



Common Framework and International Standards

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Food Trade and International Agreements



World Trade Organization

WTO : making international rules for traded goods

Essential agreements related to food trade

- Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS)
- Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT)

Issues not covered by SPS



WTO's SPS Agreement

- Deals with life and health of
 - Humans ← Food safety
 - Animals
 - Plants
- International Standard Setting bodies
 - Food safety: Codex Alimentarius Commission
 - Animal health: World Animal Health Organization (OIE)
 - Plant protection: International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)



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Dialogue on Risk Management in Wine Trade

5-6 November, 2012 - Auckland, New Zealand

According to SPS, Members shall:

- Ensure that any food safety measure **is based on scientific principles** and not maintained without sufficient scientific evidence (Art. 2.2)
- **Base** their food safety measures **on Codex standards, guidelines or recommendations**, where they exist (Art. 3.2)
- Ensure that their food safety measures are **based on an assessment of the risks** to human, taking into account risk assessment techniques developed by Codex (Art. 5.1)



SPS Agreement

- Recognizes Codex as a reference on food safety (TBT not as specific)
- Codex recommendations may be used to settle disputes
- Calls for harmonization based on Codex
- **Calls for active participation in the work of Codex**



SPS covers:

- Microbiological safety
- Chemical safety
 - Contaminants and natural toxins
 - Residues of pesticides and veterinary drugs
 - Food additives
- Labelling and methods of analysis and sampling related to the above
- TBT covers issues not covered by SPS



Codex Alimentarius Commission



Codex Alimentarius Commission

- Founded by FAO and WHO
- To implement Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme
- **Inter-governmental** Body
- Objectives
 - Consumer protection
 - Fair practices in the food trade
 - Coordination of all food standards work
- **Risk manager**



Structure

- **Codex Alimentarius Commission**
 - Members
 - Observers from IGOs & INGOs
 - Adopts Codex standards
 - Reviews the Programme of Work
 - Reviews the budget
- **Executive Committee**
 - Prepares the Programme of Work and Budget
 - Conducts critical review of new work proposals
 - Reviews the development of standards



Structure

10 General Subject Committees

+

11 Commodity Committees

+

ad hoc Intergovernmental Task Forces

+

6 Regional Coordinating Committees



General Subject Committees

Those dealing with food safety risks:

- Food Additives (China)
- Contaminants in Foods (Netherlands)
- Food Hygiene (USA)
- Pesticide Residues (China)
- Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods (USA)

Others may consider “risks” occasionally.



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Independent Scientific Bodies (risk assessors)

- Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA)
 - Food additives, Contaminants, Veterinary drugs
- Joint FAO/WHO Meeting of Pesticide Residues (JMPR)
- Joint FAO/WHO Meetings on Microbiological Risk Assessment (JEMRA)
- *Ad hoc* expert consultations



Codex recommendations

- General standards
- Standards (including maximum residue limits and maximum levels)
- Codes of practice or codes of hygienic practice
- Guidelines
- Other recommendations (e.g., General Principles)



Codex basic recommendations

- Working Principles for Risk Analysis

- General Principles of Food Hygiene
 - HACCP System and Guidelines for its Application in an Annex
 - 7 Principles
 - 12 Steps
 - Basis of ISO 22000

- Codes of Hygienic Practice for commodities



Codex basic recommendations

- General Standard for **Contaminants and Toxins** in Food and Feed (maximum levels)
 - Mycotoxins
 - Heavy metals
 - Chemicals produced during processing including ethylcarbamates
 - Other chemicals such as migrants
- Codes of Practice for prevention & reduction
 - Food chain approach
 - Source-directed measures



Codex basic recommendations

- General Standard for **Food Additives**
 - Maximum use levels
- Maximum Residue Limits for **Pesticides and Veterinary Drugs**
 - Maximum allowed in food/feed when a pesticide/veterinary drug was used in accordance with GAP
- Wine is not dealt with (except for food additives) but grapes and other fruits are.



Role of Science in Codex

1. Science-based: “Principle of sound scientific analysis and evidence”
2. Consideration of other legitimate factors
3. Role of food labelling
4. Right to abstention without preventing the decision of the Commission



To get what you want in Codex

- Actively participate in Codex work
- Provide data and information as necessary to reflect your situation in Codex recommendations
 - When establishing Codex recommendations related risk, **scientific data** are absolutely necessary.



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Thank you !