

# UPDATE ON CODEX

**Hilde Kruse, DVM, Ph.D.**  
**Senior Food Standards Officer,**  
**Codex Secretariat**

C O D E X   A L I M E N T A R I U S



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
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# What is the Codex Alimentarius?

The **Codex Alimentarius** or “Food Code” is a collection of **standards, guidelines and codes of practice** adopted by the **Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC)**

# Why the Codex Alimentarius?

The Codex food standards and related texts aim at:

- ✓ protecting **consumers' health** *and*
- ✓ ensuring **fair practices in the food trade**

- Established in 1963!
- Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme

# Codex Standards, Guidelines and Codes of practice

Shall be based on the principle of sound scientific analysis and evidence, involving a thorough review of all relevant information, in order that the standards assure the quality and safety of the food supply.

- **Standards**

- Prescriptive, what should be achieved; (e.g. Limit; MRLs etc.)

- **Guidelines**

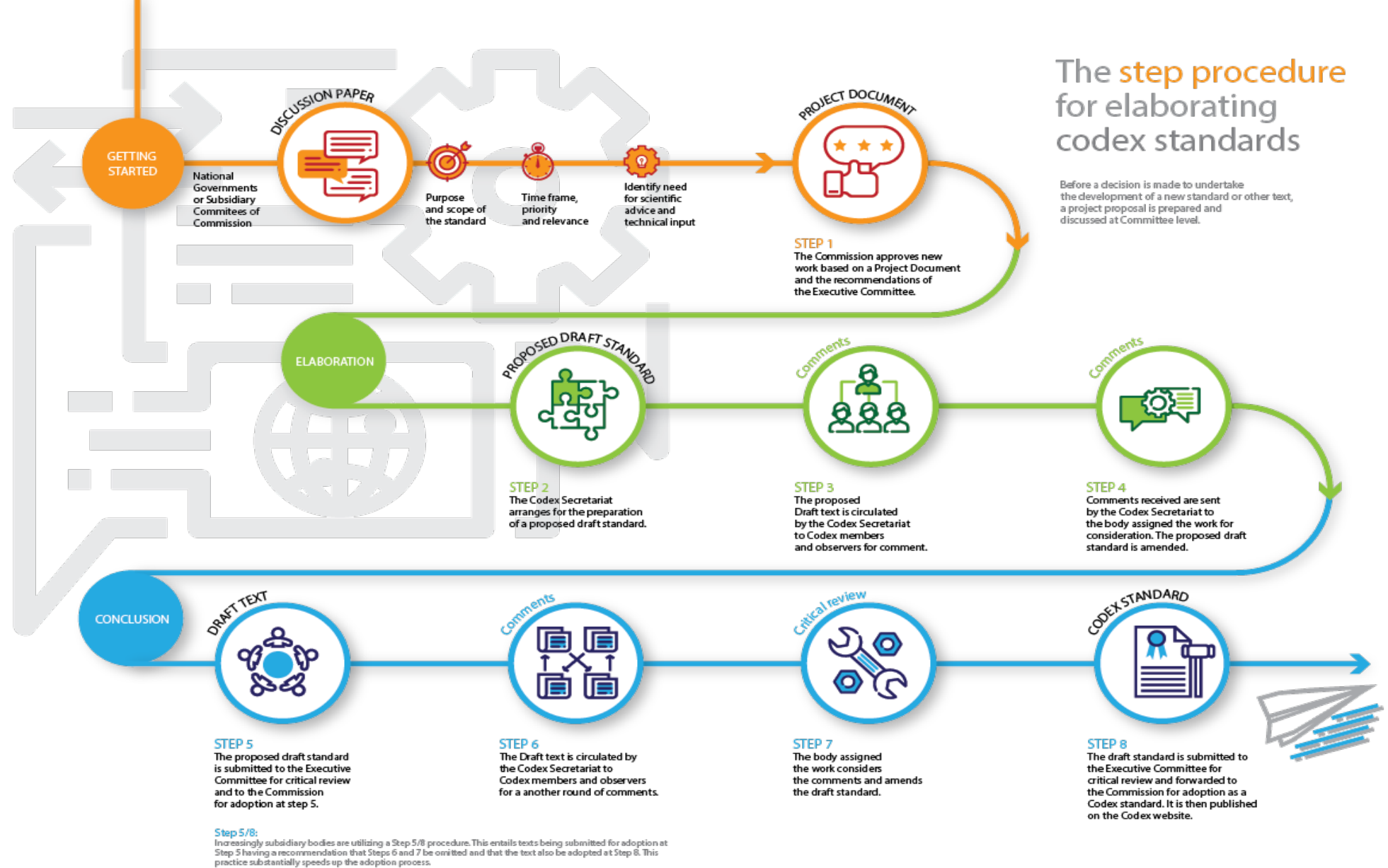
- Principles and guidance how to do something (e.g. Risk Analysis)

- **Codes of practice**

- Advice or procedures what to do to avoid an issue or minimize the risk

# Codex Standards, Guidelines and Codes of practice

- Are **not** a **substitute** for, or alternative to **national legislation**
- Are **voluntary in nature**
  - Need to be **translated** into national legislation or regulations in order to be enforceable
  - Every country's laws and administrative procedures contain provisions with which it is essential to comply
- Reference and benchmark in the **WTO SPS agreement**



# CODEx ALIMENTARIUS



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# Codex Commission

## 189 Codex Members

- **188** Member Countries
- **1** Member Organization (The European Union)

## 240 Codex Observers

- **60** Intergovernmental Organizations (IGOs)
- **164** Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)
- **16** other UN organizations

# Codex Commission

Involves more than 20 Committees hosted in different Nations:

- **Ten General Subject Committees**

- General Principles (France)
- Food Labelling (Canada)
- Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (Australia)
- Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods (USA)
- Food additives (China)
- Pesticide Residues (China)
- Contaminants in Foods (Netherlands)
- Food Hygiene (USA)
- Methods of Analysis and Sampling (Hungary)
- Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (Germany)

- **One Task force**

- Antimicrobial Resistance (Republic of Korea)

- **Four Commodity Committees**

- Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (Mexico)
- Fats and Oils (Malaysia)
- Fish and Fishery Products (Norway)
- Spices and Culinary Herbs (India)

- **Six Regional Coordinating Committees**

- Africa (Uganda)
- Asia (China)
- Europe (Kazakhstan)
- Latin America and the Caribbean (Ecuador)
- North America and South West Pacific (Fiji)
- Near East (Saudi Arabia)

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# Codex Contact Points

- Act as the link between the Codex Secretariat and Member countries
- Coordinate all relevant Codex activities within their own countries
  - Receive and circulate Codex texts and send comments on Codex documents
- Work in close cooperation with the national Codex committee
- Act as a channel for the exchange of information and coordination of activities with other Codex Members
- Receive the invitation to Codex sessions and inform the relevant chairpersons and the Codex Secretariat of the names of participants from their own countries
- Promote Codex activities throughout their own countries

# Codex 2020

- CCEXEC78 physically in Geneva in February 2020
- All technical Codex sessions postponed to 2021 due to the pandemic
  - Progress of work in EWGs including through virtual tools – zoom meetings , webinars
- CCEXEC79 successfully held virtually in July 2020
- CAC43 successfully held virtually in November 2020
  - Record in participation
  - Very effective
    - 22 new and revised Codex texts adopted
    - 6 Codex texts adopted at Step 5
    - 6 new work items approved

# Codex 2021 – a virtual year!

- **13 Sessions of Technical Committees**

- General Principles
- Spices and Culinary Herbs
- Contaminants in Foods
- Methods of Analysis and Sampling
- Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems
- Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods
- Pesticide Residues
- Food additives
- Food Labelling
- Antimicrobial Resistance
- Fish and Fishery Products - *working by correspondence*
- Fats and Oils
- Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses

- **Two Sessions of CCEXEC**

- 13-21 January
- 28 October-5 November

- **CAC44**

- 8-18 November

# Thank you for your attention !

[www.codexalimentarius.org](http://www.codexalimentarius.org)

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