

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD IMPORT & EXPORT INSPECTION & CERTIFICATION SYSTEMS

EWG Invitation

This message is sent on behalf of the Netherlands and Australia.

Title	CCFICS PROPOSED DRAFT GUIDANCE ON PAPERLESS USE OF ELECTRONIC CERTIFICATES
Committee	Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS)
Session	24 th Session
Chair of EWG	The Netherlands
Co-Chairs	Australia
Working Languages	English

Description of work

The 24th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS), held in Brisbane, Australia, 22-26 October 2018, agreed to establish an EWG, chaired by The Netherlands and co-chaired by Australia, working in English only, to continue the drafting of the proposed draft guidance on paperless use of electronic certificates (revision of the Guidelines for design, production, issuance and use of Generic Official Certificates (CXG 38-2001)) for circulation for comments at Step 3 and consideration at CCFICS25.

CCFICS24 noted the following focus areas:

- To revise the proposed draft guidance in line with established Codex style to ensure consistency and clarity, and remove repetition. The general guidance should highlight general principles and be written in plain language readily understood by users, avoiding excessive technical detail
- To clarify the following aspects: the paper-to-paperless transition; validation of certificate authenticity; data protection, retention and confidentiality; the handling of electronic certificates in situations such as export/import rejection and/or redirection/re-consignment of goods in transit; and the handling of invalid certificates, etc.
- In the light of the intersection between competent authorities and the Single Window System, the necessity to address the elements of the different systems used by countries and contain additional detail depending on system so as to provide flexibility to countries

EWG online platform Yes No

Email for registration: info@CodexAlimentarius.nl with a copy to codex.contact@agriculture.gov.au.

Timetable for work

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|---|-------------------|
| • Deadline for registration of EWG participants | 12 April 2019 |
| • First draft document circulated for comments | 23 May 2019 |
| • Deadline for comments on first draft | 5 July 2019 |
| • Second draft document for circulated for comment | 12 September 2019 |
| • Deadline for comments on second draft document | 25 October 2019 |
| • Final Document sent to Australian and Codex Secretariat for review, translation and distribution for CCFICS25 | January 2020 |

Codex Members and Observers are invited to register their experts for this Electronic Working Group. When there is more than one expert, each country or observer organization shall designate **one** as the official representative to participate in the EWG.

Applications should be sent through the Codex Contact Point (CCP) of the member or recognized observer organization in an email detailing:

- participant's name
- official title or position
- organization or country
- email address.

The EWG platform Link: <http://forum.codex-alimentarius.net/index.php>

Usergroup name: **CCFICS-PUEC 2019**

The platform will require members to login. New participants to the platform should first register. ([online guide](#), [video tutorial](#))

The EWG chair will give participants access to the usergroup online once they have verified their credentials so please ensure that you follow the procedure for applications and email the chair through your CCP even if you are already registered on the platform. Once your CCP has sent your application you can request to join the EWG usergroup directly on the platform. You do not need to create a new registration if you have previously used the platform.

Technical support

For all technical assistance regarding the platform please contact the platform administrator (Codex Secretariat) using the Contact link on the platform homepage or via codex@fao.org.

We look forward to your participation.