

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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CL 2023/49/OCS-FICS
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TO: Codex Contact Points
Contact Points of international organizations having observer status with Codex

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

SUBJECT: **Request for comments, at Step 5/8, on the proposed draft Guidelines on recognition and maintenance of equivalence of National Food Control Systems (NFCS)**

DEADLINE: 6 OCTOBER 2023

BACKGROUND

1. For the background information, please refer to [REP23/FICS, Paragraphs 11 to 44 and Appendix II](#).

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

2. Codex Members and Observers are invited to submit comments at Step 5/8 on the proposed Draft Guidelines on recognition and maintenance of equivalence of National Food Control Systems (NFCS) (See [REP23/FICS App. II](#)). The document is uploaded on the Codex Online Commenting System (OCS): <https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org/>, and comments should be submitted as per the guidance below.
3. Comments should address whether the text is **ready for adoption or not**; and if not, provide the rationale and proposals to facilitate adoption. Comments should be provided in conformity with the Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Standards and Related Texts (Part 3 – Uniform Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Standards and Related Texts, Procedural Manual of the Codex Alimentarius Commission).

GUIDANCE ON THE PROVISION OF COMMENTS

4. Comments should be submitted through the Codex Contact Points of Codex Members and Observers using the OCS.
5. 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.
6. 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 \(FAQs\)](#).
7. 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/>.
8. For questions on the OCS, please contact Codex-OCS@fao.org.