



**FAO/WHO Pre-CCASIA Workshop on
“Food recall/traceability within the risk analysis framework -
Prevention of food safety emergencies”
(Tokyo, Japan, 2 November 2014)**

**Food recall and traceability: Codex work
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C O D E X A L I M E N T A R I U S

International Food Standards



Codex Alimentarius

- The Codex Alimentarius (“Food Code”) is a collection of international standards, codes of practice, guidelines and other recommendations that have been adopted by the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC).
- The CAC, the highest decision-making body in Codex, currently has 185 Member Nations and one Member Organization, the European Community.
- The purpose of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme, which is implemented by the CAC, is to **protect the health of consumers** and **ensure fair practices in the food trade**.



Traceability/products tracing: Codex definition

- Developed by the Committee on General Principles and adopted by the CAC in 2004

Traceability/product tracing: the ability to follow the movement of a food through specified stage(s) of production, processing and distribution

(Compare the ISO definition of traceability: "the ability to trace the history, application or location of an entity by means of recorded identifications")

Traceability- a tool not and objective

- Traceability is not an objective in itself, but rather **a tool**, which may assist countries to demonstrate that imported and/or exported foods meet safety and/or quality requirements.



Principles developed by CCFICS

- The Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS) developed ***Principles for Traceability/Product Tracing as a Tool within a Food Import and Export Certification System*** (CAC/GL 60-2006), which were adopted by the CAC in 2006.
- The document elaborates a set of principles to assist competent authorities in utilising traceability/product tracing as a tool within their food inspection and certification system.



Principles developed by CCFICS

Traceability/product tracing is a tool that when applied in:

- a **food safety context** does not in itself improve food safety outcomes unless it is combined with appropriate measures and requirements. It can contribute to the effectiveness/or efficiency of associated food safety measures. For example, by providing information on suppliers or customers involved in potential food safety issues so enabling targeted product recall/withdrawal
- a **food inspection and certification system** can contribute to the protection of consumers against deceptive marketing practices and the facilitation of trade on the basis of accurate product description. For example, by reinforcing confidence in the authenticity of the product and the accuracy of the information provided on the products (e.g. country of origin, organic farming, religious concerns such as halal or kosher).



Earlier work in Codex

- Traceability/product tracing were explicitly or implicitly recognised in a number of adopted Codex texts, despite the fact that there was no official Codex definition.
- In most cases it was linked to **product identification** and **recall procedures**.



Examples of earlier work in Codex

- *Principles of Food Hygiene* (CAC/RCP 1-1969) (Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point System)
- *Code of Hygienic Practice for Meat* (CAC/RCP 58-2005)
- *Code of Practice for Good Animal Feeding* (CAC/RCP 54-2004)
- *General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods* (CODEX STAN 1-1985) (country of origin provisions and lot identification and the ability to recall product if its omission would mislead or deceive the consumer)
- *Code of Practice for Low-Acid and Acidified Low-Acid Canned Foods* (CAC/RCP 23-1979) (product processing history)



Examples of earlier work in Codex

- *Principles for the Risk Analysis of Foods Derived from Modern Biotechnology* (CAC/GL 44-2003) (traceability/tracing of products as one of the tools to facilitate the implementation of risk management measures)
- *Code of Practice for Fish and Fishery Products* (CAC/RCP 52-2003) (section on product tracing and recall procedures and provisions for identification of country of origin, lot and means of transportation in the Model Certificate for Fish and Fishery Products)



Thank you

Further information:

- Codex web site: www.codexalimentarius.org

