

## 31st Meeting of the Codex Contact Points in the Arab Region

### PREPARATION FOR THE 47<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

**(CAC47)**

#### *Summary of Outcomes*

#### *27<sup>th</sup> Session of the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification System (CCFICS47)*

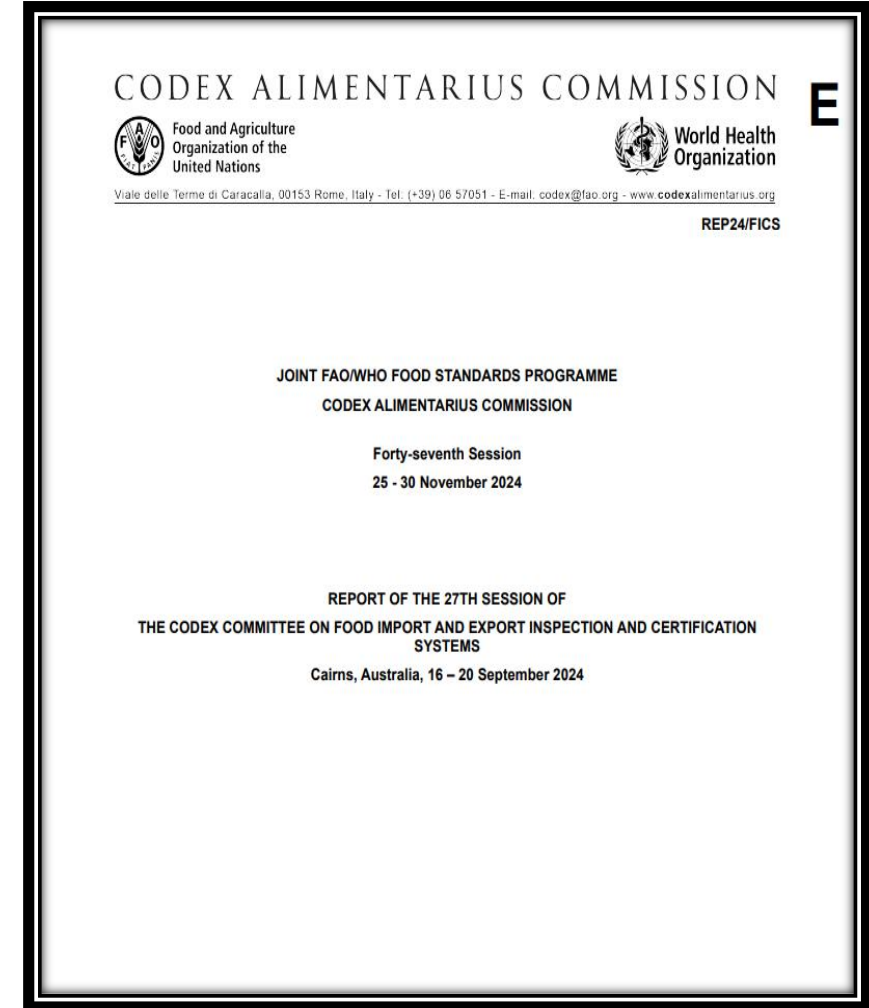
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*November 20, 2024*

# Introduction

The Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification System (CCFICS) held its 27<sup>th</sup> Session, in Cairns, Australia, in Hybrid format from **16 to 20 September 2024**.

This session was attended by **70 Member countries**, One Member organization and 11 Observer organizations, and United Nations agencies among which **7 Arab countries** (Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia).



# Agenda Item 5: Draft Guidelines on Prevention and Control of Food Fraud

- Forward the draft guidelines to CAC47 for adoption at **Step 5**.
- Establish EWG chaired by USA, Co-chaired by China, EU, Iran, Panama, and UK.
  - Open to all Members and Observers.
  - To consider comments at **Step 6**.
  - To consider how feed for food producing animals was reflected and referenced throughout the guideline, also considering relevant Codex guidance.
  - To undertake multiple round of comments as necessary.
  - To submit report of EWG **3 Months before CCFICS28**.

## DRAFT GUIDELINES ON THE PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF FOOD FRAUD

(For adoption at Step 5)

### 1. PREAMBLE / INTRODUCTION

1. The increasing complexity of food systems and global trade in food makes food supply chains more vulnerable to food fraud. Protecting the global food supply from intentional actions that undermine protection of public health and upholding fair practices in food trade are common goals for all stakeholders.
2. Food fraud incidents can present a risk to public health and can result in economic loss for consumers and other stakeholders, disruption in trade, reputational damage, and unfair economic advantages.
3. Regulatory frameworks, Government oversight and good manufacturing practices by food business operators (FBOs) are important to protect public health, to limit the opportunity for food fraud and to maintain consumer confidence.
4. Food fraud can be prevented or minimized using the existing controls and mitigation measures available to countries through their National Food Control Systems (NFCS) or by adopting new measures, if necessary.
5. The prevention and control of food fraud is a shared responsibility, with FBOs responsible for producing safe and suitable food, and for presenting it in a manner so as not to deceive consumers. Competent authorities provide regulatory oversight and have an important role in increasing awareness about food fraud by building partnerships and collaborating with relevant stakeholders to prevent, detect, mitigate, and control food fraud.
6. Work in the area of food fraud is widespread in a range of international organizations. Countries may wish to consider work from these and other organizations, as appropriate, when developing tools and strategies to prevent, detect, mitigate, and control food fraud.
7. Fundamental to the successful functioning of any food fraud combatting strategy is the collaboration of the stakeholders and establishment and maintenance of preventative measures.

### 2. PURPOSE / SCOPE

8. The purpose is to provide guidance to competent authorities and FBOs on the prevention, detection, mitigation, and control of food fraud to help protect the health of consumers, and to ensure fair practices in food trade, including, as appropriate, feed for food producing animals. Aspects related to food fraud are already addressed through many existing Codex texts; this guidance is intended to support or supplement existing Codex texts by providing additional guidance specific to food fraud that can be considered within NFCS. Issues related to intellectual property are not included in this document.

### 3. DEFINITIONS

9. For the purposes of this document, the following definitions apply:

[Food Fraud: Any deliberate practice intended to deceive others in regard to the characteristics of food to gain an unfair economic advantage.]

[Food Integrity: The status of food in which it is not altered or modified with respect to characteristics expected by the consumer, including food safety, quality, composition, nutritional properties and authenticity.]

**“Food Fraud”**: Any deliberate practice intended to deceive others in regard to the characteristics of food to gain an unfair economic advantage.

**“Food Integrity”**: The status of food in which it is not altered or modified with respect to characteristics expected by the consumer, including food safety, quality, composition, nutritional properties and authenticity.

**“Food authenticity”**: Conformity between the food product characteristics and the corresponding information provided through food product labelling or other information associated with food trade.

It was decided to keep all 3 definitions between brackets for further comments and discussions at a later stage.

## Types of Food Fraud

### Addition

Adding an undeclared substance to a food product that would not ordinarily be present, or present in that quantity, in the food

### Substitution

Replacing a food or a food ingredient, in whole or in part with another ingredient, in whole or in part (most often of lower value) without declaring it

### Dilution

Adding a material to make another ingredient present at a lower concentration than represented

### Counterfeiting

Making an imitation of a food product with the intention to deceive or defraud.

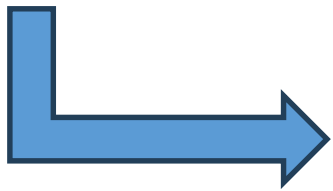
### Misrepresentation

Labelling or marketing a food product in a manner that is false, misleading, or deceptive

### Concealment

Hiding or not disclosing information on the safety, suitability, or quality of food ingredients or food products

Competent Authorities and FBOs should be guided by the following principles to **prevent, detect, mitigate, and control** food fraud



**Principle 1:** The occurrence of food fraud can be reduced by having measures in place, proportionate to the level of risk.



**Principle 2:** **Cooperation** among Competent Authorities, within or between countries, as well as with FBOs, can help reduce food fraud.

## Items to Return to Step 2

- **Agenda Item 4**: Draft Consolidated Codex Guidelines Related to Equivalence.
  - ❖ Establish an EWG, chaired by New Zealand, and co-chaired by Kenya, and open to all Members and Observers.
  
- **Agenda Item 6**: Draft Revision and Updating of the Principles for Traceability/Product Tracing as a Tool Within a Food Inspection and Certification System (CXG 60-2006)
  - ❖ Establish an EWG, open to all Members and Observers, chaired by the United States and co-chaired by Australia, Ecuador, Honduras, and the United Kingdom.

- **Establish New EWG**

1. EWG, chaired by India and co-chaired by Nigeria, Australia, Chile, and Kenya, subject to approval of new work by CAC, prepare draft guidance on appeals mechanism in the context of rejection of imported food, for consideration by CCFICS28.
2. EWG, chaired by Brazil and co-chaired by Australia, India, Kenya, Spain, and Uganda, subject to approval of new work by CAC, to prepare draft guidance on the standardization of sanitary requirements, for consideration by CCFICS28.



