

codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



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TO: Codex Contact Points
Interested International Organizations

FROM: Secretary, Codex Alimentarius Commission
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00100 Italy

SUBJECT: **REQUEST FOR COMMENTS FOR THE REVIEW OF THE REGIONAL
COORDINATING COMMITTEES FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE CODEX
COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR NORTH AMERICA AND THE SOUTH
WEST PACIFIC (APIA, SAMOA, 19 -22 October 2004)**

DEADLINE: **15 September 2004**

COMMENTS:

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REVIEW OF THE REGIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEES

1. As a follow up to the recommendations of the Joint FAO/WHO Evaluation of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and other FAO and WHO work on Standards, the 26th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission decided that all the Committees and Task Forces would be reviewed together, bearing in mind the objective of reducing the number of meetings while also keeping them short and focused. With respect to Regional Coordinating Committees, the Commission instructed the Secretariat to prepare proposals for the review of the Regional Coordinating Committees to the next Regular Session of the Commission. (para. 154, ALINORM 03/41 and para.15, ALINORM 03/26/11 Add.1)

2. Concerning the review of the Regional Coordinating Committees, the 27th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission agreed that a Circular Letter would be issued to all Codex Members to invite government comments in the following areas. It was also decided that the Regional Coordinating Committees, at their forthcoming sessions, should consider the comments from the governments of the respective Region and forward their views and/or recommendations to the 28th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission for its consideration.(ALINORM 04/27/41)

- Role of Regional Coordinating Committees in furthering the objectives of the Codex Alimentarius Commission;
- Membership of Regional Coordinating Committees, including their current geographic coverage;
- Terms of reference of the Regional Coordinating Committees as set out in the Procedural Manual, including the relevance of developing regional standards;
- Effectiveness of Regional Coordinating Committees in respect of country participation record and of venues and meeting intervals (currently every two years);

- Respective roles of the Regional Coordinator as *ex officio* Chairperson of the Regional Coordinating Committee and the Member(s) of the Executive Committee elected on a geographic basis, particularly within the framework of the Executive Committee; and
- Any other issues.

3. The Coordinating Committee for North America and the South-West Pacific is expected to consider this issue at its 8th Session (Apia, Samoa, 19 - 22 October 2004). Therefore, member governments of Coordinating Committee for the North America and the South-West Pacific and observers are invited to provide their comments to the Codex Secretariat with a copy to the Samoan Secretariat, preferably in an electronic form, **by 15 September 2004**.