



CODEX MEMBERSHIP

ROLE OF THE CODEX CONTACT POINT (CCP)

Becoming a Codex Member



When a country decides to become a member of the CAC, that decision will result in a commitment of resources as well as involvement in international discussions on food safety and quality.

Becoming a Codex Member (2)

Is it appropriate for a country to become involved in Codex?

Is the country a Member of FAO and/or WHO?

Would the adoption or use of Codex standards in national legislation **facilitate** protection of the consumers?

Is it important to introduce a national food control system, improve the existing system, or improve the national capacity to deal with food safety incidents?

Does it export agricultural crops, animal products or species of fish in their raw or processed state, and do any of these commodities contribute significantly to the economy?

Are there specific food imports upon which the country relies to ensure an adequate and nutritious food supply?

Is the country a Member of WTO?

Becoming a Codex Member (3)

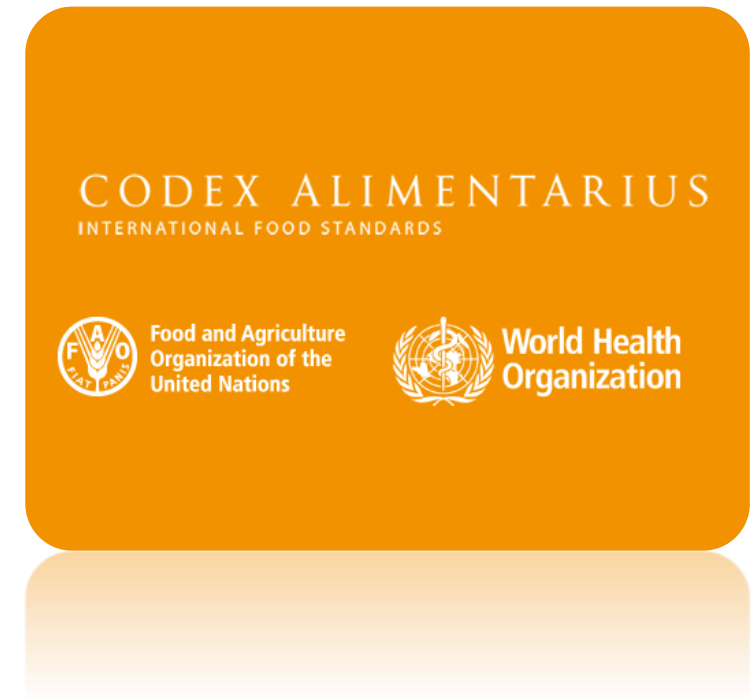
Once the decision is taken to become a member of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, then the country must notify this desire to the Director-General of either FAO or WHO.



Resource Requirement

The resources a country needs to expend on its Codex activities will depend on the extent to which it is involved.

It isn't necessary for the country to be involved in all the Commission's subsidiary bodies.



Codex Contact Point



An essential task that a country must undertake when becoming a member of the Codex Alimentarius Commission is the designation of a Codex Contact Point (CCP).

Codex Contact Point (2)

The person responsible for the Codex programme has to have sufficient authority and time to dedicate to it.



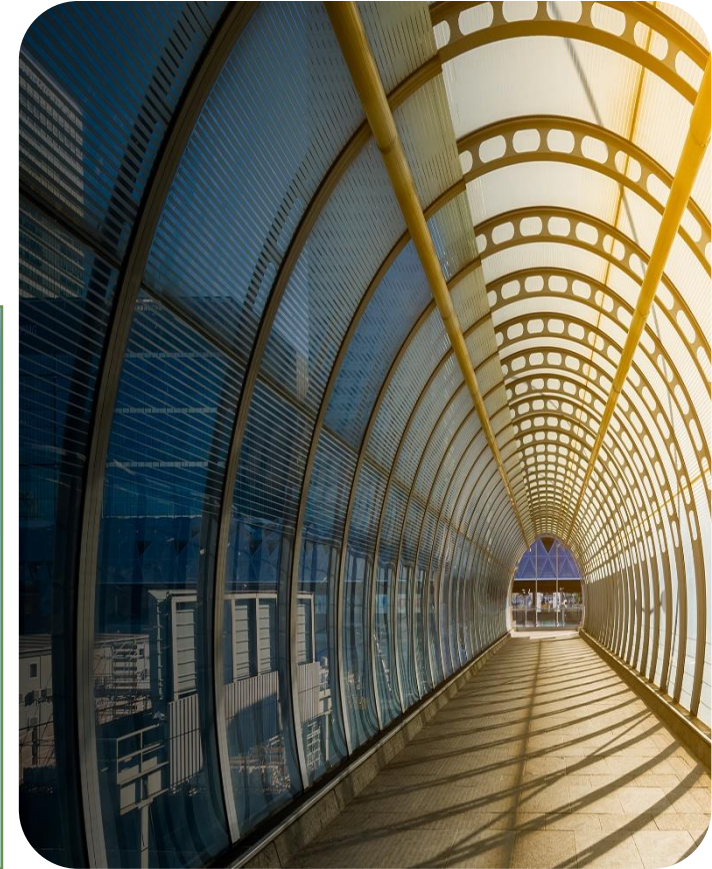
Ideally, the CCP should correspond to an administrative office or unit in the government.
The official responsible should be a professional officer, preferably with a background in food safety/food standard setting.

There should also be an administrative officer/personal assistant assigned to assist the responsible official.

Enabling the Codex Contact Point

It is essential that the CCP is equipped with :

- Communication Infrastructure intra-government and with stakeholders.
- Technical Capacity to analyse Codex texts and contribute effectively to Codex work: combination of internal and leveraged capacity.



CCP Location

When deciding about the location of the Codex Contact Point, the following criteria should be satisfied:

- Neutrality as far as possible with regard to all stakeholders involved in Codex work;
- Capability to perform the functions of the Codex Contact Point; and
- Accessibility to all parties interested and/or those involved in the activities of Codex.

The decision-making process should also be transparent.

The Codex Contact Point is primarily a **coordinator and focal point for Codex activities within the country.**

It is also the link between the country and the Codex Alimentarius Commission (and its Secretariat).

FAO, WHO, Partners

- FAO and WHO and their partners provide a variety of capacity-building activities to support countries that wish to harmonize their national standards with those of Codex.



Specific Technical Assistance



- The **Codex Trust Fund**, an FAO/WHO Fund to support delegates attendance at Codex meetings.

<http://www.who.int/foodsafety/codex/trustfund/en/>



- **Training tools and manual**

http://www.fao.org/ag/agn/food/capacity_codex_en.stm

Summary

- ✓ It is important for countries to actively participate in the work of Codex due to public health and economic benefits which result from such participation.
- ✓ It isn't necessary for a country to be involved in all the Commission's subsidiary bodies.
- ✓ The resources a country needs to expend on its Codex activities depends on the level of its involvement.
- ✓ The CCP has to have sufficient resources (including administrative and logistical support) in order to effectively carryout the required functions.
- ✓ The location of the CCP should be decided following the criteria of neutrality, capability, and accessibility.
- ✓ The decision to establish a national Codex programme should be taken collectively, with the consent of all stakeholders who will be involved in the implementation of the programme.
- ✓ FAO and WHO and their partners provide various capacity-building activities to support countries that want to be involved in Codex.



GFRSS | GLOBAL FOOD REGULATORY
SCIENCE SOCIETY

Extracted from FAO
Training Material