



**TO:** Codex Contact Points  
Interested International Organisations

**FROM:** Secretariat, Codex Alimentarius Commission  
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme

**SUBJECT:** Request for comments on appendix A - List of new emerging global issues

**DEADLINE:** 30 November 2025

## BACKGROUND

1. The 24th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS24, 2018) agreed that the list of emerging global issues be maintained as a standing document under the agenda on “emerging issues and future direction of CCFICS”, and that its custodianship will be rotated for purposes of updating.
2. CCFICS27 considered a standing-item paper, [CX/FICS 24/27/9](#), prepared by the United Kingdom. It was noted that the responses to the Circular Letter (Ref. CL 2023/66-FICS) confirmed the importance of the issues identified in the List of new emerging global issues of the document, which had been updated to take into account the developments.
3. CCFICS27 agreed:
  - a. to request the Codex Secretariat to issue a Circular Letter requesting inputs from Members and Observers on emerging global issues to be included in the attached **Appendix A** to be developed for consideration by CCFICS28.
  - b. that EU with the support of Australia be the next custodian of **Appendix A** to be prepared for CCFICS28; and
  - c. to hold a virtual intersessional workshop prior to CCFICS28 to discuss the emerging issues under **Appendix A**.

## REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

4. Members and Observers are invited to consider how emerging global trends that may affect National Food Control Systems and international trade, and how this might influence CCFICS standards needed in the future. These considerations may inform proposals for new work and their prioritisation, including their consideration at an online intersessional workshop prior to CCFICS28.
5. In this respect, Members and Observers are invited to review and provide comments on **Appendix A**. Comments may be:
  - o Additional proposals for inclusion on the list;
  - o additional detail on currently listed proposals in the table, including better defining how they relate to CCFICS; and/or
  - o striking out proposals that are no longer relevant to the work of CCFICS or are not within the terms of reference of CCFICS.
6. Members and Observers are encouraged to reflect broadly and critically about potential areas of work that might stem from global trends. This might include but not be limited to, the emergence of new foods and production systems; changing consumer expectations; technological advancements; cybersecurity risks; climate change; efforts to advance sustainability objectives; integration of One Health approaches in National Food Control Systems, increasing supply chain complexity etc. Publications of multinational organisations, including the FAO Food Safety Foresight Programme, highlight some of these trends and others.

7. Proposed additions to **Appendix A** must fall within the remit of the Committee. In identifying emerging issues and proposals for new work, Members and Observers should provide information in line with the criteria listed in the table in Appendix B.
8. Prior to CCFICS28, an online intersessional workshop will be held to discuss emerging issues. The purpose of the meeting will be to elaborate on the identified issues, build consensus on potential new work proposals and make recommendations regarding their prioritisation. Members and Observers are reminded that the Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031 was adopted by CAC47. The intersessional workshop may represent an opportunity to consider how CCFICS can have the most impact on protecting consumer health and promoting fair practices in the food trade in the period to 2031.
9. Appendix A is uploaded on the Codex Online Commenting System (OCS): <https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org/>, and comments should be submitted as per the guidance below.

#### **GUIDANCE ON THE PROVISION OF COMMENTS**

10. Comments should be submitted through the Codex Contact Points of Codex Members and Observers using the OCS.
11. Contact Points of Codex Members and Observers may login to the OCS and access the document open for comments by selecting “Enter” in the “My reviews” page, available after login to the system.
12. Contact Points of Codex Members and Observers organizations are requested to provide proposed changes and relevant comments/justifications on a specific paragraph and/or at the document level (general comments or summary comments). Additional guidance on the OCS comment categories and types can be found in the OCS [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#).
13. Other OCS resources, including the user manual and short guide, can be found at the following link: <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/ocs/en/>.
14. For questions on the OCS, please contact [Codex-OCS@fao.org](mailto:Codex-OCS@fao.org).

## APPENDIX A

## POTENTIAL NEW WORK FOR CCFICS: LIST OF NEW EMERGING GLOBAL ISSUES

## 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 and were agreed by CCFICS27.
2. It may be the case that existing CCFICS 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 CCFICS to consider the appropriateness and priority of potential new work, using the framework that was presented in Appendix B of **CX/FICS 23/26/9 and agreed by CCFICS26**. It may also present an opportunity to review existing text in light of new data, or new trading environments.

## Emerging global issues for consideration

Issue No.	Potential Emerging Global Issue for consideration ( <i>not in priority order</i> )	Related Impact on CCFICS / Codex	Related CCFICS text	Comment / Status / Reason for priority
1	New and evolving food production, processing, transport and distributing systems and technologies.	<p>Impact on the Competent Authority with regard to national food control systems (e.g., effectiveness, traceability, recalls) related to new food sources and production systems.</p> <p>Impact on trade through equivalence and systems recognitions.</p> <p>Potential need to update existing Codex text to address production of new foods subject to new regulation and established differentiation from existing sources.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CXG 19-1995</li> <li>• CXG 20-1995</li> <li>• CXG 25-1997</li> <li>• CXG 26-1997</li> <li>• CXG 34-1999</li> <li>• CXG 38-2001</li> <li>• CXG 47-2003</li> <li>• CXG 53-2003</li> <li>• CXG 60-2006</li> <li>• CXG 82-2013</li> <li>• CXG 89-2016</li> <li>• CXG 91-2017</li> <li>• Proposed Guidance on Recognition and Maintenance of Equivalence of NFCS</li> </ul>	<p><b>Priority:</b> Rated high with estimated medium impact on food safety and trade by some members in their responses to CL 2023/66-FICS issued in 2023).</p>

Issue No.	Potential Emerging Global Issue for consideration <i>(not in priority order)</i>	Related Impact on CCFICS / Codex	Related CCFICS text	Comment / Status / Reason for priority
2	Impact of new technologies and tools on training, development and monitoring of food control systems, information sharing and approach to government regulation and compliance activities.	Emerging use and application of digital and analytic tools, e.g. continuous/real-time monitoring. New approaches to manage food safety, including preventative and outcome-based approaches. Interoperability through increasing digitalization and use of artificial intelligence (AI) in regulatory modernisation programmes to better target finite resource. Additional impacts include changes to the way some authorities regulate, train staff, conduct compliance activities (e.g. food safety culture focus) and monitor the performance of their food control system to identify and manage risks proactively.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CXG 47-2003</li> <li>• CXG 53-2003</li> <li>• CXG 25-1997</li> <li>• CXG 34-1999</li> <li>• CXG 82-2013</li> <li>• CXG 89-2016</li> <li>• CXG 91-2017</li> <li>• CXG 93-2021</li> <li>• CXG 101-2023</li> <li>• CXG 102-2023</li> </ul>	<b>Priority:</b> Rated high with estimated high to medium impact on food safety and trade.
3	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>• CXG 19-1995</li> <li>• CXG 34-1999</li> <li>• CXG 47-2003</li> <li>• CXG 82-2013</li> <li>• CXG 89-2016</li> <li>• CXG 91-2017</li> <li>• CXG 101-2023</li> </ul>	<b>Priority:</b> Rated high with estimated high impact on food safety and trade

## APPENDIX B

**FRAMEWORK FOR THE PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT AND IDENTIFICATION OF PRIORITY AREAS FOR CCFICS – PRIORITISATION TOOL**

1. The following guidelines are 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, including to establish 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 proposals can be brought forward to CCFICS at any time, regardless of whether it is on the list or not.

4. Proposals for new work to be undertaken 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 the criteria below.

5. Members proposing new work may also refer to the document prepared at Appendix C that may assist in development of the new work proposal.

**Criteria for Evaluating and Prioritising New Work**

6. In addition to the provisions applying 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 undertaken by 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 existing CCFICS texts 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 (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.

<b>Criterion</b>	<b>Rating</b>
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

**Process for considering Proposals for New Work**

8. The Committee will, normally, employ the following process with regard to the revision of existing Codex texts or development of new Codex texts:

<sup>1</sup> Codex Procedural Manual, 28th Edition, Section II.

- a. As with normal procedure, 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;
- 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 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.

# CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



World Health  
Organization

Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, Italy - Tel: (+39) 06 57051 - E-mail: [codex@fao.org](mailto:codex@fao.org) - [www.codexalimentarius.org](http://www.codexalimentarius.org)

## APPENDIX C

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

**CCFICS Session**

**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.