



**JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME**  
**CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD IMPORT AND EXPORT INSPECTION**  
**AND CERTIFICATION SYSTEMS**

**Twenty-fifth Session**

**Virtual Meeting, 31 May – 8 June 2021**

**EMERGING ISSUES AND FUTURE DIRECTION OF CCFICS – UPDATED LIST OF EMERGING GLOBAL ISSUES**

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## Introduction

1. At its 20<sup>th</sup> Session in 2013, the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS20) recognised that emerging global challenges were impacting approaches and technologies relating to food safety controls, and these trends were likely to continue.
2. As a result, the Committee requested a discussion paper be prepared to enable CCFICS to take a strategic approach to its area of work. At its 21<sup>st</sup> Session (2014), the Committee considered the discussion paper (CX/FICS 14/21/7) and agreed that it be retained as a standing item and updated ahead of each CCFICS meeting.
3. At its 22<sup>nd</sup> Session (2016), the Committee considered the updated discussion paper (CX/FICS 16/22/9). The paper included a horizon scan of issues that could impact food control systems and the work of CCFICS as well as a list of potential areas of work. The Committee agreed to further work to develop the discussion paper including development of a framework for the preliminary assessment and identification of priority areas for CCFICS<sup>1</sup>.
4. The Committee also considered the request from the 70<sup>th</sup> Session of the Executive Committee, which recommended to all Committees to consider the need to develop an approach for the management of their work similar to that used by the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene. CCFICS22 agreed that the criteria in the Codex Procedural Manual and practices in other Codex committees would be examined in the context of the updated discussion paper (CX/FICS 16/22/9) and that a prioritization framework be developed.
5. At its 23<sup>rd</sup> Session (2017), the Committee considered the updated discussion paper (CX/FICS 17/23/9) comprising two distinct components: Appendix A, presenting emerging global issues relevant to the work of CCFICS; and Appendix B, outlining a framework for the preliminary assessment and identification of priority areas for CCFICS. The Committee agreed to further work to update Appendix A to take into account members' comments for consideration at CCFICS24. Regarding Appendix B, the Committee agreed to further work to revise the framework for the preliminary assessment and identification of priority areas for CCFICS for consideration at its next session<sup>2</sup>.
6. At its 24<sup>th</sup> Session in 2018, the Committee reviewed the discussion paper and agreed to:
  - i. Consider Appendix A (Emerging global issues) as a standing document under the agenda on "emerging issues and future direction of CCFICS", noting the need for analysis and periodic update;
  - ii. Rotate the custodianship of Appendix A commencing at CCFICS25 through members on a meeting-by-meeting basis;
  - iii. Review the list included in Appendix A at CCFICS25 (2020);
  - iv. pilot the application of the prioritization tool (Appendix B), and the tool assisting members drafting a proposal for new work for consideration by CCFICS (Appendix C), on a trial basis, and revisit these Appendices at CCFICS25; and
  - v. await the outcome of CCFH50 (2018) discussion on guidance on the management of (micro)biological foodborne crises/outbreaks before embarking upon a discussion on this topic within CCFICS.

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<sup>1</sup> REP16/FICS.

<sup>2</sup> REP17/FICS.

7. The postponement of the 25<sup>th</sup> Session of CCFICS, originally scheduled for 27 April to 1 May 2020, along with many other Codex meetings, due to the coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19), and some of the resulting challenges to international trade in food highlights the importance of being able to respond to emerging issues in a timely manner.

### **Approach**

8. The purpose of this standing agenda item is to facilitate a strategic, outward-looking discussion by the committee, by routinely undertaking a global scan, identifying potential future issues, challenges and advancements. This will ensure the Committee is strongly positioned to consider new work or revision of Codex standards and ensure members and observers are well prepared to contribute to these discussions.

9. Several Codex Committees are discussing and/or implementing prioritisation mechanisms for new work. Many Committees use a process where new proposals are sought via a circular letter, for review and prioritisation by *ad hoc* working groups, before consideration by the Committee.

10. The need to capture a broader international perspective was noted at CCFICS23; this objective could be achieved by members from different parts of the world volunteering, on a rotational basis, to take on the task of updating the paper.

11. In identifying and prioritising potential areas of future work, CCFICS will need to take into account the differing needs and capabilities of members and the need for future guidance to encompass the fundamental components of food control systems as well as the inclusion of newer approaches and technologies.

### **Appendix A: Emerging Global Issues Relevant to CCFICS**

12. Appendix A identifies emerging global issues relevant to the work of CCFICS. It is a horizon-scanning tool that allows members to learn comparatively from each other's strategic outlooks, make an initial assessment as to what extent international standards exist to support identified issues, and thereby offer suggestions to assist with consideration of future needs to manage emerging issues.

13. Appendix A is not a prescriptive list of proposals for new work, rather it is a list of issues that may be of relevance to CCFICS. The list of issues includes a description of the impact on CCFICS/Codex, as well as the related CCFICS texts. Appendix A is intended to be updated for each session to ensure its ongoing relevance, by adding issues for each session, and removing items when they are approved as new work or deemed no longer relevant.

### **Appendices B and C: Prioritisation of new work**

14. Appendix B presents a proposed prioritisation tool – a framework for the preliminary assessment and identification of priority areas for CCFICS, developed to assist the Committee in prioritising its work. The framework was developed in recognition of the criteria for new work contained in the *Procedural Manual*, along with existing guidance developed by other Codex Committees. It includes criteria specific to the CCFICS and a subjective self-rating scale to be used by the Member proposing new work. Appendix B also presents a proposed process for considering new work proposals and prioritisation of work. New work proposals should be assessed against criteria specific to CCFICS in addition to addressing the requirements for the criteria for the establishment of new work priorities (criteria applicable to general subjects) outlined in the *Procedural Manual*.

15. Appendix C contains a proposed template combining the Procedural Manual requirements for the new work and the additional CCFICS- specific criteria that could be used by CCFICS members.

16. Recognising that many CCFICS texts were developed a number of years ago, the framework is also intended to apply to revisions of existing Codex texts.

### **Recommendations**

17. It is recommended that CCFICS25 agree that:

- The list of emerging global issues, as found in Appendix A, continues as a standing agenda item for future CCFICS meetings;
- The custodianship of Appendix A continues to be rotated through members on a meeting-by-meeting basis to ensure its ongoing relevance; and
- A Circular Letter be issued prior to each CCFICS meeting seeking input from members on emerging global issues to be included in Appendix A.

18. It is also recommended that the Committee consider the proposed process for prioritising new work proposals as found in Appendix B.

## Emerging Global Issues relevant to Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems

(March 2021)

### Introduction

1. The table below identifies significant emerging global issues that may impact the work of CCFICS and recognises any existing texts or new work proposals relevant to each issue. These items have been drawn from previous discussions at CCFICS sessions and other available material, including multilateral food safety and trade discussions.
2. It may be the case that existing texts touch on, but do not fully address, an identified global issue. In this case, additional or clarifying guidance may be warranted. This may present an opportunity for the Committee to consider the appropriateness and priority of potential new work, using the proposed framework outlined in [Appendix B](#). It may also present an opportunity to review existing text in light of new data, or new trading environments.

### New emerging global issues for consideration

Priority	Emerging Global Issue ( <i>not in priority order</i> )	Related Impact on CCFICS / Codex	Related CCFICS text	Comment / Status / Reason for priority
To be assessed using Criteria outlined in <b>Appendix B</b> .	Food waste	Food waste as related to international trade; not limited to the end of the food chain.  In 2015, world leaders committed themselves to address this challenge and set out to halve per capita food waste and to reduce food losses by 2030 within the context of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and as part of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 12, which aims to ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.		
To be assessed using Criteria outlined in	Appeals mechanism in the context of rejections.	Develop a separate guideline on an appeals mechanism in the context of rejections of imported foods.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CAC/GL 25-1997</li> <li>• CAC/GL 47-2003</li> </ul>	

Priority	Emerging Global Issue (not in priority order)	Related Impact on CCFICS / Codex	Related CCFICS text	Comment / Status / Reason for priority
<b>Appendix B.</b>				
To be assessed using Criteria outlined in <b>Appendix B.</b>	New and evolving food production, processing, transport and distribution systems and technologies.	<p>Impacts on the Competent Authority with regard to national food control systems (their effectiveness, traceability, recall, etc.), imported food control systems, and new national production processes.</p> <p>Given the need to advance national standards will also impact on trade through equivalence and systems recognition.</p> <p>Potential to meet the needs of the growing global population through the production of new foods subject to due regulation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CAC/GL 19-1995</li> <li>• CAC/GL 20-1995</li> <li>• CAC/GL 25-1997</li> <li>• CAC/GL 26-1997</li> <li>• CAC/GL 34-1999</li> <li>• CAC/GL 38-2001</li> <li>• CAC/GL 47-2003</li> <li>• CAC/GL 53-2003</li> <li>• CAC/GL 60-2006</li> <li>• CAC/GL 82-2013</li> <li>• CAC/GL 89-2016</li> <li>• CAC/GL 91-2017</li> <li>• Guidance on the Use of Systems Equivalence</li> </ul>	
To be assessed using Criteria outlined in <b>Appendix B.</b>	Improved analytics, testing technologies, and surveillance.	The tools and methods used to measure performance of food safety systems and how and when they are applied.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CAC/GL 47-2003</li> <li>• CAC/GL 53-2003</li> <li>• CAC/GL 25-1997</li> <li>• CAC/GL 34-1999</li> <li>• CAC/GL 82-2013</li> <li>• CAC/GL 89-2016</li> <li>• CAC/GL 91-2017</li> </ul>	

Priority	Emerging Global Issue (not in priority order)	Related Impact on CCFICS / Codex	Related CCFICS text	Comment / Status / Reason for priority
To be assessed using Criteria outlined in <b>Appendix B</b> .	New approaches to food safety, including preventative and outcomes-based systems	Current and anticipated changes to the suite of tools used to provide assurances, and how and when they are applied.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CAC/GL 20-1995</li> <li>• CAC/GL 19-1995</li> <li>• CAC/GL 25-1997</li> <li>• CAC/GL 26-1997</li> <li>• CAC/GL 34-1999</li> <li>• CAC/GL 38-2001</li> <li>• CAC/GL 53-2003</li> <li>• CAC/GL 47-2003</li> <li>• CAC/GL 60-2006</li> <li>• CAC/GL 82-2013</li> <li>• CAC/GL 89-2016</li> <li>• CAC/GL 91-2017</li> <li>• Guidance on the Use of Systems Equivalence</li> </ul>	
To be assessed using Criteria outlined in <b>Appendix B</b> .	Guidance on the management of (micro)biological foodborne crises/outbreaks	Under development by CCFH.		
To be assessed using Criteria outlined in <b>Appendix B</b> .	Increased focus on food integrity / authenticity (food fraud)	The vulnerability of food systems to intentional manipulation for economic gain, for example.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CAC/GL 20-1995</li> <li>• CAC/GL 19-1995</li> <li>• CAC/GL 25-1997</li> <li>• CAC/GL 26-1997</li> <li>• CAC/GL 38-2001</li> <li>• CAC/GL 47-2003</li> </ul>	<p>Work underway.</p> <p>Discussion paper on the role of CCFICS with respect to tackling food fraud in the context of food safety and fair practices in food trade.</p> <p>To be discussed at CCFICS25 at Agenda Item 8.</p>

Priority	Emerging Global Issue (not in priority order)	Related Impact on CCFICS / Codex	Related CCFICS text	Comment / Status / Reason for priority
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CAC/GL 60-2006</li> <li>• CAC/GL 82-2013</li> <li>• CAC/GL 89-2016</li> <li>• Discussion paper on the role of CCFICS with respect to tackling food fraud in the context of food safety and fair practices in food trade.</li> </ul>	
To be assessed using Criteria outlined in <b>Appendix B.</b>	Private standards	The application of private standards in the production and standardisation of food, which may be different to those established by a competent authority.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CAC/GL 20-1995</li> <li>• CAC/GL 26-1997</li> <li>• CAC/GL 34-1999</li> <li>• CAC/GL 38-2001</li> <li>• CAC/GL 60-2003</li> <li>• CAC/GL 47-2003</li> <li>• CAC/GL 82-2013</li> <li>• Draft Principles and guidelines for the assessment and use of voluntary Third-Party Assurance (vTPA) programmes</li> </ul>	The report from CCFICS23 (2017) stated this should not be included since this matter has been thoroughly discussed in the past at the Commission and no request has been made to address it further in CCFICS.
To be assessed using Criteria outlined in <b>Appendix B.</b>	Increasing electronic transactions and Information Communication and Technology (ICT) capabilities	<p>The use of information technology as applied to food control systems including use for data gathering and analysis, and electronic certification.</p> <p>Note: discussions on internet sales / e-commerce underway at the Codex Committee on Food Labelling (REP18/FL)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CAC/GL 19-1995</li> <li>• CAC/GL 26-1997</li> <li>• CAC/GL 38-2001</li> <li>• CAC/GL 82-2013</li> <li>• CAC/GL 89-2016</li> <li>• Guidance on Paperless Use of Electronic Certificates</li> </ul>	Work underway on paperless trading.

Priority	Emerging Global Issue (not in priority order)	Related Impact on CCFICS / Codex	Related CCFICS text	Comment / Status / Reason for priority
To be assessed using Criteria outlined in <b>Appendix B.</b>	Evolving role of competent authority and interactions between various government entities	Interaction among various governmental entities involved in food trade, in particular between food control authorities and customs/border protection agencies, and the ability to better leverage information from these interactions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CAC/GL19-1995</li> <li>• CAC/GL 34-1999</li> <li>• CAC/GL 47-2003</li> <li>• CAC/GL 82-2013</li> <li>• CAC/GL 89-2016</li> <li>• CAC/GL 91-2017</li> <li>• Guidance on the Use of Systems Equivalence</li> </ul>	
To be assessed using Criteria outlined in <b>Appendix B.</b>	Antimicrobial resistance	Impact on certification or inspections / testing arrangements regarding antimicrobial resistance, noting current work underway by the Ad hoc Codex Intergovernmental Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance (TFAMR).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CAC/GL 20-1995</li> <li>• CAC/GL 38-2001</li> <li>• CAC/GL 47-2003</li> <li>• CAC/GL 82-2013</li> <li>• CAC/GL 89-2016</li> <li>• CAC/GL 91-2017</li> <li>• Guidance on the Use of Systems Equivalence</li> </ul>	TFAMR UN General Assembly reaffirmed its Global Action Plan on antimicrobial resistance.

## Appendix B

### Framework for the preliminary assessment and identification of priority areas for CCFICS – prioritisation tool

1. The following framework was established to assist the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS) to prioritise its work.

#### Proposals for New Work

2. Proposals for new work will typically address issues associated with food safety and fair practices in the food trade, within the mandate of CCFICS, either to develop new Codex texts or revise existing Codex texts.
3. **Appendix A**, containing a list of emerging global issues, may be used as a basis for a new work proposal, however a proposal can be brought forward to CCFICS at any time, regardless of whether it is on the list or not.
4. Proposals for new work should follow the process below, that includes requirements outlined in the Procedural Manual for Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities (criteria applicable to general subjects)<sup>1</sup>, in addition to criteria specific to CCFICS.
5. Members proposing new work should also refer to **Appendix C** which may assist in the development of the new work proposal.

#### Criteria for Evaluating and Prioritising New Work

6. In addition to the provisions applicable to new work proposals in the *Codex Procedural Manual*, the following criteria and associated ratings will be used in evaluating and prioritising new work proposals presented to CCFICS:
  - a. the justification for new work, including how the area of work may fill a gap in the current CCFICS suite of texts, or provide clarity to them;
  - b. whether the work will amend an existing CCFICS text or develop a new CCFICS text; and,
  - c. the scope of the work and the extent to which the issue impacts on CCFICS members and international trade.
7. To assist in quantifying (6.c.) above, the criteria below should be used by the Member proposing new work as part of the self-assessment and include a rationale to justify the rating.

Criterion	Rating
Relevance to CCFICS mandate	Yes / No* * If no, work should not proceed through CCFICS.
Immediate Urgency	High Medium Low
Impact on Food Safety	High Medium Low
Impact on fair trade practices	High Medium Low
Impact on Trade Facilitation	High Medium Low

#### Process for considering Proposals for New Work

8. The Committee will use the following process with regard to the revision of existing Codex texts or development of new Codex texts:
  - a. As with normal Codex procedures, new work proposals should be provided in the format of a project document and include requirements for the Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities (criteria applicable to general subjects) outlined in the *Procedural Manual*;

<sup>1</sup> Codex Procedural Manual, 27<sup>th</sup> Edition, Section II.



- b. Additionally, the project document should include a self-assessment against the additional criteria specific to CCFICS, as found in this prioritisation tool. Appendix C, a template combining the project document and the proposed CCFICS prioritisation criteria, can also be used to assist members drafting new work proposals;
- c. It may be appropriate for CCFICS to establish an *ad hoc* working group, particularly in cases where multiple proposals are under consideration, chaired by the custodian of Appendix A, that could be tasked to evaluate and prioritise new work proposals and make recommendations to CCFICS; and
- d. CCFICS will consider new work proposals and recommendations of the *ad hoc* working group, if established.

#### **Identification of priority areas**

9. The Committee may reassess the priority of each item where new data or other information is available relating to an item. Such data may be submitted for consideration and the priority for the new work proposal reconsidered.
10. CCFICS will continue to utilise all available resources, including the list of Emerging Global Issues relevant to CCFICS, to identify emerging or imminent issues of relevance to the Committee.

**NEW WORK PROPOSAL – [insert subject]****ON CONSIDERATION OF EMERGING ISSUES AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS FOR THE WORK OF THE  
CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD IMPORT AND EXPORT INSPECTION AND CERTIFICATION SYSTEMS**

Prepared by [insert member country or countries]

Purpose and Scope of the Standard

Relevance and Timeliness

Main aspects to be covered

An assessment against the *Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities*

Relevance to the Codex strategic objectives

Information on the relation between the proposal and other existing Codex documents as well as other ongoing work

Identification of any requirement for and availability of expert scientific advice

Identification of any need for technical input to the standard from external bodies so that this can be planned for

Proposed timeline for completion of the new work, including the start date, the proposed date for adoption at Step 5, and the proposed date for adoption by the Commission; *the time frame for developing a standard should not normally exceed five years.*CCFICS criteria to assist the Committee prioritise the development of new work.

Justification for new work, including how the area of work may fill a gap in the current CCFICS suite of texts, or provide clarity to them.

Whether the work will amend existing CCFICS texts or develop new CCFICS text.

The scope of the work and the extent to which the issue impacts on CCFICS members and international trade.

The results, including rationale, from the self-assessment against the Criteria for Evaluating and Prioritising New Work in Appendix B.