



Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS)

Last Meeting: 25th Session, 31 May – 8 June 2021 **VIRTUAL**

Full Report of the 25th Session – [Link to Report & Agenda](#)

Next Meeting: 26th Session, TBA

New Zealand attended the 25th session of the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification (CCFICS), held virtually, hosted by Australia 31 May – 8 June 2021. The majority of New Zealand's objectives for the meeting were achieved.

The main outcomes were:

- The proposed draft guidance on regulatory approaches to third party assurance schemes was reviewed with only minor amendments being made and the Committee agree to recommend the draft for adoption at Step 8.
- The proposed draft guidance on paperless use of electronic certificates (revision of CAC/GL 38-2001) was revised, in plenary and by an in-session working group (IWG), and the Committee agreed to recommend it for adoption at Steps 5 / 8.
- The proposed draft guidelines on recognition and maintenance of equivalence of NFCS was discussed in plenary and by an IWG, however it was not possible to reach consensus on some matters (largely due to time constraints) and the draft was retained at step 3. The electronic working group (EWG) was re-established (led by New Zealand with support from the USA and Kenya) to address the matters raised and to prepare a revised draft for consideration and completion at CCFICS26.
- The proposed framework and methodology for development of consolidated guidance on equivalence was endorsed and that it be progressed in line with the proposed steps with a report on progress to be made to CCFICS26. New Zealand will continue to lead the EWG with support from the USA and Kenya.
- The draft project document for new work on development of draft guidance on the prevention and control of food fraud was reviewed in plenary and by an IWG. The Committee agreed to recommend the new work for approval by EXEC81 and CAC44. An EWG was established led by the USA with EU, China and Iran to prepare draft guidance for consideration at CCFICS26.
- The Committee agreed that a discussion paper and draft project document for the development of guidance on the use of remote audit and verification in regulatory frameworks be prepared by an EWG, led by Australia with support from Canada and Singapore, for consideration at CCFICS26.
- The Committee agreed that a discussion paper on the need to review and update the principles for traceability/product tracing (CXG 60-2006) be prepared by an EWG lead by the USA with support from the UK, for consideration at CCFICS26.



The current Chairperson, Ms Fran Freeman, announced her retirement and the new Chairperson is Ms Nicola Hinder, First Secretary, Exports and Veterinary Services Division, Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment. The next meeting of CCFICS is expected to be held in November 2022 in Australia with the specific date and location to be confirmed.