

# codex alimentarius commission

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE  
ORGANIZATION  
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD HEALTH  
ORGANIZATION

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**Agenda Item 7**

**CX/MMP 00/17**  
December 1999

**JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME**  
**CODEX COMMITTEE ON MILK AND MILK PRODUCTS**  
**Fourth Session**  
**Wellington, New Zealand, 28 February - 3 March 2000**

**MODEL EXPORT CERTIFICATE FOR MILK AND MILK PRODUCTS**  
(Prepared by Switzerland and Germany)

## **BACKGROUND**

1. The Second Session of the Codex Committee on Milk and Milk Products was informed of the work of the Codex Committees on Food Import and Export Certification and Inspection Systems (CCFICS) and on Fish and Fishery Products regarding model export certificates for general purposes and for fish and fishery products. The Committee was of the opinion that the draft generic model might not be applicable to dairy products. The Committee agreed to request the CCFICS to take up this work. The Delegation of Switzerland in collaboration with that of Germany would prepare a document for consideration by the CCFICS and CCMMP at their next sessions.
2. A paper, CX/MMP 98/10, was prepared for consideration by the Committee at its Third Session by Switzerland and Germany. However, due to time constraints, the Third Session of the Committee was unable to consider the paper and agreed to include it on the agenda of the Fourth Session.
3. The CCFICS has been developing guidelines and criteria for official certificate formats and rules relating to the production and issuance of certificates. At its Seventh Session in February 1999 the CCFICS considered the Proposed Draft Guidelines and Criteria and noted the interest in this work, but agreed that further work and additional contributions were required in order to agree upon an appropriate text. The CCFICS agreed to request the Delegations of the United Kingdom and Australia to redraft the Guidelines in light of the views expressed and comments submitted with a view towards circulating the text formally for comments at Step 3 of the Codex Procedure and consideration at its next session. The text contained in CX/FICS 00/4 will be considered by the CCFICS at its forthcoming Eighth Session scheduled for 21-25 February 2000.
4. The Contents of the paper CX/MMP 98/10 is attached herewith as Annex 1 together with information provided by the Office international des epizooties (OIE) in Annex 2.

Draft of a

**Health certificate for the export of raw milk,  
heat-treated milk, milk products and composite milk products**

**Country of dispatch:** .....

**Competent regulatory authority/ministry:** .....

**Issuing authority:** <sup>1</sup> .....

.....  
(Name and address)

**Serial number of certificate:** .....

**1. Identification of goods**

1.1 Nature of goods (Harmonized System - HS code <sup>2</sup>) .....

1.2 Characteristics according to public health control measures to which the goods have been subjected:

Product description	Pasteurization*	UHT treatment*		Sterilization*	Other control measures**
		non-aseptic	aseptic		
HS number					

\* specify time/temperature relationship

\*\* specify control measures for raw, non-heat-treated or otherwise treated products

1.3 Number and type of packages .....

1.4 Lot numbers .....

1.5 Manufacturing date ..... 1.5 Net weight .....

**2. Origin of goods**

Name(s) and address(es) of the processing enterprise(s) and national registration or licence number(s):

.....  
.....

In cases when the certificate includes more than one type of product, indicate details concerning further products in the box:

**Identification of goods**

1.1 Nature of goods (Harmonized System - HS code <sup>2</sup>) .....

1.2 Characteristics according to public health control measures to which the goods have been subjected:

Product description	Pasteurization*	UHT treatment*		Sterilization*	Other control measures**
		non-aseptic	aseptic		
HS number					

\* specify time/temperature relationship

\*\* specify control measures for raw, non-heat-treated or otherwise treated products

1.3 Number and type of packages .....

1.4 Lot numbers .....

1.5 Manufacturing date ..... 1.5 Net weight .....

**Origin of goods**

Name(s) and address(es) of the processing enterprise(s) and national registration or licence number(s):

.....  
.....

**3. Destination of goods**

Goods are dispatched

from: .....  
(Place of dispatch/Port of loading)

Name and address of exporter:

.....  
to: .....  
(Place and country of destination/Port of discharge)

Name and address of recipient:

.....

by the following means of transport:

.....

.....  
(Date)

.....  
(Signature of manufacturer/exporter)

<sup>1</sup> Complete this line in cases where the competent regulatory authority has delegated authority to an officially recognized body.

<sup>2</sup> The World Customs Organization (WCO) located in Brussels, Belgium, has coordinated the development of a Harmonized System (HS) that establishes descriptive nomenclature and a numerical identity for all goods in international trade.

Serial number of certificate: .....

**4. Certification**

**4.1 Animal health**

4.1.1 The official veterinarian certifies that raw milk or raw milk used for the production of milk products has been obtained from

A. animals that are subject to regular veterinary inspections - including control of udder health (e.g. evaluation on the basis of usual somatic cell countings) - having shown no specific evidence for zoonotic and notifiable animal disease with the aim of ensuring that the milk is obtained from animals

- whose general state of health is not impaired by any visible disorders,

- which are not suffering from a recognizable mastitis;

B. animals - inspected by the competent veterinary authority - that are reared on a farm

- that is free of brucellosis (e.g. caused by *B. melitensis* or *B. abortus*), except when ewe milk cheese or goat milk cheese with a ripening time of at least 2 months is concerned,

- that is officially recognized as being free of tuberculosis (except for sheep and goats provided the latter are not reared together with cattle and for products made from heat-treated milk),

- that is not subject to any restrictions due to foot-and-mouth disease or rinderpest.

C. animals

- that are reared in an area which has been free of foot-and-mouth disease or rinderpest for at least 12 months and in which no vaccination against foot-and-mouth disease and rinderpest has been performed during this period.

4.1.2 If the area does not fulfill the requirements stipulated in 4.1.1 point C with respect to foot-and-mouth disease, the following statement is to be certified:

- The heat-treated milk/the product derived from heat-treated milk/the heat-treated composite milk product has undergone the following treatments:

a) sterilization (refer to IDF definition)

or

b) an initial heat treatment producing at least the same heat effect as pasteurization (refer to IDF definition) followed by

i) a second heat treatment such as high temperature, ultra high temperature treatment or sterilization resulting in a negative peroxidase test

or

ii) in case of milk powder or milk powder products a second heat treatment producing at least the same effect as heat treatment as in i) and resulting in a negative peroxidase test, followed by a drying process

or

iii) an acidification process that ensures that pH was reduced and kept below 6 for at least one hour.

Issued in ..... on .....  
(Place) (Date)

.....  
(Signature of official veterinarian)

(Official seal)

.....  
(Name in capital letters, qualifications and official name)

Serial number of certificate: .....

**4.2 Public health**

The signer hereby certifies that the goods mentioned in this certificate

- meet the level of public health protection required by ..... (name of the exporting country)
- meet the level of public health protection required by the importing country based on the SPS-agreement

and were manufactured from milk which,

- was obtained, collected, cooled, stored and transported in accordance with the specific hygiene conditions laid down in the Code of hygienic practice for milk and milk products of the Codex Alimentarius, and
- meets the microbiological and somatic cell count standards laid down in the Code of hygienic practice for milk and milk products of the Codex Alimentarius.

and were produced, transported, stored and processed in accordance with the appropriate sections of the Recommended International code of Hygienic Provisions- General Principles of Food Hygiene, in particular,

- from raw material production to the point of consumption, the products have been subject to a combination of control measures which have been shown to achieve the appropriate level of public health protection, and
- the goods do not contain levels of residues of pharmacologically active substances, environmental contaminants including radioactive substances, pesticides or micro-organisms, that may present a hazard to health.
- The processing establishment has been registered and is under the supervision of the official/officially recognised inspection system of ..... (name of the importing/exporting country). This system includes, as appropriate, regular checks by the inspection services, sampling and analysis, evaluation of quality assurance procedures linked to compliance with specified requirements, and any inspections specifically required for the issuance of this certificate.
- Bulk milk products were only shipped in containers that meet the official hygienic requirements of the exporting country for the transport of foodstuffs.

**4.3 Additional certifications, if required (e.g. religious requirements):**

.....  
 .....  
 .....

Accordingly, to the best of our knowledge, these goods are in all respects suitable for human consumption.

Issued in \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_  
(Place) (Date)

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(Signature of official certification body or officially recognized body)

(Official seal)

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(Name in capital letters)

## **INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE OFFICE INTERNATIONAL DES EPIZOOTIES<sup>1</sup>**

The International Animal Health Code Commission of the Office International des Epizooties (OIE) discussed with representatives of the International Dairy Federation the possibility of developing a harmonised model certificate for milk and milk products traded internationally. It was concluded that guidelines would be more appropriate than a model certificate to seek harmonisation of animal health requirements of international certificates for milk products.

The list of animal diseases included in the International Animal Health Code (the Code) for which precautions should be taken in international trade was reviewed. This list is given below with a short explanation of possible amendments to be made to the Code:

- Tuberculosis and brucellosis: Surprisingly, given the potential implications for animal health, there are no requirements for milk products with respect to these two diseases in the current version of the Code. However, since both diseases may spread to humans, the OIE should ask experts to come up with proposals to complete the Code with regard to both tuberculosis and brucellosis.
- Foot and mouth disease (FMD): The Code provides measures for milk products imported from FMD infected countries or zones/regions (chapter 2.1.1., article 2.1.1.20.). The destruction of any present FMD virus by means of processing the milk should at least be a prerequisite, as it is already required by the Code (Appendix 4.3.2.3.). The definitions used both by Codex and the OIE Code, e.g. definitions of heat treatment, should be harmonised as much as possible.
- Rinderpest: A revised chapter was adopted by the OIE International Committee in May 1999. The health requirements for milk and milk products originating from countries/zones not free from rinderpest infection are set forth in Articles 2.1.4.21. and 2.1.4.22. The requirements are similar to those concerning FMD.
- Peste des petits ruminants: The virus responsible for peste des petits ruminants is very close to that responsible for rinderpest. In view of this, the Code should recommend that the treatments already provided for in respect of rinderpest (and therefore of foot and mouth disease) be applied to milk and milk products from sheep or goats kept in countries/zones that are not free from the peste des petits ruminants virus.
- Enzootic bovine leukosis (EBL): It is expected that this chapter of the Code will be revised in the coming years. As EBL is not a zoonosis, the OIE should consider the mitigating effect that pasteurisation has on any potential hazard presented to susceptible species from an animal health perspective, should the milk products be intended to be used as feedstuffs.

The OIE has developed a very general model certificate for products of animal origin intended for use in animal feeding, or agricultural, industrial, pharmaceutical or surgical use (see model certificate No. 5 in Part 5 of the Code). I think the OIE and the Codex Alimentarius Commission may be able to reach an agreement on a model international certificate for milk and milk products as long as the model includes an animal health section covering the aforementioned diseases. The content of this section would vary depending on the animal health status of the exporting country in respect of these diseases and the use for which the milk products are intended in the importing country. I hope that such an agreement can be reached before the Codex Alimentarius Commission adopts the conclusions of the Codex Committee on milk and milk products on this subject.

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<sup>1</sup> 21 December 1999.