

Invitation to participate in the CCFICS EWG on Guidance on the use of Systems Equivalence

EWG Title	Guidance on the use of Systems Equivalence
Committee	23 rd Session of Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS23)
Chair of EWG	New Zealand
Co-Chair(s)	Chile and USA
Working language(s)	English and Spanish
Description of work	<p>The 23rd session of the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS) held in Mexico City 1-5 May 2017 agreed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • start new work on developing guidelines on the use of systems equivalence; • establish an EWG, with the possibility of convening physical meetings, chaired by New Zealand and co-chaired by Chile and the United States of America, working in English only, that would prepare a proposal for circulation for comments and for consideration at CCFICS24; and • consider whether the outcome of new work would be a stand-alone document or an appendix to an existing text at a later stage of its development. <p>The purpose of the work is to provide guidance to competent authorities of importing and exporting countries on the use of systems equivalence recognition as a means to further facilitate protection of the health of consumers and ensuring fair practices in the food trade. It is intended to cover situations where it can be reasonably expected that the national food control system (NFCS) of the exporting country will, on an ongoing basis, reliably deliver food that meets similar overall human health, food suitability and technical outcomes as achieved within the importing country. The scope of the guidance is intended to apply to the process for importing and exporting countries to follow when a request has been made by an exporting country for the recognition of the equivalence of the whole or part of its NFCS. In this regard it is noted that a NFCS includes import and export inspection and certification systems and has the objective of both protecting public health and ensuring fair practices in trade.</p>

Timetable for work

Deadline for registration of participants	21 August 2017
First draft document circulated for comments	2 October 2017
Deadline for comments on first draft	3 November 2017
Physical Working Group, Chile	11-14 December 2017
Second draft document circulated for comment	Feb/Mar 2018
Deadline for comments on second draft document	Mar/Apr 2018
Physical Working Group, UK	Apr/May 2018
Final document sent to Australian and Codex Secretariats for review, translation and distribution for CCFICS24	July 2018

Email for registration codexNZ@mpi.govt.nz

EWG online platform Non planned

Codex Members and Observers are invited to register their experts for this EWG. When there is more than one expert, each country or observer organisation shall designate one as the official representative to participate in the EWG. Applications should detail:

- participants name,
- organization or country,
- email

Applications should be sent through the Codex Contact Point of the member or recognised observer organisation in an email detailing: participant's name; organisation or country email.

Kind Regards
New Zealand Codex Contact Point