

Capsule 10

Once the

project document is prepared and the CAC (taking into account the advice of the CCEXEC) has agreed that new work should begin on a standard:

The CAC should agree **which Committee** is responsible for developing the standard and guiding it through the 5 to 8 step procedure.

An important stage occurs immediately after the project document is prepared, i.e. **a country or group of countries must prepare a first draft of the standard to be considered through the step process.**

SLIDE 2

The preparation and adoption of food standards and their publication in the Codex Alimentarius is one of the principal purposes of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

Procedures for preparing standards are well defined, open and transparent. The step process gives member countries an opportunity to comment on draft standards

Revisions to existing Codex texts follow the same step-wise process.

The normal elaboration process follows **eight distinct steps**, involving two rounds of comments by members.

A decision may be taken at step 5 to omit the second round of comments (steps 6 and 7).

Therefore to follow the accelerated with 5-Step Procedure with only one round of government comments.

The decision to opt for the accelerated procedure is made at the beginning of the process by the CAC, usually following a proposal from the relevant technical Committee.

This decision is based on the urgency of elaborating a Codex standard, and all appropriate matters shall be taken into consideration, including the likelihood of new scientific information becoming available in the immediate future.

Based on the same reasons, it may be decided at Step-5 of the normal 8-step procedure , to omit steps 6 and 7.

SLIDE 3

Let us review once again the step process of Codex Standard elaboration

Step 1 - The Commission, taking into account the advice of the CCEXEC, decides to elaborate (or revise) a standard and assigns the work to a committee.

A decision to elaborate a standard may also be taken by a committee, but is subject to endorsement by the Commission.

Step 2 – is the drafting step :The Secretariat arranges preparation of a proposed draft standard which generally gets drafted by an electronic working group.

Step 3 – Is a comment step : The proposed draft standard is sent to members and observers for comment.

Step 4 -is the step at which the committee in charge of the work meets to discuss the proposed draft

Step 5 -is the step at which the standard is considered ready for adoption as a draft standard. This happens at the recommendation of the committee and needs the endorsement of the commission .

Step 6 – is a comment step , The draft standard is sent to members and observers for comment , comments should only center on the areas where more discussion

by the committee may be required , these areas are identified in the draft standard in square brackets .

Step 7 - is the step at which the committee considers the comments received prior to a possible final adoption.

Step 8 - is the adoption step :The draft standard is submitted to the Commission through the Secretariat for adoption as a Codex standard

In some circumstances, steps may be repeated.

The committee (or the Commission) may decide that a specific issue needs to be discussed in more detail and may suggest that the draft standard be circulated again at the same step or at a previous step.

Slide 4

This is an overall review of the standard elaboration process .

We see that we get started as a result of a ^proposal from a committee which prepares and forwards a proposal in the form of a project document .

The second phase is the review by the executive committee through the critical review process .

One agreed that the standard is a go , the following phase is the elaboration phase , which is carried out by the committee following the step process .

Throughout the elaboration process , the standard is forwarded for consideration by the commission either as a draft standard at step 5 , or as a final standard for consideration of adoption by the commission at steps 8 or 5/8.

SLIDE 6

The progress of the standard in the step process should aim to obtain consensus on the proposed draft .

While every effort is made to advance standards in a timely manner through the relevant 8-step or 5-step procedure – it is important to note that **standards may be returned to an earlier step** , aiming for more discussion to support consensus

Slide 7

Codex texts aimed for inclusion in the Codex

Procedural manual e.g. risk analysis working principles – will also be developed through the step procedure.

- **However Amendments** to the rules of procedure: **usually do not go through the Codex step procedure**; and **do not require a project**

document , Proposed amendments are considered by the Codex Committee on General Principles, and recommendations for revision go from that committee to the Commission.