



Agenda Item 10

CX/ASIA 10/17/12
September 2010

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR ASIA

Seventeenth session

Yogyakarta, Indonesia, 22 – 26 November 2010

USE OF CODEX STANDARDS AT NATIONAL AND REGIONAL LEVEL

(Replies to CL 2010/14-ASIA, part A of Indonesia, Philippines and Singapore)

(i) Use of Codex standards and related texts at the national and regional level

INDONESIA

Codex standards and related texts are used as references in the development of national legislation, standard and guidance related to food safety, such as:

- Food Additives and Contaminants Provisions
- National Standard for Complementary Foods
- National Standard for Infant Formula, Natural Mineral Water, Processed Milk, Wheat Flour, Instant noodles, Salted Fish, Fresh Fish, Frozen Fish.
- Food Category System
- Guidelines on Food Labelling
- Health and Nutrition Claims
- Code of Hygienic Practice for Powdered Formulae for Infant and Young Children.

PHILIPPINES

Codex standards and related texts are either used as reference in the development of national standards/regulations or are reviewed and checked whether it is applicable to national needs and interest (e.g. Philippine National Standard for Fermented Milk, which adopted the Codex standards with modifications).

The process involves a recommendation to the Department of Health or the Department of Agriculture of adopted Codex standards/texts by the local equivalent of Codex committees whose chairs come from either the Department of Health or the Department of Agriculture. The chairs of these local equivalent of committees head Philippine delegations to Codex meetings, lead the consultative processes in their committees and are responsible for reaching the objectives of country participation at Codex, through the National Codex Organization.

SINGAPORE

Reference is taken from Codex standards and related texts when reviewing or developing food standards in Singapore.

(ii) Non-use of Codex standards and related texts at the national and regional level, with reasons where applicable

INDONESIA

Some Codex standards are not used as references because the following reasons:

- geographical differences
- nutritional status

- consumption pattern
- economical consideration
- some national standards are stricter than Codex

PHILIPPINES

- Codex standards are not used (or not adopted) when existing national policies and standards are:
 - a. not in agreement or are in conflict with Codex standards,
 - b. when there is no urgency for adoption, and
 - c. when the introduction of the new measures is not a national level management priority which leads to its slow action or inaction.
- Non adoption is also due to limited resources and technologies and the lack of capacity to generate local data for risk assessment in order to adopt Codex standards or to prioritize new measures. For example, cyclamate usage is still banned in the country due to limited resources to re-evaluate it for local use; 3-MCPD cannot be monitored due to the high cost of the equipment needed for its analysis.
- Changing or amending the national legislation can be a slow process. It takes time to amend existing regulations and to harmonize this with Codex.

SINGAPORE

Not applicable.

(iii) Difficulties encountered in the use or application of Codex standards and related texts at the national and regional level

INDONESIA

We have difficulties in the use and application of certain test methods and also implementation of good hygienic practice for small and medium enterprises.

PHILIPPINES

- Once Codex standards are adopted at the national level, the remaining task is to disseminate the information to stakeholders. However, the process for structured dissemination of information needs to be strengthened.
- Codex standards are also not used when buyers apply private standards which are more stringent/ stricter than the Codex standard or do not follow Codex standards.
- At the national level, part of the difficulties encountered is non-compliance to the Codex standards of some small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

SINGAPORE

There is no current issue.

(iv) Relevance of Codex standards and related texts as a basis for harmonization of legislation and regulations, including in the perspective of economic integration

INDONESIA

Codex standards are relevance as a basis for harmonization and they are used as one of WTO reference.

PHILIPPINES

- Codex standards contribute to providing a basis for regional harmonization of standards. – e.g. the Codex standard for Veterinary Drug Residues, Food Additives, etc. are being harmonized within the ASEAN region. The ASEAN Food Hygiene, Food Labeling and Food Control System, under the ASEAN Consultative Committee on Standards and Quality for Prepared Foodstuff Product Working Group (ACCSQ PFPWG) is adopted from Codex standards.

- Use of Codex standards reduces TBT, WTO issues in trade.
- Codex standards are science-based and can be used by policy-makers in formulating sound national food control system.
- Codex standards provide potential trade opportunities to expand economic productivity and access new markets within and outside the region intending to harmonize regulations.

SINGAPORE

Codex standards and related texts serve as useful tools in harmonisation of legislation and regulations.

(v) Any other health and/or trade problems related to standardization at the national or regional level

INDONESIA

Indonesia still has some nutritional problems, thus some food products are fortified with vitamin and mineral such as salt and wheat flour.

In addition, we encountered problems related to exported products that must meet the requirements of importing country which sometimes stricter than Codex.

PHILIPPINES

- Rejection of food shipments have occurred due to the very low maximum levels for contaminants used by importing countries where no Codex Maximum levels exist. For example, mangoes have been rejected due to the very low limits for pesticide residues (chlorpyrifos, cypemethrin) in Japan and canned fish, due to low limits for cadmium in the EU. In both cases, there are no Codex standards.

SINGAPORE

There is no current issue.