

## CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD IMPORT & EXPORT INSPECTION & CERTIFICATION SYSTEMS

### Invitation to participate in the electronic working group to revise the Guidelines for Design, Production, Issuance and Use of Generic Official Certificates (CAC/GL 38-2001)

Dear Codex Members and Observers

At its 23<sup>rd</sup> Session, the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS) agreed to establish an electronic working group (EWG), chaired by the Netherlands and Co-chaired by Australia, working in English, to revise Guidelines for Design, Production, Issuance and Use of Generic Official Certificates (CAC/GL 38-2001) and to prepare for circulation for comments and consideration at its next Session.

The Committee agreed that the work of the EWG should focus on including in CAC/GL 38-2001 guidance on the paperless use of electronic certificates by defining fundamental concepts supporting this and take into account activities in this field of relevant international organisations.

Codex Members and Observers are invited to register their experts for this EWG. When there is more than one expert, each country shall designate one as the official representative to participate in the EWG. Applications should be sent through by the Codex Contact Point of the member or recognized observer organization in an email detailing the participants name, organization or country and email addressed to Codex Contact Point of the Netherlands, [info@CodexAlimentarius.nl](mailto:info@CodexAlimentarius.nl) with a copy to [codex.contact@agriculture.gov.au](mailto:codex.contact@agriculture.gov.au) before **1 August 2017**.

#### Timetable for Work Program

Proposed timeline	Activity
July 2017	Registration of participants
September–October 2017	Identification of the scope of the revision of CAC/GL 38-2001 for paperless use of electronic certificates
November 2017	Round of comments
December 2017 - January 2018	Identification of the level of guidance in CAC/GL 38-2001 on requirements for exchange mechanisms, data mapping and legal and regulatory changes
February 2018	Round of comments
March – April 2018	Drafting of the guidance for paperless use of electronic certificates in CAC/GL 38-2001
May 2018	Round of comments
June 2018	Preparing Agenda paper
July 2018	Final paper submitted to the Codex Secretariat

As part of a pilot programme, the EWG will continue to run over an online platform under a new group 'CCFICS-PUCE'. With this system we hope to achieve a better flow of information, greater security and increased transparency. The EWG platform will require members to login. New participants to the platform will be provided with the link once their credentials have been verified by the working group leaders. Those participants who have previously registered on the platform will be provided with the EWG name so they can request to join.

Australia and the Netherlands