



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



World Health  
Organization

**CODEX**  
**ALIMENTARIUS**  
INTERNATIONAL FOOD STANDARDS

Virtual Working Group Meeting  
**23 March 2021**  
20:00 to 23:00 CET

Simultaneous interpretation  
in English and Spanish

# **Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS) Guidelines related to equivalence**

## **Background**

A Physical Working Group (PWG) meeting scheduled immediately prior to the postponed 2020 CCFICS session, would have considered the comments received in response to CL 2020/02 FICS [published as CX/FICS 20/25/6 Add 1] and Agenda paper CX/FICS 20/25/6 .

In the absence of the 2020 PWG meeting, the comments received were considered by the EWG along with a revised draft guidance text. The EWG's comments on the revised draft were consolidated into the current draft, Appendix 1 of CX/FICS 21/25/6. CL 2021/17/OCS-FICS has requested new comments with a deadline of 30 April 2021.

## **Objective**

To provide an opportunity for ongoing discussions and any necessary clarifications prior to the closing date for submission of comments, and to facilitate an appropriate level of comfort to help the plenary progress the draft guidance at CCFICS25.

As CX/FICS 21/25/6 (which includes the draft guidance) is open for comments, the virtual working group meeting cannot get into any formal redrafting.

Notwithstanding this limitation, the participants will be invited to discuss any remaining areas of concern that they may have along with possible suggested improvements.

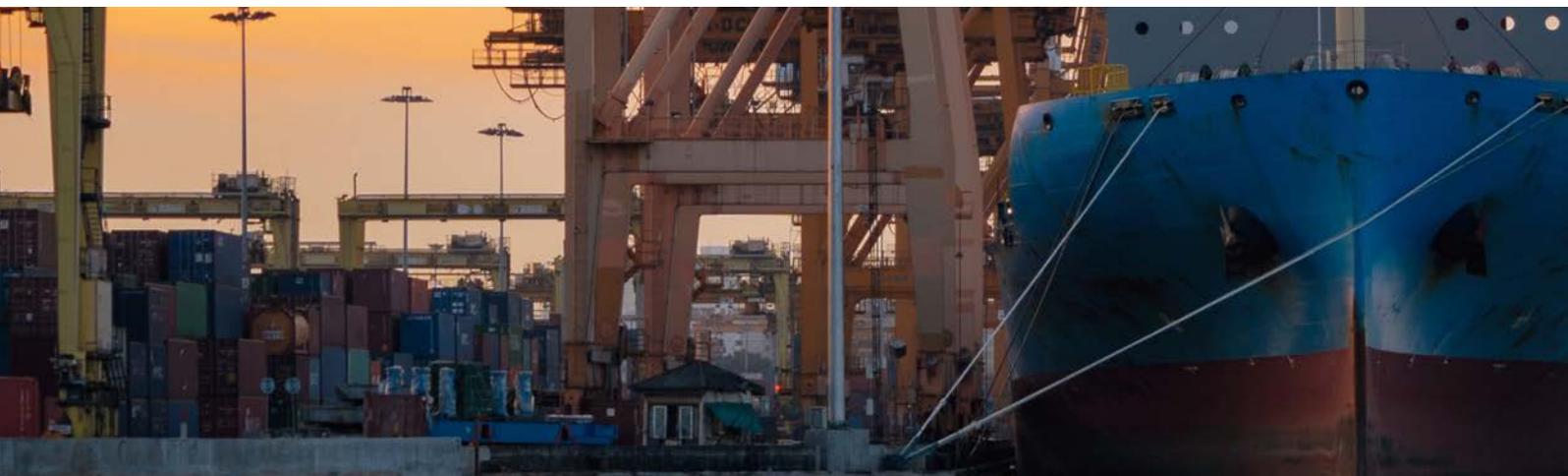


CODEX ALIMENTARIUS

There will also be presentations and general discussion on examples of decision criteria and how they could be used during this virtual meeting.

A brief update on the linkage between this work and the subsequent new work on the consolidation of Codex Guidelines related to Equivalence and the proposed next steps will also be provided.

A summary record of the meeting will be produced and circulated as a reference.



## PROGRAMME

PART 1	<b>Welcome &amp; Introduction</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Short history of work – how and why it came about</li><li>• Expectations of the session</li></ul>	Australia <i>CCFICS Chairperson</i> <b>Fran Freeman</b>
PART 2	<b>Background</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Overview of the process and changes since the postponed 2020 CCFICS meeting</li></ul>	New Zealand <i>EWG Chairperson</i> <b>Bill Jolly</b>
PART 3	<b>Discussion on the current draft guidelines</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Presentation and discussion on examples of decision criteria</li></ul>	New Zealand <i>EWG Chairperson</i> <b>Bill Jolly</b>
PART 4	<b>Closing remarks</b>	New Zealand <i>EWG Chairperson</i> <b>Bill Jolly</b>

Codex Secretariat  
Patrick Sekitoleko, Hilde Kruse

### REGISTRATION

Contact Points should use the CCFICS25 registration form and select the meeting under the additional info section on the [Online Registration System](#).

A link will be sent to participants prior to the beginning of the meeting itself.

**CONTACTS FOR ENQUIRIES**  
codex@fao.org