

Consolidated Location	Type	Consolidated Text - original Dec 2025 Draft with additional paragraph / bullet points @ March 2026 - NO TRACKED CHANGE TEXT	CXG34-1999 Source [Section (\$) /para]	CXG53-2003 Source [Section (\$) /para]	CXG101-2023 Source [Section (\$) /para]	CXG26-1997 Source [Section (\$) /para]	Derivation Type
	Title	<i>PROPOSED DRAFT CONSOLIDATED TEXT ON THE PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES FOR THE RECOGNITION OF EQUIVALENCE OF NATIONAL FOOD CONTROL SYSTEMS (NFCS) OR A PART OF A NFCS (AT STEP 3)</i>					
SECTION 1: PREAMBLE	Heading	SECTION 1: PREAMBLE			Heading		Direct
SECTION 1: PREAMBLE 1	Paragraph	1.The recognition of equivalence is not generally required for most trade in food. However, where used it can minimise unnecessary duplication of controls and facilitate trade, while protecting the health of consumers and ensuring fair practices in the food trade. The recognition of equivalence, when it occurs, should result in positive changes to the requirements for trade.	§3/3		§Preamble/1		Paraphrase / Combination
SECTION 1: PREAMBLE 2	Paragraph	2.Requests for the recognition of equivalence can cover those requirements for trade that relate to both the protection of the health of consumers or ensuring fair practices in the food trade and can cover the whole of an exporting country's National Food Control System ¹ (NFCS) or part of its NFCS ² as appropriate.	§4/5		§2 Purpose		Combined
	Footnote 1	Principles and Guidelines for National Food Control Systems (CXG 82-2013).			Footnote		Direct
	Footnote 2	An equivalence request could be limited to assurances associated with a specified sector such as seafood or further refined to a subsector such as aquaculture or a processing type such as canned seafood. A request for equivalence recognition could cover a horizontal process for providing assurances such as the recognition of regulatory controls for sampling protocols and/or laboratory or specific methodology approvals.			Footnote		Direct

SECTION 1: PREAMBLE 2 bis	Paragraph	2.bis [Requirements or parts of a NFCS that have the objective of protecting the health of consumers include food safety related sanitary measures, as defined by the WTO/SPS Agreement, whereas those requirements or parts of a NFCS that have the objective of ensuring fair practices in the food trade include the non-food safety technical regulations, standards, and conformity assessment procedures as covered by the WTO/TBT Agreement.]					
SECTION 1: PREAMBLE 3	Paragraph	3.The recognition of equivalence may facilitate trade by reducing the need for an exporting country to implement additional controls over and above those already effectively being delivered by its NFCS in order to meet importing country requirements. It may also result in more efficient and effective use of resources in the importing and exporting countries. The recognition of equivalence may lead to efficiencies in approval, audit, inspection, and certification processes.	§3/2(b)	§1/3-4	§Preamble/1	§5(11);	Combination / Paraphrase
SECTION 1: PREAMBLE 4	Paragraph	4.The consideration, assessment, recognition, and maintenance of the equivalence of one country's NFCS or part of a NFCS is independent of any reciprocal process occurring. Reciprocal considerations, where requested, may have different scopes and durations, and may also arrive at different conclusions.			§Preamble/3		Direct
SECTION 1: PREAMBLE 5	Paragraph	5.These guidelines consolidate and replace the Guidelines for the Development of Equivalence Agreements Regarding Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CXG 34-1999), Guidelines on the Judgment of Equivalence of Sanitary Measures Associated with Food Inspection and Certification Systems (CXG 53-2003) and Guidelines on Recognition and Maintenance of Equivalence of National Food Control Systems (CXG 101-2023). {Drafting note: this paragraph may be retained as a footnote – decision to be made once draft has progressed in step process.}			§7		Direct
SECTION 1: PREAMBLE 6	Paragraph	6.These guidelines are intended to be read in conjunction with other existing Codex text including Principles and Guidelines for National Food Control Systems (CXG 82-2013) the Guidelines for the Design, Operation, Assessment and Accreditation of Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CXG 26-1997), the Guidelines for Food Import Control Systems (CXG 47-2003), and the Principles and Guidelines for the Exchange of Information between Importing and Exporting Countries to Support the Trade in Food (CXG 89-2016).			§Preamble/2		Direct

SECTION 2: PURPOSE	Heading	SECTION 2: PURPOSE			Heading		Direct
SECTION 2: PURPOSE 7	Paragraph	7.This document provides practical guidance, information and recommendations for importing and exporting countries to use when considering the appropriateness and/or scope of, as well as the process for assessing, recognising and maintaining the equivalence of a NFCS or a part of a NFCS.			§2.1		Direct
SECTION 2: PURPOSE 8	Paragraph	8.A request for a recognition of equivalence may relate to either the protection consumer health or ensuring fair practices in the food trade, or both, as relevant to the trade in foods and the conditions of trade covered by the request.			§2.2		Direct
SECTION 3: DEFINITIONS	Heading	SECTION 3: DEFINITIONS			Heading		Direct
SECTION 3: DEFINITIONS	Paragraph	Equivalence: The capability of a different NFCS or a part of a NFCS to achieve the same objectives. [New Definition adapted from CXG 101-2023	Definition	Definition	Definition		Adapted
SECTION 3: DEFINITIONS	Paragraph	Decision Criteria: Those factors used to objectively determine whether the exporting country's NFCS or the relevant part its NFCS achieve the objectives, of the importing country's NFCS or the relevant part for the products under consideration. [From CXG 101-2023].		§6; §7	Definition		Direct 101-2023 Paraphrase
SECTION 3: DEFINITIONS	Paragraph	Outcomes: Intended effects or results that contribute to achieving the relevant NFCS objectives. [From CXG 101-2023 and CXG 91-2017]			Definition		Direct 101-2023
SECTION 3: DEFINITIONS	Paragraph	Requirements: are the criteria set down by the competent authorities relating to trade in food covering the protection of the health of consumers and ensuring fair practices in the food trade. . [From CXG] 34-1999 with minor changes discussed at CCFICS27].	Definition				Direct - minor change
SECTION 4: PRINCIPLES	Heading	SECTION 4: PRINCIPLES			Heading		Direct
SECTION 4: PRINCIPLES 9	Paragraph	9.The consideration, assessment, recognition, and maintenance of equivalence should be based on the following principles.			§7		Direct
SECTION 4: PRINCIPLES	Subheading	A: Equivalence					Unmapped
SECTION 4: PRINCIPLES	Paragraph	Countries should recognize that different NFCS or a part of a NFCS although designed and structured differently, may achieve the same objectives, and can therefore be recognized as equivalent.			§4.1		Adapted / Paraphrase
SECTION 4: PRINCIPLES	Subheading	B: Experience, Knowledge and Confidence			§4.2;		Direct

SECTION 4: PRINCIPLES	Paragraph	Importing countries should consider relevant experience, knowledge and confidence in the exporting country's NFCS, or relevant part, and may consider appropriate assessments by other countries or relevant international organizations.			§4.2; §5.1		Direct
SECTION 4: PRINCIPLES	Subheading	C: Scope of the request and assessment					Unmapped
SECTION 4: PRINCIPLES	Paragraph	The scope of any request or any subsequent assessment should focus on those products and requirements affecting trade where the exporting country considers its NFCS, or relevant part of its NFCS already achieves the same objectives, and related outcomes or level of protection, as achieved by the importing country and the scope of the assessment should be agreed between the importing and exporting countries.	§4/5	§1/4; Annex (28)	5.1.2 (Scope consideration)		Amalgam / paraphrasing from draft Principles developed 2022/23
SECTION 4: PRINCIPLES	Subheading	D: Alignment with International Standards			§4/3		Unmapped
SECTION 4: PRINCIPLES	Paragraph	The use of or reference to Codex standards, guidelines and/or codes of practice, or other relevant international standards by the importing and the exporting country can facilitate the consideration, assessment and recognition of the equivalence of a NFCS, or the relevant part of a NFCS.	§7/18	§5/8	§4.1		Direct 101-2023
SECTION 4: PRINCIPLES	Subheading	E: Transparency and co-operation					Unmapped
SECTION 4: PRINCIPLES	Paragraph	The importing and exporting country should work through the process in good faith, in a reasonable timeframe and in a transparent, evidence-based and outcome-focused manner.	§7/17;21	§4/7(f,h,m)	§5.5 /1; 2-bull:9		Amalgam / paraphrasing from draft Principles developed 2022/23
SECTION 4: PRINCIPLES	Subheading	F: Demonstration and Recognition of Equivalence					Unmapped
SECTION 4: PRINCIPLES	Paragraph	Where the exporting country objectively demonstrates that its NFCS or relevant part of its NFCS, achieves the importing country's objectives the importing country should recognise their equivalence.	§7/17	§4/7(e,g.)	§5.4		Amalgam / paraphrasing from draft Principles developed 2022/23
SECTION 4: PRINCIPLES	Subheading	G: Documentation and maintenance					Unmapped

SECTION 4: PRINCIPLES	Paragraph	The importing and exporting country should document any agreement reached, including specifying the food products and requirements covered or excluded, and how the recognition of equivalence will be implemented and maintained for the trade in products between the countries.	§7/25; §9; Appendix	§4/7(l)	§4.5	§5/16	Amalgam / Combination Unmapped
SECTION 4: PRINCIPLES	Subheading	H: Technical assistance / Regulatory co-operation					Unmapped
SECTION 4: PRINCIPLES	Paragraph	Importing countries should consider providing technical assistance to exporting developing countries, particularly least developed countries, to facilitate the assessment and recognition of equivalence.	§5/11	§4/7(n)	§5.1.3		Amalgam / paraphrasing from draft Principles developed 2022/23
SECTION 5: INITIAL DISCUSSIONS	Heading	SECTION 5: INITIAL DISCUSSIONS			Heading		Paraphrase
SECTION 5: INITIAL DISCUSSIONS 10	Paragraph	10. It is recommended that the competent authorities of importing and exporting countries have initial discussions prior to the exporting country formalizing a request for a recognition of equivalence, noting that such a request may be made at any point during these discussions			§5.1.1		Paraphrase
SECTION 5: INITIAL DISCUSSIONS 11	Paragraph	11. These discussions can help identify if commencing an assessment of equivalence of the exporting country's NFCS or the relevant part of its NFCS is the most appropriate approach or if another mechanism would be better to address the matters under discussion.		Appendix/4a	§5.1.1		Direct
SECTION 5: INITIAL DISCUSSIONS	Sub-heading	Appropriateness of an equivalence process					Unmapped
SECTION 5: INITIAL DISCUSSIONS 12	Paragraph	12. Relevant considerations for the initial discussions may include:			§5.1.1		Direct
SECTION 5: INITIAL DISCUSSIONS 12	Bullet point	the nature and impact of the requirements which the exporting country considers are restrictive					Paraphrase

SECTION 5: INITIAL DISCUSSIONS 12	Bullet point	• the importing and exporting countries' relevant NFCS objectives, and the related outcomes or level of protection			§5.1.1/2 bul 6		Disaggregation
SECTION 5: INITIAL DISCUSSIONS 12	Bullet point	• whether a recognition of equivalence will likely further facilitate trade, for example by resulting in cost and resource savings, reduced duplication of control activities and/or removal of unnecessary impediments	§5/9b	Appendix/4a	§5.1.1 (bull 2)		Direct
SECTION 5: INITIAL DISCUSSIONS 12	Bullet point	• [the experience, knowledge and confidence the importing country has with the exporting country (refer para 16 – 18)]		§5/10	§5.1.1 (bull 4)		Paraphrase
SECTION 5: INITIAL DISCUSSIONS 12	Bullet point	• what evidence the exporting country may have that its NFCS or relevant part of its NFCS, achieve the importing country's NFCS objectives, and the related outcomes or level of protection,		Appendix/4c	§5.1.2/2 bul 5		Paraphrase
SECTION 5: INITIAL DISCUSSIONS 12	Bullet point	• whether the importing country has legislated procedures that need to be met when evaluating the recognition of equivalence of a NFCS or a relevant part of a NFCS.	§6/15		§5.1.1 (bull 1)		Combination
SECTION 5: INITIAL DISCUSSIONS 12	Bullet point	• [any differences in the presence or prevalence of particular food safety hazards, national choice about management of food safety risks and differences in the level of development of each country's NFCS.]		§1/1	§5.1.1 (bull 5)		Combined Direct
SECTION 5: INITIAL DISCUSSIONS	Sub-heading	Initial scope discussions					Unmapped
SECTION 5: INITIAL DISCUSSIONS 13	Paragraph	13.The initial discussions should be used to potentially refine both the scope of any request by the exporting country as well as to identify and clarify what additional information and / or evidence may be required for the importing country' assessment process.		Appendix/4c;2 3	§5.1.2 /1, 2 bull 1		Paraphrase / Direct
SECTION 5: INITIAL DISCUSSIONS 14	Paragraph	14.The scope may relate to the protection of the health of consumers or fair practices in the food trade or both, and can cover an entire NFCS or only that part of a NFCS as relevant to the foods and requirements to be covered by the request.	§4/5,6		§5.1.2 /1, 2 bull 1,3		Combination
SECTION 5: INITIAL DISCUSSIONS 15	Paragraph	15.The scope discussions should:					Unmapped

SECTION 5: INITIAL DISCUSSIONS 15	Bullet point	• identify the range of products and importing country requirements for which the exporting country is seeking a recognition of equivalence	§6/12b,d	Appendix/5-8	§5.1.2 /2 bull 1,3		Combination
SECTION 5: INITIAL DISCUSSIONS 15	Bullet point	• identify whether the objective of relevant requirements is to protect the health of consumers or to ensure fair practices in the food trade or a combination of both;			§5.1.2 /2 bull 3		Disaggregation
SECTION 5: INITIAL DISCUSSIONS 15	Bullet point	• consider the resources likely to be necessary to undertake the assessment process relative to the possible benefits	§5/8	Appendix/4a	§5.1.2 (bull 5)		Combination
SECTION 5: INITIAL DISCUSSIONSn15	Bullet point	• consider any ways to simplify the assessment process to make it more efficient and less burdensome on both countries, and	§5/8				Paraphrase
SECTION 5: INITIAL DISCUSSIONSn 15	Bullet point	• identify how existing experience, knowledge and confidence, or previously exchanged information or assessments may be used.		§8/20a	§4.2; §5.1		Direct
SECTION 5: INITIAL DISCUSSIONS	Sub-heading	Experience, Knowledge and Confidence			§4.2; §5.1		Direct
SECTION 5: INITIAL DISCUSSIONS 16	Paragraph	16.The use of or reference to existing experience, knowledge and confidence can reduce the amount of information and evidence the exporting country needs to provide. It can also reduce the resources and timelines for the importing country's assessment and decision-making processes.		§5/8, 11; Appendix (13 d,e)	§4.2; §5.1		Direct / Combined
SECTION 5: INITIAL DISCUSSIONS 16biz	Paragraph	<i>16biz. When an importing country has prior experience, knowledge, and confidence and the countries agree that [the objectives of the] import requirements are being fully met, the recognition of equivalence may be made without further information exchange and assessment being required.</i>		§5/11			<i>Edited direct</i>
SECTION 5: 17	Paragraph	17.Existing experience, knowledge and confidence may take the form of, for example:			§4.2; §5.1		Direct
SECTION 5: 17	Bullet point	• existing agreements or arrangements		Appendix (3:g; 10:e,f)			Combination
SECTION 5: 17	Bullet point	• previous assessments, audits, study and technical visits or other related information exchanges that may have already occurred (e.g. in accordance with CXG 89-2016)		Appendix (3:g; 10:b,e,f,m)	§5.1.1 bul 8	§5(11–16); §6; Annex (assessments); ¶55	Combination

SECTION 5: 17	Bullet point	• the history in food trade between the importing country and the exporting country	§5/9b,d	Appendix (3:b; 10:e,f)	§5.1.1 bul 4		Combination
SECTION 5: 17	Bullet point	• the level of compliance of the exporting country's food products with the importing country's requirements		Appendix (3:c; 10:d,)			Combination
SECTION 5: 17	Bullet point	• the level of familiarization and/or cooperation that exists between the NFCS competent authorities of the importing country and the exporting country		Appendix (3:d; 10:)	§5.1.1 bul 4		Combination
SECTION 5: 17	Bullet point	• the similarity in design, laws, regulations and operational principles and practices between the importing and exporting country's NFCS		Appendix (3:e; 10:)	§5.1.1 bul 6,7		Combination
SECTION 5: 17	Bullet point	• the similarity in the design and operational principles and practices of the exporting country's NFCS or relevant part of the NFCS with the relevant Codex texts, or the texts of other relevant international standard setting bodies, and	§5/9e	Appendix (3:e; 10:)	§5.1.1 bul 6,8		Combination
SECTION 5: 17	Bullet point	• relevant other assessments of the exporting country's NFCS or parts of its NFCS, performed by the importing country, by recognized conformity assessment bodies, by other countries, or by international organizations.		Appendix (3:b; 10:b)	§5.1.1 bul 4		Combination
SECTION 5: INITIAL DISCUSSIONS 18	Paragraph	18.Importing and exporting countries should develop a clear understanding of the role and the extent existing experience, knowledge and confidence will be used in any consideration or assessment of equivalence and how it will affect:		Appendix (14:)	§4.2; §5.1		Direct
SECTION 5: INITIAL DISCUSSIONS 18	Bullet point	• the assessment and decision-making processes applied within the scope of the request, and		Appendix (13:)			Combination
SECTION 5: INITIAL DISCUSSIONS 18	Bullet point	• the amount, nature and scope of evidence and information the exporting country should provide.		Appendix (13:)	§5.1.2 /3		Combination
SECTION 5: INITIAL DISCUSSIONS 18	Bullet point	Outcome of initial discussions					Unmapped
SECTION 5: INITIAL DISCUSSIONS 19	Paragraph	19.Where the conclusion of the initial discussions between the exporting and importing countries is that an equivalence process is the appropriate mechanism for facilitating trade, the exporting country should proceed to formally discuss and document the request for consultations in accordance with process step one..			§5.1.3 /1		Direct

SECTION 5: INITIAL DISCUSSIONS 20	Paragraph	20.Where the initial discussions indicate the potential need for more data than currently available the competent authorities in the importing and exporting countries may agree to the conduct of a trial or pilot study to help provide the necessary objective evidence.	§8/30–31				Paraphrase
SECTION 5: INITIAL DISCUSSIONS 20	Paragraph addition	<i>[The pilot study protocol may include, but are not limited to, provisions in relation to: •description and time frame of the trial program; •roles and capabilities of involved government and officially recognized private organizations; •procedures for inspection and certification; •audit procedures and frequency; •description of training or information needs.]</i>	§8/31				Direct
SECTION 5: INITIAL DISCUSSIONS 21	Paragraph	21.Where the initial discussions identify that an equivalence process may not be the most appropriate mechanism, the countries may wish to consider working jointly towards some other mechanisms to help facilitate trade. For example:	§5/11		§5.1.3 /3		Direct
SECTION 5: INITIAL DISCUSSIONS 21	Bullet point	• the importing country may identify flexibility or options within its requirements for trade on how its objectives, and related outcomes or level of protection, may be met	§5/11		§5.5 /2 bul 4		Disaggregation
SECTION 5: INITIAL DISCUSSIONS 21	Bullet point	• the exporting country may decide to make changes to a relevant part of its NFCS to more closely align with or better achieve the importing country's objectives, and related outcomes or level of protection,					Unmapped
SECTION 5: INITIAL DISCUSSIONS 21	Bullet point	• the two countries may decide to engage in further cooperation and/or capacity building so as to better understand and address the relevant challenges impacting trade between them. Further cooperation may include, for example, information exchange, joint training, technical cooperation, or other support to help develop or strengthen the NFCS or the relevant part of the NFCS.	§5/11		§5.1.3 /3		Combination
SECTION 5: INITIAL DISCUSSIONS 22	Paragraph	22.Importing countries considering providing the exporting country technical assistance, may wish to consider the following:	§5/11	Appendix/36	§5.5 /4		Combination
SECTION 5: INITIAL DISCUSSIONS 22	Bullet point	• assistance in evaluating which requirements could be the subject of an equivalence assessment	§5/11	Appendix/37d			Direct

SECTION 5: INITIAL DISCUSSIONS 22	Bullet point	• assistance with the preparation of documentation, including the submittal package	§5/11	Appendix/37a			Direct
SECTION 5: INITIAL DISCUSSIONS 22	Bullet point	• assistance in undertaking any necessary risk assessments	§5/11	Appendix/37b			Direct
SECTION 5: INITIAL DISCUSSIONS 22	Bullet point	• assistance with data analysis.	§5/11	Appendix/37c			Direct
SECTION 5: INITIAL DISCUSSIONS 22	Bullet point	[• assistance in suggesting changes to the exporting country's NFCS or part of its NFCS that would allow it to better meet the objectives of the importing country's requirements]		§7/18(f)			
SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS	Heading	SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS			Heading		Heading
SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS	Subheading	The process steps are:			§5		Direct
SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS	Subheading	Step 1: Exporting country formalizes its request for consultations on equivalence	§6/12	§7/18a	§5		Combination
SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS	Subheading	Step 2: Importing country describes its relevant requirements and objectives	§6/16-17	§7/18b	§5		Combination
SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS	Subheading	Step 3: Importing country documents the decision criteria	§5/7	§6; §7/18c	§5		Paraphrase
SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS	Subheading	Step 4: Exporting country documents its case for equivalence	§6/19	§7/18d	§5		Combination
SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS	Subheading	Step 5: Assessment process	§6/20-22	§7/18e,f,g	§5		Combination
SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS	Subheading	Step 6: Decision process and final decision	§6/20-23	§7/18h	§5		Combination
SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS	Subheading	Step 7: Documenting the agreement	§6/24-29,32		§5		Combination
SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS 23	Paragraph	23.Once a formal request for consultations on a recognition of equivalence has been made (see step one for further guidance), the two countries should agree on a plan:	§5/8	Appendix/4d	§5.1.3 /2		Disaggregation
SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS 23	Bullet point	• for the exporting country to provide the appropriate submission; and then		Appendix/4d			Unmapped
SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS 23	Bullet point	• for the importing country to work through its assessment and decision-making process.		Appendix/4d			Unmapped

SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS 23	Paragraph	This plan may also include anticipated timeframes and if necessary, priorities. Further guidance on the recommended process steps is provided below and a simplified flow diagram of the process steps is included at Annex 1.	§5/8		§5.1.3 /2		Combination
SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS > Step 1:	Subheading	Step 1: Exporting country formalizes its request for consultations on equivalence					Unmapped
SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS 24	Paragraph	24.The exporting country requesting consultations with the aim of achieving agreement on the recognition of equivalence should discuss and document the scope of the request, drawing on the initial scope discussions, where these have been held. The description of the scope of the request should include for example:	§6/12	§7/18a	§5.1.3 /1		Combination
SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS 24	Bullet point	• the specific foods or group of foods, including any types of secondary processing where applicable	§6/12b,d	Appendix/5	§5.1.2/2 bull1,3		Combination
SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS 24	Bullet point	• the importing country's requirements for which the exporting country is seeking a recognition of equivalence			§5.1.2/2 bull2-3	§5/15	Combination
SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS 24	Bullet point	• a brief description of the exporting country's NFCS or relevant part of its NFCS for which the exporting country is seeking an equivalence determination.			§5.1.2/2 bull3	§5/10	Combination
SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS > Step 2:	Subheading	Step 2: Importing country describes its relevant requirements and objectives					Unmapped
SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS 25	Paragraph	25.The importing country should discuss and document the basis for its relevant requirements, for the scope of products covered by the request. This should include as appropriate:	§7/16	Appendix/18	§5.2		Combination
SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS 25	Bullet point	• the scientific or policy basis justifying the necessity for the requirements under consideration, including risk assessment where appropriate	§7/16	§6/16d	§5.3		Combination
SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS 25	Bullet point	• how the requirements contribute to achieving the NFCS objectives, related outcomes or level of protection	§7/16	§6/16b	§5.3		Combination
SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS 25	Bullet point	• where appropriate, an expression of the level of control of the hazard in a specific food or group of foods that is achieved by the requirement		§6/16c	§5.3		Combination

SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS 25	Bullet point	the identification of the specific objectives and or risks and level of control required as it relates to the protection of the health of consumers or ensuring fair practices in the food trade that the requirements are intended to address		§7/18b			Direct & modernised
SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS 25	Bullet point	the justification for the requirements, as relevant to the bilateral circumstances existing between the two countries and				§5.9/54	Unmapped
SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS 25	Bullet point	any additional information that may assist the exporting country in presenting an objective demonstration of equivalence.		§6/16e			Direct
SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS 26	Paragraph	26.The importing country should also describe, with appropriate references, how its own NFCS or relevant part of its NFCS, achieves its NFCS objectives, and related outcomes or levels or protection. As relevant to the scope of the request, the importing country may provide a description of the relevant underpinning components of its NFCS or the relevant part of its NFCS such as:		§6;§7/18b	§5.2		Combination
SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS 26	Bullet point	regulatory and legislative framework	§7/19a		§5.2/ bul 1		Combination/ Direct
SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS 26	Bullet point	control and approval requirements (for example establishment, process and product programs)	§7/19b,d		§5.2/ bul 2		Combination/ Direct
SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS 26	Bullet point	verification or conformity assessment, and audit programs	§7/19g		§5.2/ bul 3	§5(11–16); §6; Annex (assessments); ¶55	Combination
SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS 26	Bullet point	monitoring, surveillance, investigation and food safety incident response programs	§7/19e,h		§5.2/ bul 4		Combination/ Direct
SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS 26	Bullet point	enforcement and compliance programs	§7/19f		§5.2/ bul 5		Combination/ Direct
SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS 26	Bullet point	stakeholder engagement, communication and rapid alert systems	§7/19		§5.2/ bul 6		Combination/ Direct
SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS 26	Bullet point	system overview monitoring and evaluation programs, or existing conformity assessment procedures, or	§7/19		§5.2/ bul 7		Combination/ Direct

SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS 26	Bullet point	•any other elements directly relevant to the specific requirements, products or programs under consideration.	§7/19		§5.2/ bul 8		Combination/ Direct
SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS 27	Paragraph	27. In describing its own NFCS or the relevant part of its NFCS, the importing country may include reference to relevant standards, guidelines, and/or codes of practice from Codex or other relevant international standard setting bodies.	§7/18		§5.2/3		Combination/ Direct
SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS > Step 3:	Subheading	Step 3: Importing country documents the decision criteria		§6; §7	§5.3		Paraphrase
SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS 28	Paragraph	28. The decision criteria provide the objective basis for comparison for use in the importing country's assessment. The importing country should document how they intend to apply the decision criteria to the evidence the exporting country provides to demonstrate that its NFCS or relevant part of its NFCS, achieves the importing country's relevant NFCS objectives, and related outcomes or level of protection.	§5/7	§6; §7	§5.3/1		Combined & modernised Paraphrase
SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS 29	Paragraph	29. Discussions should occur between the exporting and the importing country to assist the development of, and better understanding of, the decision criteria to be applied. The importing country should document the decision criteria to be used to evaluate the exporting country's NFCS or relevant part of the NFCS associated with the scope of the request.	§721	§6/16; §7/18c	§5.3/1		Combination/ Paraphrase
SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS 30	Paragraph	30. The decision criteria should reference the relevant objectives, and related outcomes or level of protection, that should be shown to be achieved for recognition of equivalence. The decision criteria document should be provided to and discussed with the exporting country in a cooperative manner.		§6/16; §7/18c	§5.3/1		Combination/ rephrase
SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS 31	Paragraph	31. The decision criteria should facilitate the importing country's assessment process to determine whether or not the exporting country's design and implementation of its NFCS or relevant part of the NFCS achieves the importing country's relevant objectives, and related outcomes or level of protection, associated with the scope of the request.		§6; §7	§5.3/2		Combination/ rephrase
SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS 32	Paragraph	32. The decision criteria may be qualitative or quantitative and should include for example:		§6; §7; Appendix/16; 26	§5.3/3		Combination/ Paraphrase

SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS 32	Bullet point	• the relevant importing country NFCS objectives, and related outcomes or level of protection;		§7/18b	§5.3/3 bul3		Unmapped
SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS 32	Bullet point	• the type of evidence expected to objectively demonstrate equivalence;		Appendix/26			Paraphrase
SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS 32	Bullet point	• an indication of the amount or level of qualitative or quantitative evidence that is expected;		Appendix/18	§5.3/3 bul1		Rephrase of Direct
SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS 32	Bullet point	• any indicators of outcomes required that may be used to demonstrate equivalence; and			§5.3/3 bul2		Rephrase of Direct
SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS 32	Bullet point	• how existing experience, knowledge and confidence may be used, for example:		Appendix/14	§5.3/2 bul 4		Rephrase of Direct
SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS 32	Bullet point	oSetting priorities oInform the process of comparison oReduce number of (measures / requirements) that need detailed consideration oReduce extent of scientific evidence required for a determination		Appendix/13			Paraphrase
SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS 33	Paragraph	33.The decision criteria should not apply a standard or level of performance that exceeds that achieved by the importing country's NFCS or relevant part of the NFCS.			§5.3/7		Direct
SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS > Step 4:	Subheading	Step 4: Exporting country documents its case for equivalence		§7/18d	§5.4/1		Direct
SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS 34	Paragraph	34.The exporting country should submit or make available appropriate information and evidence, including relevant references that demonstrate how its NFCS or the relevant part of its NFCS, achieves the importing country's NFCS objectives, and related outcomes or level of protection, for the foods and requirements within the scope of the equivalence request.	§7/17,19	§7/18d	§5.5	§9.55	Paraphrased/ Combination
SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS 35	Paragraph	35.The submission should cover all relevant aspects of the decision criteria and objectively demonstrate that the exporting country's NFCS or the relevant part of its NFCS, meets those criteria.		§6; §7; Appendix/20			Paraphrase

SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS 36	Paragraph	36.The submission should include the additional relevant information and evidence that is not already covered by the importing country's existing knowledge, experience, and confidence in the exporting country's NFCS.		§7/18h; §8/20a	§5.4/3		Paraphrased/ Combination
SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS 37	Paragraph	37.As far as practical, and especially when consistent with the relevant Codex guidance, importing countries should allow the exporting country flexibility in the format of the information it submits.		§7/18f,g;	§5.4/2	§7/21	Paraphrased/ Combination
SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS 38	Paragraph	38.Subject to the scope of any request for recognition, additional information exchanges may be required to clarify or supplement information provided by the exporting country.		§7/18f,g;	§5.4/3		Repharsed / Direct
SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS > Step 5:	Subheading	Step 5: Assessment process			§5.5		Direct
SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS 39	Paragraph	39.Once the relevant information and evidence are available, the assessment process can proceed. The methodology used in the assessment process by the importing country should be transparent and evidence- based. The importing country should focus its assessment on determining whether the exporting country's NFCS or the relevant part of the NFCS meets the decision criteria. There should be an effective communication mechanism between both countries, for providing feedback.		§6; §7/17; Appendix/20	§5.5/1		Paraphrase / Direct
SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS 40	Paragraph	40.The assessment process will normally comprise a number of steps but may vary (refer paragraph 42 below). In general, the importing country should:		§7/18;	§5.5/2		Paraphrase / Direct
SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS 40	Bullet point	• consider whether the information submitted by the exporting country or otherwise available is sufficient to enable an appropriate assessment		§7/18;	§5.5/2 bul 1		Paraphrase / Direct
SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS 40	Bullet point	• proceed with an assessment applying the decision criteria and request additional information if deemed necessary		§6; §7	§5.5/2 bul 2		Paraphrase / Direct
SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS 40	Bullet point	• consider any additional information submitted by the exporting country at the request of the importing country that could facilitate the assessment process		§7/18;	§5.5/2 bul 3		Paraphrase / Direct
SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS 40	Bullet point	• where appropriate, convey to the exporting country where the addition of one or more specific controls to their NFCS could facilitate the assessment process		§7/18f;	§5.5/2 bul 4		Paraphrase / Direct

SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS 40	Bullet point	consider any additional controls proposed by the exporting country to facilitate a positive determination.		§7/18;	§5.5/2 bul 5		Paraphrase / Direct
SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS 41	Paragraph	41.The importing country's assessment process should:			§5.5/2 bul 5 (2nd part)		Direct
SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS 41	Bullet point	focus on whether the exporting country's NFCS or the relevant part of the NFCS achieves the objectives, and related outcomes or level of protection, of the importing country's NFCS or the relevant part in accordance with the decision criteria (as opposed to whether specific procedures or functions, undertaken by certain parties in the importing country, are replicated in the exporting country)		§6; §7; Appendix/ 28;	§5.5/2 bul 6	§5/11	Paraphrase / Direct
SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS 41	Bullet point	consider the use of indicators of outcomes that may be different from the importing country's that may be used by the exporting country to demonstrate the performance of its NFCS or the relevant part of its NFCS, to achieve the importing country's objectives, and related outcomes or level of protection		§8/20	§5.5/2 bul 7		Paraphrase / Edited Direct
SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS 41	Bullet point	assess the outcome of the various elements of the exporting country's NFCS relative to their impact on achieving the objectives and related outcomes or level of protection of the importing country's NFCS or relevant part		§8/20	§5.5/2 bul 8		Paraphrase / Edited Direct
SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS 41	Bullet point	be conducted in a cooperative and timely manner and may include the review of documents, and the use of in-country or virtual assessments / audits where justified as necessary to demonstrate the exporting country's sanitary measure, technical regulation, NFCS or the relevant part of the NFCS, meet the decision criteria		§6; §7	§5.5/2 bul 9	§5(11–16); §6; Annex (assessments); ¶55	Combination / Paraphrase / Edited Direct
SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS 41	Bullet point	allow for regular discussion / consultations between the countries and the provision of clarifications and / or supplementary information as required, and		§6; §7	§5.5/2 bul 10		Paraphrase / Direct
SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS 41	Bullet point	appropriately protect commercially sensitive and confidential information.			§5.5/2 bul 11		Direct
SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS 42	Paragraph	42.The depth and breadth of the assessment process may vary depending on:			§5.5/2		Direct
SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS 42	Bullet point	the scope of the request including, the range of foods and the requirements for which equivalence is sought			§5.5/2		Edited Direct

SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS 42	Bullet point	the scope of assessment, e.g., whether it is restricted to a specific part of a NFCS or potentially requires a wider assessment of the NFCS			§5.5/2		Edited Direct
SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS 42	Bullet point	the complexity of the exporting country's controls to be assessed			§5.5/2		Edited Direct
SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS 42	Bullet point	whether additional evidence, information or clarifications are needed, and / or			§5.5/2		Edited Direct
SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS 42	Bullet point	whether an in-country visit will likely be necessary.		Appendix/34		§5/13	Unmapped
SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS 43	Paragraph	43. An in-country visit may be justified as part of an assessment, for example in situations where:		§6; §7	§5.5/2 bul 9	§5(12–13); §6; Annex (assessments); ¶155	Disagrated / Paraphrase
SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS 43	Bullet point	existing knowledge, experience and confidence in the exporting country's NFCS is not sufficient to be able to conclude that the information and evidence submitted is sufficient to make a decision, or		Appendix/13; 34			Paraphrase
SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS 43	Bullet point	the complexity of the consideration justifies additional verification as part of the assessment to demonstrate the decision criteria are met, or		§6; §7; Appendix/34			Paraphrase
SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS 43	Bullet point	sufficient confidence may not be able to be ascertained through the analytical data itself, or through conformity assessment processes undertaken in accordance with international accreditation arrangements, or through cross reference to other relevant assessments.		Appendix/34			Modernized
SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS 44	Paragraph	44. Where an initial assessment identifies the lack of a specific control considered necessary to achieve the relevant importing country objectives, and related outcomes or level of protection, the importing country should, where appropriate, provide the exporting country an opportunity to remedy the deficiency.	§7/24				Modernized
SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS 45	Paragraph	45. Other overarching considerations relevant to the assessment process may include:					Modernized From CXG82-2013

SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS 45	Bullet point	• freedom from conflicts of interest					Modernized From CXG82- 2013
SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS 45	Bullet point	• transparency of decisions and actions					Modernized From CXG82- 2013
SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS 45	Bullet point	• how the exporting country NFCS maintains the three characteristics of: situational awareness, proactivity and continuous improvement, and					Modernized From CXG82- 2013
SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS 45	Bullet point	• the availability of resources and infrastructure to continue to implement the NFCS or the relevant part of the NFCS.	§5/9c		§5.5/3 bul4	§9/56	Combined / Direct
SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS 46	Paragraph	46.Meetings between the importing and export country competent authorities may assist the assessment process and their potential use should be included in the planning for the equivalence assessment, as appropriate. Countries are encouraged to communicate and conduct meetings electronically, where practicable. Where possible, the provision of technical assistance may also be used to support the assessment process.		Appendix/29; 31	§5.5/4		Direct
SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS > Step 6:	Subheading	Step 6: Decision process and final decision			§5.6		Edited Direct
SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS 47	Paragraph	47.The importing country should consider its summarised assessment findings against the documented decision criteria with a view to producing a decision document.		§6; §7			Paraphrase
SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS 48	Paragraph	48.The importing country's decision process should:			§5.6/1		Edited Direct
SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS 48	Bullet point	• be transparent, documented and conducted in a timely manner;			§5.6/1a		Direct
SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS 48	Bullet point	• focus on whether the exporting country's NFCS or the relevant part of its NFCS meets the decision criteria; and		§6; §7	§5.6/1b		Paraphrase
SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS 48	Bullet point	• not, without justification, introduce an objective or outcome standard or process in excess of what is being applied within the importing country.			§5.6/1c		Direct

SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS 49	Paragraph	49.This decision document should highlight whether and, where relevant, the degree to which, each of the decision criteria have been met along with, where relevant, the relative weighting each has had on the draft final decision. Where the importing country considers one or more of the decision criteria have not been met the importing country should clearly document why it has reached this conclusion.	§7/24	§7/18(f,h)	§5.6/2		Combined / Paraphrased / Edited Direct
SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS 50	Paragraph	50.The draft decision document should be provided to the exporting country. The importing country should allow the exporting country to correct any error of fact. In the case where the exporting country's NFCS or the relevant part of its NFCS is initially assessed as not equivalent the two countries may, if they wish, agree to a plan and timeframe for the exporting country to provide any additional information or controls for the identified parts of the NFCS that were determined not to be equivalent.		§7/18(f-i); Appendix/31; 33	§5.6/2; 3		Combined / Paraphrased / Edited Direct
SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS 51	Paragraph	51.The importing country should review the exporting country's additional information without requiring all aspects of the assessment process not affected by the change to be repeated, so long as the exporting country provides the additional information in a timely manner.		§7/18g,h,i; Appendix/31	§5.6/2		Edited Direct
SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS 52	Paragraph	52.The importing country should document the final assessment conclusions and the associated rationale.			§5.6/4		Edited Direct
SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS 53	Paragraph	53.Where the importing country recognises the equivalence of the NFCS or the relevant part of its NFCS, both countries should then discuss how this recognition will affect the requirements for trade in food between the countries.	§7/25-28		§5.7/1		Paraphrased
SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS > Step 7:	Subheading	Step 7: Documenting the agreement			§5.7		Edited Direct
SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS 54	Paragraph	54.Importing and exporting countries should document any recognition of equivalence. The documentation should describe how the recognition affects the requirements for trade and the agreed expectations of both countries in respect of implementation, ongoing maintenance, amendment or termination. Suggested content headings for a recognition agreement / arrangement document are provided in Annex 2.	Appendix A		§4.5; §5.7/1		Edited Direct

SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS 55	Paragraph	55.The recognition of equivalence may for example affect requirements relating to the acceptance of the eligibility of exporting country establishments, changes to certification requirements, expedited port of entry clearance, and enhanced cooperation for resolution of problems.	§4/6;§7/23-28			§5/15-16	Combined / Paraphrased
SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS 56	Paragraph	56.The documentation should include agreed expectations with respect to ongoing implementation, maintenance and review of the recognition. This may include procedures:			§5.7/1	§5/15-16	Combined / Paraphrased
SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS 56	Bullet point	• for notification and review of proposed substantive changes to either country's NFCS requirements that alter the required objectives, related outcomes or level of protection that the recognition is based on;			§5.7/2;3 bul 2		Edited Direct
SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS 56	Bullet point	• for information exchange in the event of a food emergency control situation;	§7/26				Edited Direct
SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS 56	Bullet point	• to follow in the case of food shipments that are found not to comply with the terms of the equivalence agreement / arrangement; and	§7/27				Edited Direct
SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS 56	Bullet point	• for terminating the agreement / arrangement should either party is not satisfied that the terms of the agreement / arrangement are being met.	§7/28				Edited Direct
SECTION 6: PROCESS STEPS 57	Paragraph	57.The documentation of the recognition of the equivalence may be completed through an exchange of letters or through the negotiation of a more formal equivalence agreement or arrangement as appropriate.	§1, §4		§5.7/1;		Combined/ Paraphrase
SECTION 6: 58	Paragraph	58.As appropriate, the documentation should provide for the scope of the equivalence recognition may be amended by mutual agreement at a later time to cover additional products or processes. In such cases the level and extent of any new submission and assessment required should be discussed and agreed between the importing and exporting countries			§5.7/2		Disagrated/ Modified
SECTION 7: IMPLEMENTATION AND MAINTENANCE OF EQUIVALENCE RECOGNITIONS	Heading	SECTION 7: IMPLEMENTATION AND MAINTENANCE OF EQUIVALENCE RECOGNITIONS			§5.7		Modified Direct

SECTION 7: 59	Paragraph	59.In implementing and maintaining equivalence agreements / arrangements importing and exporting countries should recognize and allow for NFCS regulatory frameworks, programs and oversight activities to evolve over time.			§5.7/2		Edited Direct
SECTION 7: 60	Paragraph	60.Equivalence recognition agreements / arrangements typically include expectations with respect to ongoing exchanges of information consistent with the maintenance of an appropriate level of experience, knowledge and confidence, including regular technical discussion between experts where relevant.	§7/16		§5.7/3		Edited Direct
SECTION 7: 61	Paragraph	61.Maintenance and review of recognitions of the equivalence of NFCS or the relevant part of a NFCS may include, as applicable to the scope of the recognition, activities such as:	§7/23,24		§5.7/3		Combined /Direct
SECTION 7: 61	Bullet point	• regular provision of summary information on the performance of the NFCS or the relevant part;			§5.7/ bul 1		Direct
SECTION 7: 61	Bullet point	• advice of and potential review of any proposed significant changes to the legislation or performance measures underpinning the components of either country's NFCS or the relevant part of the NFCS covered by the recognition of equivalence;		§8/21	§5.7/ bul 2		Combined /Direct
SECTION 7: 61	Bullet point	• regular technical discussions between relevant experts; and			§5.7/ bul 3		Direct
SECTION 7: 61	Bullet point	• intermittent country visits or technical exchanges so as to maintain the currency of experience, knowledge and confidence.	§7/23		§5.7/ bul 4		Combined /Direct
SECTION 7: 62	Paragraph	62.The importing and exporting countries should also discuss and agree on what level of change to the importing or exporting country's NFCS or other change in circumstances should be provided to the other country and when a review of the recognition of equivalence may be required. Generally, recognition agreements / arrangements continue to apply while any such reassessments are progressed, unless there is an increase in the risk to the health of consumers. Such changes may for example include a:		§8/21			Paraphase
SECTION 7: 62	Bullet point	• substantive change to the level of protection of the health of consumers or fair practices in the food trade required by the importing country					Unmapped
SECTION 7: 62	Bullet point	• sustained drop in the level of protection of the health of consumers or fair practices in the food trade achieved by the exporting country					Unmapped
SECTION 7: 62	Bullet point	• proposed significant change to the underpinning legislative base or operational elements of the exporting country's NFCS or relevant part of its NFCS as previously evaluated		§8/21	§5.7/ bul 2		Paraphrase

SECTION 7: 63	Paragraph	63.Audits, where they occur, should focus on how the exporting country's NFCS or the relevant part of the NFCS recognized as equivalent is continuing to be effectively applied. Where deficiencies are found in how the exporting country is applying those areas of its NFCS that have been recognized as equivalent, the countries should agree on appropriate corrective actions.	§7/16			§5(11–16); §6; Annex (assessments); ¶55	Combination
SECTION 7: 64	Paragraph	64.The importing and exporting countries should cooperate where instances of non-complying product or export documentation are found. Consistent with the scope of any recognition, but excepting those situations where urgent actions may be justified, the exporting country should be allowed to apply corrective actions to its own NFCS or the relevant part of its NFCS and appropriately inform the importing country rather than the importing country implementing additional requirements.	§7/24; 27	§8/21			Combined / paraphrased
SECTION 7: 65	Paragraph	65.Where appropriate, the agreement / arrangement may also cover expectations with respect to the type and frequency of any ongoing audits. Generally, such audits should be mutually agreed and reflect the principles and guidelines developed by CCFICS.	§7/23			§5(11–16); §6; Annex (assessments); ¶55	Combination
SECTION 7: 66	Paragraph	66.These audits should focus on how the exporting country's NFCS is continuing to assure the sanitary measure, technical regulation, NFCS or the relevant part of the NFCS, as recognized as equivalent are continuing to be effectively applied.			§5.7/ bul 4	§5(15/ bul 5); Annex (assessments); ¶55	Combination
	Paragraph	END					Unmapped
ANNEX 1: Flow Diagram	Heading	ANNEX 1: Flow Diagram		Figure: 1	Figure: 1		Direct
ANNEX 1: Flow Diagram	Paragraph	Figure 1: Equivalence of National Food Control Systems Overall Process			Figure: 1		Direct
ANNEX 1: Flow Diagram	Paragraph	Simplified flow chart for recognition and maintenance of equivalence of the whole or a part of NFCS		Figure: 1	Figure: 1		Edited Direct
ANNEX 1: Flow Diagram	Paragraph	(individual steps may be iterative)		Figure: 1	Figure: 1		Direct
ANNEX 2: CONTENT OF AN EQUIVALENCE RECOGNITION DOCUMENT	Heading	ANNEX 2: CONTENT OF AN EQUIVALENCE RECOGNITION DOCUMENT	Appendix A		Footnote xix		Direct
ANNEX 2:	Paragraph	[Adapted from Appendix A of CXG 34-1999]	Appendix A				Direct

ANNEX 2:	Paragraph	Note: the specific language used will depend on whether the equivalence recognition is a cooperative arrangement between the relevant competent authorities or a treaty level agreement between the governments of the two countries.	Appendix A				Direct
ANNEX 2:	Paragraph	The following information may be included, as appropriate:	Appendix A				Direct
ANNEX 2:	Paragraph	Title: The name given to the agreement/arrangement may vary, depending on the preferences and legal requirements of the parties.	Appendix A				Edited Direct
ANNEX 2:	Paragraph	Parties / Participants: The name of the entities entering into the agreement/arrangement.	Appendix A				Edited Direct
ANNEX 2:	Paragraph	Purpose: A brief statement of the specific purpose of the agreement/arrangement.	Appendix A				Direct
ANNEX 2:	Paragraph	Scope: Identification of the products and measures that are the subject of the agreement/arrangement.	Appendix A				Edited Direct
ANNEX 2:	Paragraph	Definitions: Definitions of terms used in the agreement/arrangement, as needed. Where possible, definitions in WTO and Codex documents should be used.	Appendix A				Direct
ANNEX 2:	Paragraph	Principles: The collectively agreed principles that will apply to the administration of the agreement/arrangement.	Appendix A				Modernisation
ANNEX 2:	Paragraph	Equivalence finding: A statement of the specified measures, NFCS or relevant part that have been recognised as equivalent and the effect this has on the requirements for trade for the exporting country for products / measures within the scope of the agreement/arrangement.	Appendix A				Edited Direct / Modernisation
ANNEX 2:	Paragraph	Administrative Provisions / Intentions: A description of each participant's intentions and specific responsibilities with respect to the ongoing implementation and maintenance of the agreement/arrangement. These may include, for example:	Appendix A				Edited Direct / Modernisation
ANNEX 2:	Paragraph	i. Liaison channels	Appendix A				Edited Direct / Modernisation
ANNEX 2:	Paragraph	ii. Information exchange	Appendix A				Edited Direct / Modernisation
ANNEX 2:	Paragraph	iii Meeting and consultation provisions	Appendix A				Edited Direct / Modernisation
ANNEX 2:	Paragraph	iv. Audit and verification	Appendix A				Edited Direct / Modernisation
ANNEX 2:	Paragraph	v. Notification provisions	Appendix A				Edited Direct
ANNEX 2:	Paragraph	vi. Reassessment criteria	Appendix A				Modernisation

ANNEX 2:	Paragraph	Emergency measures: The notification, cooperation and cooperation provisions that will apply should one Party / Participant need to adopt an emergency measure.	Appendix A				Edited Direct / Modernisation
ANNEX 2:	Paragraph	Review, modification and termination: The methods for the review, modification and termination of the agreement/arrangement.	Appendix A				Direct
ANNEX 2:	Paragraph	Entry into effect: The date on which the provisions of the agreement/arrangement enter into effect.	Appendix A				Edited Direct
ANNEX 2:	Paragraph	Signature panel: Dates, signatures, names, titles and country / competent authority committing the respect governments or competent authorities to the agreement/arrangement.	Appendix A				Edited Direct