

codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



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**JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME
FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR EUROPE**

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**INFORMATION ON USE OF CODEX STANDARD AT NATIONAL AND
REGIONAL LEVEL (CL 2006/21-EURO, PART B)**

Information submitted by Austria, European Community, Finland, Ireland, Lithuania, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom,

AUSTRIA

Codex standards and related texts are used in Austria either via EC legislation or national legislative measures.

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

The international framework as regards food safety has developed significantly through the enhanced role of certain international organisations such as the Codex Alimentarius and the International Office of Epizootics (OIE) under the World Trade Organisation Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (the SPS Agreement), the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). By engaging more resources through its accession to the Codex Alimentarius Commission, the EC wishes to play a bigger role in the elaboration of international food standards and takes into account all existing Codex standards and those under development when drafting new legislation. Because both EC legislation and Codex standards are based on science, they very often converge towards the same direction. On some occasions, when Codex standards are being developed on subjects already harmonised at EC level (the EC food safety legislation is already very comprehensive), divergences may occur, and either the EC legislation is put in line with Codex standards, or differences may persist when there is specific scientific evidence (e.g. consumption patterns, specific exposure to a hazard). Direct reference to Codex standards is frequently used in the EC legislation when appropriate.

FINLAND

Use of Codex standards and related texts in Finland is mainly indirect via their influence on the preparation of the EU food legislation. Within the area there is no EU legislation, the Codex standards and related texts have been used as a basis for national measures.

IRELAND

Ireland makes regular use, on a uniform national level, of Codex standards and related texts mainly indirectly via their influence on the formulation of EU food regulatory legislation on which Irish food control activities are largely based as described above. In general no difficulties have been encountered in the use of these standards and they are viewed as being highly relevant.

LITHUANIA

In Lithuania Codex standards are in spread use particularly in the areas being imprescriptibly by the EU regulations. Codex standards are transposed into national standardization system by responsible institution – Lithuanian Standards Board. This institution was established in 25 April 1990 as an institution of the executive force of the Republic of Lithuania, within its province taking part in establishing and implementing the policy of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania within standardization, quality assurance fields and carrying out other functions provided by the Laws of the Republic of Lithuania and Government Resolutions.

Technical Committees under the Lithuanian Standards Board are:

- “Meat and Meat Products”
- “Fruit and vegetables products”
- “Cereals, cereal products and animal feedingstuffs”
- “Bread and Confectionery”
- “Food analysis – Horizontal Methods”
- “Fermentation Products”
- Codex Alimentarius Committee and others

Lithuania makes regular use on a uniform national level of Codex standards and related texts mainly indirectly via their influence on the formulation of the EU food regulatory legislation on which Lithuanian food control activities are largely based as described above. In general, no difficulties have been encountered in the use of these standards and they are viewed as being highly relevant.

NETHERLANDS

The Netherlands makes regular use of Codex standards and related texts on a national level. These texts are also important input for the formulation of EU food regulatory legislation. Through harmonised EU food legislation Codex standards and related texts may become an important basis for the national food legislation of EU member states.

UNITED KINGDOM

Use of Codex standards and related texts is largely through their influence on the formulation of EU food legislation. They are taken into account in other aspects of policy making and are noted as important factors in harmonising international trade issues.