

codex alimentarius commission E



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



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Agenda Item 8

**CX/NASWP 08/10/10 Add. 1
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**JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME
FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR NORTH AMERICA
AND THE SOUTH WEST PACIFIC**

Tenth session

Nuku'alofa, Tonga, 28-31 October 2008

USE OF CODEX STANDARDS AT NATIONAL AND REGIONAL LEVEL

Replies to CL 2008/12-NASWP, Part B of Cook Islands

(i) Use of Codex standards and related texts at the national and regional level

COOK ISLANDS

The Cook Islands export fresh tuna to the US and Japan and currently meet import standards of those market countries. Frozen albacore is offloaded at the canneries in Pago Pago, Am Samoa and these comply with current standards.

(ii) Non-use of Codex standards and related texts at the national and regional level, with reasons where applicable

COOK ISLANDS

At present, codex standards are not being implemented as the draft food regulations with ministry of health is still in the legislative process in terms of becoming law. Although, cook islands in not a member of WTO but SPS agreement is used to control the import and export of agricultural products.

As for fish as mentioned in (1) they comply under the import country standards rather than fully using Codex. Standards. The Noni Juice is also is guided by the IFOAM Standards.

(iii) Difficulties encountered in the use or application of Codex standards and related texts at the national and regional level

COOK ISLANDS

Difficulties encountered are the process of passing the Food Law Regulations to comply Codex Standards.

(iv) Relevance of Codex standards and related texts as a basis for harmonization of legislation and regulations, including in the perspective of economic integration

COOK ISLANDS

There is a need to work in partnership with Government Agencies as well stakeholders such as the producers and consumers. Some of the current legislation administered by inter governmental agencies overlap and also outdated. Also, the need to speed up the process of passing the Food Regulations is important to enable the implementations of Codex Standards.

(v) Any other health and/or trade problems related to standardization at the national or regional level**COOK ISLANDS**

There is an existing SPC project on Harmonisation of the Biosecurity legislations for the Pacific region in which was initiated in 2002 and the Cook Islands will soon be enacting their biosecurity laws to comply international agreement and fair trade with agricultural commodities. Codex Standards would only be implemented once the Food Regulations is processed through Parliament.