



Discussing the Codex Mandate and Statutes

Codex Procedural Manual

The Codex Procedural Manual is one of the most important Codex documents as it contains:

- The **Statutes** of the Commission;
- The **Rules of Procedure**; and
- Additional **procedural information** relevant to how the Commission and its subsidiary bodies function.



Statutes of the Codex

The Statutes of the Codex Alimentarius Commission:

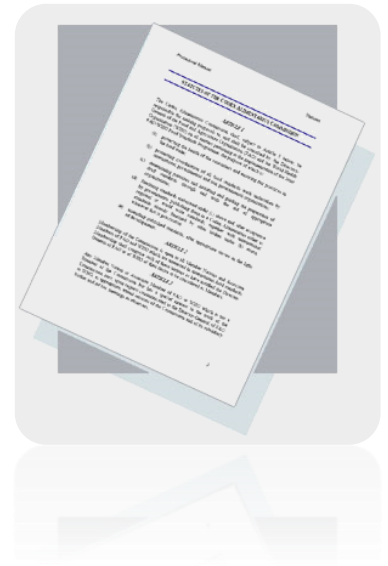
- Provide the **legal basis** for the Commission's work;
- Provide its **mandate** or terms of reference;
- Describe the **formal operating procedures**; and
- Reflect the **concepts** behind and **reasons** for the establishment of Codex.



Codex Mandate

Article 1 – Mandate

- (a) Protecting the health of consumers and ensuring fair practices in the food trade.
- (b) Coordinating all food standards work undertaken by international governmental and non-governmental organizations.
- (c) Determining priorities and initiating and guiding the preparation of draft standards.
- (d) Finalizing standards and publishing them in a Codex Alimentarius either as regional or worldwide standards.
- (e) Amending published standards, after appropriate survey in the light of developments.

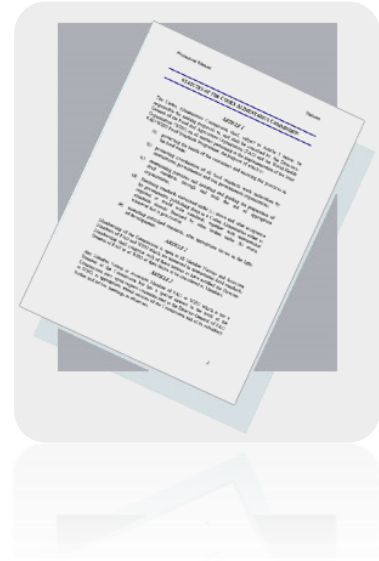


Codex Membership

Article 2 – Membership

Membership of the Commission is open to all Member Nations and Associate Members of FAO and WHO that are interested in international food standards.

Membership shall comprise such of these nations as have notified the Director-General of FAO or of WHO of their desire to be considered as Members.

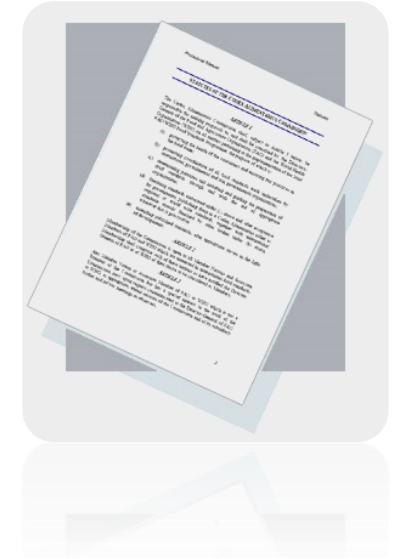


Codex Executive Committee

Article 6 – Executive Committee

The Commission shall establish an Executive Committee whose composition should ensure an adequate representation of the various geographical areas of the world to which the Members of the Commission belong.

Between sessions, the Executive Committee shall act as the executive organ of the Commission.



Summary

- FAO and WHO have established the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme, for the elaboration of international food standards.
- The CAC is an intergovernmental body established to develop food standards under the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme.
- The collection of food standards and related texts adopted by the CAC is known as the *Codex Alimentarius*.
- The Codex Procedural Manual contains the Statutes of the Commission, its Rules of Procedure, and additional procedural information relevant to how the Commission and its subsidiary bodies function.
- One of the primary mandate of the Codex Commission is to protect the health of consumers and ensure fair practices in the food trade.
- In order for a country to become a member of the CAC, the country must be a member of either FAO or of WHO and it needs to notify either the Director-General of FAO or of WHO that it wishes to become a member.



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