

codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
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ORGANIZATION



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TO: Codex Contact Points
International Organisations

FROM: Secretary, Codex Alimentarius Commission,
FAO, Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00100 Rome, Italy

SUBJECT: **Request for Comments on the Elaboration of a Model Export Certificate for Milk Products**

DEADLINE: 1 September 2001

COMMENTS: **To:** Christina Blumer
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BACKGROUND

1. There was general agreement¹ at the 4th Session (March 2000) of the Codex Committee on Milk and Milk Products (CCMMP) that there was a need to develop a model export certificate for milk products to facilitate international trade. However, various opinions were expressed as to when and how to proceed with this work. A number of delegations suggested that the elaboration of a model certificate should be deferred pending the finalisation of the generic certificate under consideration by the CCFICS and the further consideration of animal health attestations by the International Office of Epizootics (OIE) and related subjects by the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH). It was felt that such a course of action would prevent duplication of effort while ensuring the harmonisation of any CCMMP initiatives with those in relevant general subject committees.

2. Other delegations suggested that CCMMP work could proceed as long as careful consideration was given to the ongoing activities of other Codex committees and international organisations. In this regard, it was noted that initial CCMMP work could commence at the present time and that the CCMMP should refer to the generic certificate being elaborated by CCFICS prior to the final consideration of the CCMMP initiative. It was suggested that the draft certificate presented in the discussion paper currently before the CCMMP should be greatly simplified and shortened.

¹ ALINORM 01/11, paras. 124-130

3. The Committee agreed in principle to a further discussion paper on the possible elaboration of a model export certificate for milk products. As an initial step, it was decided that the Codex Secretariat would issue a circular letter, developed in collaboration with the New Zealand Secretariat of the CCMMP and the Australian Secretariat of the CCFICS, to request information that would assist in the development of this discussion paper. Information would be sought on the approach thought most appropriate for the elaboration of model export certificates for milk products, including objectives and scope, specific definitions required and general principles and criteria.

4. The 4th Session of the CCMMP had also agreed that a drafting group led by Switzerland, and consisting of Argentina, Australia, Denmark, France, Germany, India, New Zealand, the United States, the European Commission and IDF, would prepare a discussion paper for consideration at the next session of the Committee, taking into consideration written comments on CX/MMP 00/17, information received in response to the circular letter, and other information from relevant general subject committees as appropriate. It was proposed that the discussion paper would include a suggested framework.

5. Subsequent to the 4th Session of the CCMMP, the most recent 9th Session of the CCFICS (December 2000) forwarded the draft Guidelines for Generic Official Certificate Formats and the Production and Issuance of Certificates to the 24th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission for final adoption at Step 8.²

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

6. Governments and international organisations are invited to comment on the approach thought most appropriate for the elaboration of model export certificates for milk products. Points to consider include objectives and scope, specific definitions required and general principles and criteria.

² ALINORM 01/30A, para. 30 and Appendix II