

# CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



World Health  
Organization

# E

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CL 2022/05-FICS  
February 2022

**TO:** Codex Contact Points  
Interested International Organisations

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

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON APPENDIX A AND PROPOSALS FOR NEW  
WORK ON EMERGING ISSUES**

**DEADLINE: 30 June 2022**

**COMMENTS:** **To:** Australian Codex Contact Point  
Email: [Codex.contact@awe.gov.au](mailto:Codex.contact@awe.gov.au)

**Copy to:** Codex Secretariat  
Codex Alimentarius Commission  
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards  
Programme  
FAO  
E-mail: [codex@fao.org](mailto:codex@fao.org)

## BACKGROUND

1. The 25th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS25) considered a paper, [CX/FICS 21/25/9](#) prepared by Australia and Canada, on emerging issues and the future direction of CCFICS. It was noted that the purpose of this agenda item was to facilitate a strategic, outward looking discussion by routinely undertaking a global scan, to identify potential future issues, challenges and advancements on issues within the mandate of the Committee. This would ensure CCFICS is robust and strongly positioned to flexibly consider new work or revisions to Codex standards, in identifying and prioritising areas of future work.
2. The Committee also agreed that Australia and Kenya would prepare an updated Appendix A of the paper on "Emerging issues and future direction of CCFICS, taking into account discussions at CCFICS25, as well as comments solicited through a Circular Letter, and submit an updated list of emerging issues to CCFICS26 for consideration".
3. The Committee noted that a working group meeting may be held prior to the next CCFICS session to prioritise new work in order to provide recommendations to the Plenary.

## REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

4. Member governments and observers are invited to review **Appendix A** and provide comments on new emerging global issues for consideration. Comments should include additional detail on currently listed proposals in the table (including better defining how it relates to CCFICS) and/or striking proposals that may either no longer be relevant to the work of CCFICS or are not within CCFICS' mandate. Australia and Kenya, as Co-Chairs, have provided recommendations against some items that may either be removed and/or modified with support of other Members (refer highlighted text).
5. Member governments and observers are also invited to identify additional emerging issues in Appendix A that fall within the remit of the Committee. In identifying emerging issues and/or proposals for new work, members and observers should provide information in line with the criteria listed in the table in Appendix A.
6. Comments are requested to the addressees indicated above by 30 June 2022

## Appendix A

## Emerging Global Issues Relevant to Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems

[\(CX/FICS 21/25/9\)](#)

## Introduction

1. The table below identifies significant emerging global issues that may impact the work of CCFICS and recognises any existing texts or new work proposals relevant to each issue. These items have been drawn from previous discussions at CCFICS sessions and other available material, including multilateral food safety and trade discussions.
2. It may be the case that existing texts touch on, but do not fully address, an identified global issue. In this case, additional or clarifying guidance may be warranted. This may present an opportunity for the Committee to consider the appropriateness and priority of potential new work, using the proposed framework outlined in Appendix B of document [CX/FICS 21/25/9](#). It may also present an opportunity to review existing texts in light of new data, or new trading environments.

## New emerging global issues for consideration

Priority	Emerging Global Issue ( <i>not in priority order</i> )	Related Impact on CCFICS / Codex	Related CCFICS text	Comment / Status / Reason for priority
To be assessed using criteria outlined in <b>Appendix B</b> .	Food waste.	Food waste as related to international trade; not limited to the end of the food chain.  In 2015, world leaders committed themselves to address this challenge and set out to halve per capita food waste and to reduce food losses by 2030 within the context of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and as part of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 12, which aims to ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.		<b>Strike-out</b> as not within the mandate of CCFICS.

Priority	Emerging Global Issue ( <i>not in priority order</i> )	Related Impact on CCFICS / Codex	Related CCFICS text	Comment / Status / Reason for priority
To be assessed using criteria outlined in <b>Appendix B.</b>	Appeals mechanism in the context of rejections.	Develop a separate guideline on an appeals mechanism in the context of rejections of imported foods.	CXG 25-1997	India noted a proposal would be provided for consideration at CCFICS26.
To be assessed using criteria outlined in <b>Appendix B.</b>	New and evolving food production, processing, transport and distributing systems and technologies.	<p>Impacts of the Competent Authority with regard to national food control systems (their effectiveness, traceability, recalls, etc.) imported food control systems and new national production processes.</p> <p>Given the need to advance national standards will also impact on trade through equivalence and systems recognitions.</p> <p>Potential to meet the needs of growing population through the production of new foods subject to due regulation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CXG 19-1995</li> <li>• CXG 20-1995</li> <li>• CXG 25-1997</li> <li>• CXG 26-1997</li> <li>• CXG 34-1999</li> <li>• CXG 38-2001</li> <li>• CXG 47-2003</li> <li>• CXG 53-2003</li> <li>• CXG 60-2006</li> <li>• CXG 82-2013</li> <li>• CXG 89-2016</li> <li>• CXG 91-2017</li> <li>• Proposed Guidance on the Use of Systems Equivalence</li> </ul>	May require modification based on CAC44 recommendation for Codex Secretariat to issue CL to collect information on ongoing developments related to new food sources and production systems.
To be assessed using criteria outlined in <b>Appendix B.</b>	Improved analytics, testing technologies, and surveillance.	The tools and methods used to measure performance of food control systems and how and when they are applied.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CXG 47-2003</li> <li>• CXG 53-2003</li> <li>• CXG 25-1997</li> <li>• CXG 34-1999</li> <li>• CXG 82-2013</li> <li>• CXG 89-2016</li> <li>• CXG 91-2017</li> </ul>	

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To be assessed using criteria outlined in <b>Appendix B.</b>	New approaches to food safety, including preventative and outcomes-based systems.	Current and anticipated changes to the suite of tools used to provide assurances, and how and when they are applied.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CXG 20-1995</li> <li>• CXG 19-1995</li> <li>• CXG 25-1997</li> <li>• CXG 26-1997</li> <li>• CXG 34-1999</li> <li>• CXG 38-2001</li> <li>• CXG 53-2003</li> <li>• CXG 47-2003</li> <li>• CXG 60-2006</li> <li>• CXG 82-2013</li> <li>• CXG 89-2016</li> <li>• CXG 91-2017</li> <li>• Guidance on the Use of Systems</li> <li>• Equivalence</li> </ul>	
To be assessed using criteria outlined in <b>Appendix B.</b>	Guidance on the management of (micro)biological foodborne crises/outbreaks.	Under development by CCFH.		<b>Strike-out</b> as work is already underway in CCFH.
To be assessed using criteria outlined in <b>Appendix B.</b>	Increased focus on food integrity / authenticity (food fraud).	The vulnerability of food systems to intentional manipulation for economic gain, for example.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CXG 20-1995</li> <li>• CXG 19-1995</li> <li>• CXG 25-1997</li> <li>• CXG 26-1997</li> <li>• CXG 38-2001</li> <li>• CXG 47-2003</li> <li>• CXG 60-2006</li> <li>• CXG 82-2013</li> <li>• CXG 89-2016</li> <li>• Discussion paper on the role of CCFICS with respect to</li> </ul>	<p><del>Work underway.</del></p> <p><del>Discussion paper on the role of CCFICS with respect to tackling food fraud in the context of food safety and fair practices in food trade.</del></p> <p>To be discussed at CCFICS25 November 2022.</p>

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			tackling food fraud in the context of food safety and fair practices in food trade.	<b>Strike-out</b> as new work was approved by CAC44. Proposed draft guidance on the prevention and control of food fraud will be circulated for comments prior to CCFICS26
To be assessed using criteria outlined in <b>Appendix B.</b>	Private standards.	The application of private standards in the production and standardisation of food, which may be different to those established by a competent authority.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CXG 20-1995</li> <li>• CXG 26-1997</li> <li>• CXG 34-1999</li> <li>• CXG 38-2001</li> <li>• CXG 60-2003</li> <li>• CXG 47-2003</li> <li>• CXG 82-2013</li> <li>• Principles and guidelines for the assessment and use of voluntary Third-Party Assurance (vTPA) programmes</li> </ul>	<p>The report from CCFICS23 (2017) stated this should not be included since this matter has been thoroughly discussed in the past at the Commission and no request has been made to address it further in CCFICS.</p> <p>Strike-out as no request has been made by the Commission to CCFICS.</p> <p>CAC44 adopted the Principles and Guidelines for the Assessment and Use of Voluntary Third-Party Assurance (vTPA) programs at Step 8.</p>
To be assessed using criteria outlined in <b>Appendix B.</b>	Increasing electronic transactions and Information Communication and Technology (ICT) capabilities.	<p>The use of information technology as applied to food control systems including use for data gathering and analysis, and electronic certification.</p> <p>Note: discussions on internet sales / e-commerce underway at the Codex Committee on Food Labelling (REP18/FL).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CXG 19-1995</li> <li>• CXG 26-1997</li> <li>• CXG 38-2001</li> <li>• CXG 82-2013</li> <li>• CXG 89-2016</li> <li>• Guidance on Paperless Use of Electronic Certificates.</li> </ul>	<p>Work underway on paperless trading.</p> <p>Modify as CAC44 adopted the <i>Guidance on Paperless Use of electronic Certificates (revised Guidelines for Design, Production, Issuance and Use of Generic Official Certificates (CXG 38-2001)</i> at Step 5/8.</p>
To be assessed	Evolving role of competent authority and interactions between various government entities.	Interaction among various governmental entities involved in food trade, in particular	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CXG 19-1995</li> <li>• CXG 34-1999</li> </ul>	

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using criteria outlined in <b>Appendix B.</b>		between food control authorities and customs/border protection agencies, and the ability to better leverage information from these interactions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CXG 47-2003</li> <li>• CXG 82-2013</li> <li>• CXG 89-2016</li> <li>• CXG 91-2017</li> <li>• Guidance on the Use of Systems Equivalence.</li> </ul>	
To be assessed using criteria outlined in <b>Appendix B.</b>	Antimicrobial resistance	Impact on certification or inspections / testing arrangements regarding antimicrobial resistance, noting current work underway by the Ad hoc Codex Intergovernmental Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance (TFAMR).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CXG 20-1995</li> <li>• CXG 38-2001</li> <li>• CXG 47-2003</li> <li>• CXG 82-2013</li> <li>• CXG 89-2016</li> <li>• CXG 91-2017</li> <li>• Guidance on the Use of Systems Equivalence.</li> </ul>	TFAMR.  UN General Assembly reaffirmed its Global Action Plan on antimicrobial resistance.  Strike-out as CAC44 agreed to dissolve the Ad Hoc Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance (TFAMR) task force as the mandate had been completed.