly in order to further simplify the Model Export Certificate for Milk and Milk Products

CANADA

“Nature of Food” & “Name of Product”: We are not sure whether these terms refer to the same thing or not. If yes, just use one term and if not, a clear definition is required for each.

It must be clarified whether the “/” means either term can be answered or both terms.

We believe the “weight per unit” is a unique requirement from the “Net weight” and should therefore be separated, preferably prior to the “net weight” requirement.

We do not support the need for the [country of origin of milk] statement for any public health reason and suggest it be removed.

We suggest that the “Contact (Manufacturer or Trader)” requirement be changed to “Name (Manufacturer or Trader)”.

COLOMBIA

We recommend, joined to lot identification, to include the manufacturing date and expiration date. This is critical for milk products given that usually the packing presents the information that guides the consumption by the population.

To include, specifically both the manufacturer's name and the transporter's name, as well as his/her address, telephone number and e-mail. This information will allow the responsibilities allocation to the preservation of food quality in two important food chain links.

NEW ZEALAND

Customs tariff number

The Customs tariff number does not relate to the human health or animal health that the committee has agreed should be the primary focus of the certificate. The number does not clearly identify the product, as the WCO definitions associated with the numbers are rather vague for certification purposes. In many countries it is not the responsibility of the certifying body.

If there is value in including the tariff number in the model for other reasons, it should be voluntary and should be separated from the official attestation.

"Country of Dispatch" and "Country of Origin"

Country of dispatch should be the item of information to be declared, as recommended by the CCFICS guidelines. It would be helpful to define the term using a definition similar to that in the Draft Model Certificate for Fish and Fishery Products (ALINORM 04/27/18) which states:

Country of Dispatch for the purposes of the model certificate designates the name of the country of the competent authority which has the competence to verify and certify the conformity of the production establishments.

In addition, the country of origin of ingredients could be specified if required by the importing country, as indicated in the CCFICS guidelines.

If there is value in including the country of origin of the product in the model, it should be voluntary and separated from the official attestation.

UNITED STATES

The U.S. questions whether the “Nature of the Food” and the “Name of the Product(s)” are both needed. According to the Codex General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods, the name of the food should indicate the true nature of the product. If both lines are kept, the U.S. recommends providing clear definitions for both.

The U.S. recommends separating net weight/weight per unit into two lines.

The U.S. recommends including a specific name in the “Contact (Manufacturer or Trader)” line and revising the line as follows: “Contact Name (Manufacturer or Trader).”

Section II

AUSTRALIA

Country of dispatch/Country of origin

Australia notes that CCFICS “Guidelines for Generic Official Certificate Formats and the Production and Issuance of Certificates” (CAC/GL 38-2001), section “Details of the Consignment” does not list country of origin of product as a minimum necessary information. We also note that the Codex Committee on Fish and Fish Products has recently finalised its draft model export certificate and it does not have a “country of origin” line.

We believe that “country of origin” line is not necessary for a number of reasons, including: (a) traceability of products is better achieved through other information provided for a shipment, for example product label, manufacturer’s and importer’s details; and (b) on its own it does not convey any useful information about food safety.

However, should CCMMP 6 decide to include this information on the certificate in order to reduce number of export documents required for export shipments (eg “Certificate of Origin”), then an explanation of how to use this line on the certificate, eg via a footnote, should be provided.

Contact details for manufacturer/exporter and importer

We note that the recently finalised draft model export certificate developed by Codex Committee on Fish and Fish Products does not require “e-mail address” and “fax number” to be automatically provided. We believe CCMMP could handle this issue similarly in order to further simplify the Model Export Certificate for Milk and Milk Products

CANADA

The terms “Country of dispatch” and “Country of origin” need to be defined and separated, if both are mandatory requirements.

We recommend that “Exporter/Consignor Exporter License No.” be changed to “Exporter (add license no., if applicable)”.

COLOMBIA

II. To point out shipment port, arriving port and destination place. These measures are convenient to allow the product traceability and the action by health authorities in an emergency case, for example, to remove a product or to carry out back surveillance actions in the food chain. Likewise, for this purpose the containers identification is important.

UNITED STATES

The U.S. recommends revising the “Country of Dispatch/ Country of Origin” line by providing separate lines for “Country of Origin” and Country of Dispatch” with specific definitions for both as follows:

Country of Dispatch¹ _____

Country of Origin² _____

Section III

AUSTRALIA

Contact details for manufacturer/exporter and importer

We note that the recently finalised draft model export certificate developed by Codex Committee on Fish and Fish Products does not require “e-mail address” and “fax number” to be automatically provided. We believe CCMMP could handle this issue similarly in order to further simplify the Model Export Certificate for Milk and Milk Products

¹ The name of the country of the competent authority which has competence to verify and certify the conformity of the production establishment. Key criteria in determining the country of dispatch are: (1) where the product was last exposed to a potential hazard, i.e., goods minimally processed to include repackaging, dry blending, cutting, slicing, shredding and grating and (2) there is no change in the HS tariff code heading between the imported and exported product.

² The Country of Origin means the country of manufacture, not the country in which the name originated. When the product undergoes substantial transformation in a second country, the country in which the substantial transformation is performed shall be considered to be the country of origin. Repackaging, slicing, shredding, and grating is not regarded as substantial transformation.

Section V

NEW ZEALAND***Animal health attestations***

We agree that the animal health attestations are an important part of the certificate. We suggest that they should be developed jointly between Codex and OIE for the purposes of this certificate.

UNITED STATES

The U.S. recognizes and supports the work of OIE on the animal health requirements and understands that these requirements will be merged into the certificate at a later date.

Footnote 7

AUSTRALIA

We note that most countries importing Australia's milk and milk product require some animal health declarations, and some of those do not cover issues related to animal health having an impact on public health. We believe that Animal health attestations (section V) should be included in a model certificate.