How Might APEC Countries Utilize the CCFICS Generic Model Official Certificate

H. Michael Wehr, Ph.D.
Senior Advisor for International Affairs
and Codex Manager
Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition
OBJECTIVES

• Bring Together Findings from Roundtable Presentations and Discussion

• Discuss How the Codex Generic Model Certificate Can Help in Official Food Export Certificate Programs
What Have We Learned Regarding?

- Selecting the Appropriate Usage of Export Certificates
- When (Why) Countries Require Export Certificates
- What Information Should be Considered in Requiring an Export Certificate
What Have We Learned?

In Regards to Selecting the Appropriate Usage of Export Certificates
What Have We Learned?

In Regards to When Countries Require Export Certificates
What Have We Learned?
In Regards to What Information Should be Considered in Requiring an Export Certificate
How Does This Match Up with the Codex Guidance on Official Certificates?
Codex Certificate Guidance -Principles

A. Official Certificates should be required only where attestations are essential to ensure that food safety and/or fair practices in trade requirements are met.

B. Exporting countries may provide assurances through means other than consignment-by-consignment certificates, as appropriate.

C. Attestations and information required by the importing country should be confined to essential information that is related to the objectives of the importing country’s food inspection and certification system.

D. The rational and requirements for specific attestations and identifying information should be communicated to exporting countries in a consistent and transparent manner and be applied by the importing country in a non-discriminatory manner.
E. Official certificates, regardless of their mode of transmission and their contents, should present information in a form that simplifies and expedites the clearance process while meeting the importing country’s requirements.

F. The competent authority of the exporting country is ultimately responsible for any certificate it issues or authorizes to be issued.

G. All relevant attestations and identifying information required by the importing country should be included on a single official certificate, where possible, to avoid multiple or redundant certificates.

H. Competent authorities should take appropriate action to prevent the use of fraudulent certificates and should assist, as appropriate, in the timely investigation of such use.
Codex Certificate Guidance –Certificate Elements

• Basic Competent Authority Information
  – Country, Name of CA, Cert. #, Certifying Body, Certifying Officer

• Import/Export Information

• Product Information
  – Identification of Product, Nature of food, Intended purpose (end use), Packaging Information, Quantity information

• Attestation Information
Is what we have learned about how countries actually use export certificates a good match with Codex guidance?
How can your country use the Codex Official Certificate?

• Can it simplify and/or improve existing official certificates that you use?
• Can it replace existing official certificates that you use?
• Can it reduce the number of official certificates that you require?
Is there more work on official certificates that CCFICS should consider?

• Work on attestations?
• Other?