

# The Codex Milk Committee – what it's done and where to next

**UK-IDF OPEN DAY**  
**29<sup>th</sup> June 2010**

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# What I will talk about

- What is Codex and why is it important?
- The work done by the Codex Milk Committee
- How the work has been applied commercially
- What follows the Milk Committee

# What is Codex?

Full title: Codex Alimentarius

FAO/WHO

Key part of the World Trade Organisation (WTO)'s Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Agreement and its Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Agreement, both intended to facilitate international trade.

Any country which prevents the import of products meeting the relevant Codex Standard can be challenged through the WTO's dispute procedure.

# The Work done by the Codex Milk Committee

- In the period 1990 to 2010 all Codex Standards for Milk and Milk Products have been revised and updated.
- The new standards are available at [http://www.codexalimentarius.net/web/index\\_en.jsp](http://www.codexalimentarius.net/web/index_en.jsp).
- Delegates to Codex Meetings are Governments (for the UK now the FSA).
- IDF has actively participated as an Observer.

# Some of the Revised Standards(1)

Underpinning all the dairy standards is the General Standard for Use of Dairy Terms which defines milk, milk product, and composite milk product, with the latter definition stating that the milk constituent must be an essential part in terms of quantity in the final product and that the constituents not derived from milk must not take the place in part, or in whole, of any milk constituent.

# Some of the Revised Standards(2)

- Cheese
- Unripened cheese
- Cream cheese
- Whey cheese
- Cottage cheese
- Named variety cheeses including Cheddar, Brie, Camembert, Mozzarella, Edam and Gouda.

# Some of the Revised Standards(3)

- Milk Powder
- Sweetened Condensed Milks
- Evaporated Milks

# Some of the Revised Standards(4)

- Butter
- Dairy Fat Spreads
- Cream
- Yogurt and fermented milks

# Some Commercial applications

- Definition of a milk product
- Protein Standardisation of milk powder, evaporated and condensed milks
- Definition of cheese
- Definition of reduced fat cheddar
- Definition of yogurt
- One failure: Processed cheese

# What follows the Milk Committee

- Processed cheese: A UK Code of Practice
- The Codex Committee on Additives
- The Codex Food Labelling Committee
- The Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling

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