



OIA20-0701

26 November 2020

T. Benseman
fyi-request-14057-0fa9f789@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear T. Benseman

Thank you for your email of 29 October 2020 in relation to the Codex Alimentarius. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

You requested the following information:

Please advise the scope of correspondence you have regarding Codex Alimentarius over the last 7 years, by amount per year.

As you have not requested any specific correspondence relating to Codex Alimentarius, but rather the scope of correspondence, the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) has decided to provide you with information regarding the scope of MPI's involvement in Codex Alimentarius and the broad categories of information we hold.

The Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) is the international food standards body established by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Health Organization in 1963. New Zealand has been a member of the organization since its formation and we participate across various Codex committees and subject areas of importance to New Zealand, taking into account our food safety and trade interests.

As lead agency for Codex in New Zealand, MPI is responsible for managing New Zealand's input into the work of the CAC. MPI has a clear policy document that sets out New Zealand's strategic objectives in Codex 2015-2020, which can be accessed on MPI's website at www.mpi.govt.nz/law-and-policy/legal-overviews/food-safety/codex/.

The Codex committees which NZ is actively engaged in include:

- Codex Committee Contaminants in Food
- Codex Committee Food Additives
- Codex Committee Fish & Fish Products
- Codex Committee Fresh Fruit and Vegetables
- Codex Committee Food Hygiene
- Codex Committee Food Import and Export Certificate Systems
- Codex Committee Food Labelling
- Codex Committee General Principles
- Codex Committee Methods of Analysis and Sampling
- Codex Committee Milk and Milk Products (NZ is host country but currently adjourned)
- Codex Committee on Meat Hygiene (NZ host country but currently adjourned)
- Codex Committee Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Use
- Codex Committee Pesticide Residues

- Codex Committee Residues Veterinary Drugs and Food
- Ad Hoc Task Force Animal Feed
- Codex Committee on Fats & Oils
- Codex Alimentarius Commission
- Coordinating Committee for North American & South West Pacific

MPI has a well-defined consultation process on Codex matters, that includes opportunities for all interested parties to provide comments on draft standards under discussion in various Codex committees. In addition, and as required, MPI convenes preparatory meetings to discuss the agenda of specific Codex committees to seek the views of stakeholders on items under consideration. These processes are used to develop and draft New Zealand briefing papers. These documents may be shared with interested parties.

Further information regarding Codex Alimentarius, including meeting documents, agenda papers and reports, are published by the FAO/WHO Codex Secretariat. These can be accessed on their website at: www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/en/.

In addition to the above, MPI has a generic email account (CodexNZ@mpi.govt.nz) to facilitate internal and external communication on Codex related matters. Such communication ranges from notices about upcoming meetings, links to draft documents and agenda papers, stakeholder newsletters, and responding to internal and external queries relating to Codex.

I trust the information provided is of assistance. Should you have any concerns with this response, I would encourage you to raise these with the Ministry for Primary Industries at Official.InformationAct@mpi.govt.nz. Alternatively, you are advised of your right to also raise any concerns with the Office of the Ombudsman. Contact details are: Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143 or at info@ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Yours sincerely



Philip Houlding
Director International Policy