

# codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE  
ORGANIZATION  
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD  
HEALTH  
ORGANIZATION



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## Agenda Item 7

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## JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

### CODEX COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR NORTH AMERICA

#### AND

### THE SOUTH-WEST PACIFIC

#### Sixth Session

Perth, Australia, 5 – 8 December 2000

### ACTIVITIES OF CODEX CONTACT POINTS AND NATIONAL CODEX COMMITTEES, INCLUDING PROMOTION OF MEMBERSHIP IN THE REGION

#### ADDITIONAL REPORTS OF MEMBER COUNTRIES

#### UNITED STATES

On May 31, the contact point published a notice in the Federal Register informing the public of the sanitary and phyto-sanitary standard-setting activities of the Commission. During the course of the fiscal year, contact point announced, through Federal Register Notice, publication on the contact point web site, or both, approximately 20 public meetings on Codex standard setting activities. At these meetings information on issues was provided and comments were accepted. It posted Codex Circular Letters on its web site. Through Circular Letters, Codex solicits governments' comments on issues that will be considered. This practice allows broader and earlier participation in the U.S. Codex process. Also, information on upcoming sessions of Codex Committees and reports of recent meetings is posted on the contact point web site. These activities have contributed to the transparency of the standard-setting process.

The United States successfully served as host government to the 1999 Session of the Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH), the 2000 Session of the Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables (CCPFV), and the 2000 Session of the Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Food (CCRVDF). Additionally, it completed plans for the live web-cast of the October 2000 session of CCFH. This will further enhance transparency in the Codex process.

The contact point sponsored an interdepartmental workshop on Precaution in Food Safety. This workshop formed the basis for United States submissions to the Ad hoc Group on Food Safety in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, and for United States positions on the application of precaution in Risk Analysis in the Codex Committee on General Principles.

The contact point coordinated the naming of delegates to and participated in inaugural meetings of three Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Task Forces. The contact point developed and delivered two training programs for approximately 40 U.S. government delegates and alternate delegates to Codex Committees. These sessions are intended to improve the skills of U.S. Delegates.

The contact point briefed numerous international visitors on US Codex activities. These included visitors from Bulgaria, Egypt, the European Union, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Korea, the Netherlands, and New Zealand.

The contact point made presentations in numerous domestic and international symposia and other fora on the work of US Codex and of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. International symposia included the TransAtlantic Consumer Dialogue, a meeting of the International Fresh-Cut Produce Association, and a Malaysian Nutrition Labeling Conference. Domestic symposia were sponsored by such groups as the American Dietetics Association, the American School Food Service Association, the Food, Drug and Law Institute, the Food Industry Codex Coalition, the Institute of Food Technologists, and. Public Citizen.

The contact point participated in a joint WHO/US Government sponsored workshop for Codex contacts from the English speaking countries of the Caribbean.