Australian Government

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Codex Alimentarius Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems

Developing guidance on the use of remote audit and verification in regulatory frameworks
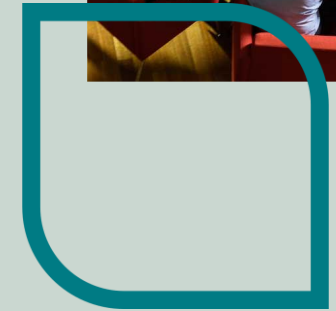
Dr Glen Edmunds

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Australian Government

Department of Agriculture,
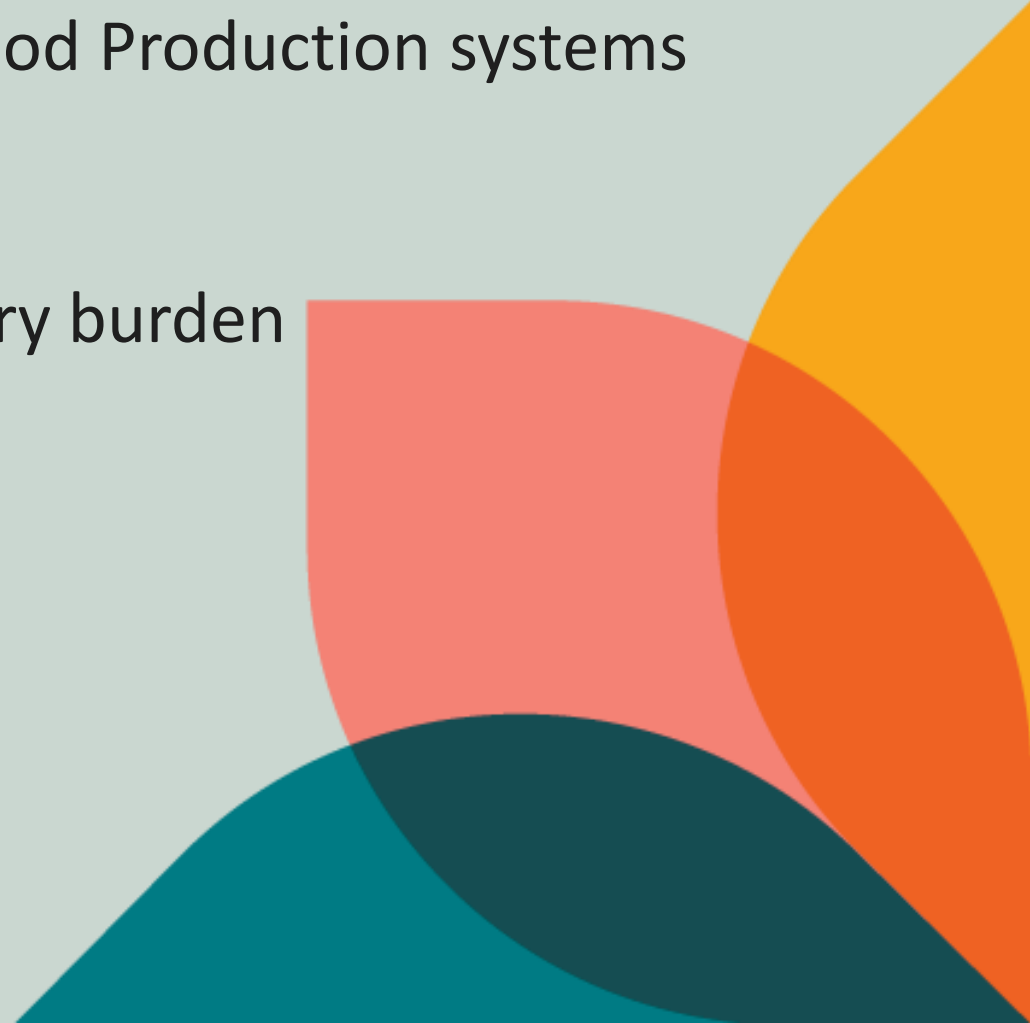Fisheries and Forestry

Presentation overview

- History

- COVID 19

- Pathway

- Opportunity

History

Why remote inspection and auditing?

- Opportunity to increase confidence in Food Production systems
  - Domestic
  - International
- Improve trade through reduced regulatory burden
- A response to a challenge

COVID 19

Impacts

- Within country

- Outside country

- Availability of products:
  - Food
  - Ingredients
  - Medicines
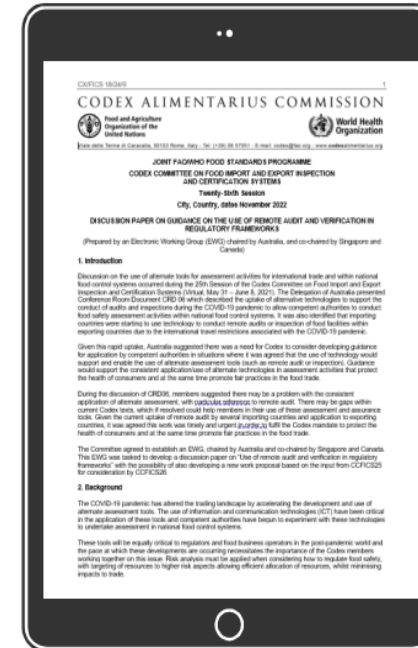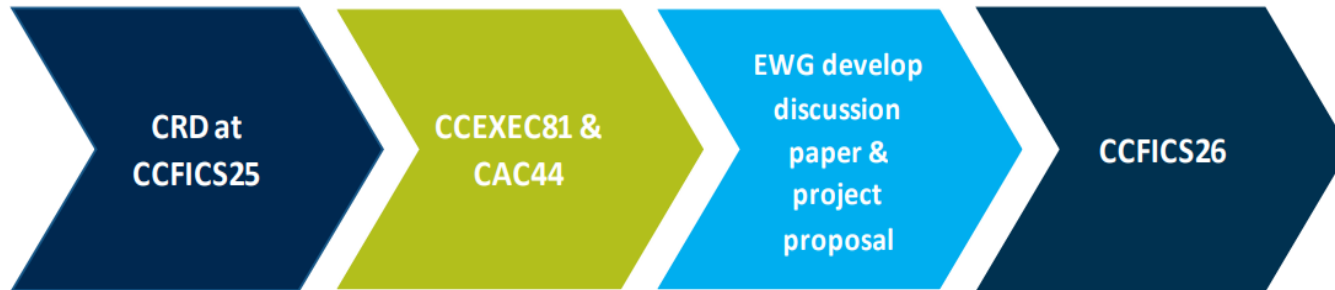 - Animals
  - Workers
  - Border control

The need for guidance

- ❖ Post pandemic complementary tool to existing measures

- ❖ Harmonisation and consistent use of new technologies in assessment activities

- ❖ Complement existing Codex Texts

- ❖ Establish a shared understanding on use of remote audits

- ❖ Support Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025

What has been the process so far?

Considerations in guidance development

1. **Change of Name**

2. **Key Codex Documents**

a. *Principles and guidelines for national governments for National Food Control System (NFCS) (CXG 82-2013);*

b. *Principles and guidelines for monitoring the performance of National Food Control Systems (NFCS) (CXG 91-2017);*

c. *Principles and Guidelines for the Exchange of Information between Importing and Exporting Countries to support the trade in food (CXG 89-2016); and*

d. *Guidelines for the design, operation, assessment and accreditation of food import and export inspection and certification systems (CXG 26-1997), and especially the Annex on Principles and guidelines for the conduct of assessments of foreign official inspection and certification systems.*

3. Definitions

Remote Audit or Inspection: The auditor(s) or inspector(s) are ~~is~~ not physically present at the site to be audited or ~~i~~inspected.

Examples of remote audits

a. Live video-streaming

b. Pre-recorded video

c. Off-site desktop review of documentation:

d. Remote collection of measurement information:

e. Virtual interview

Principles

Principle 1: Remote audit and inspection activities complement and, in some cases, can replace physical audits or inspections

Principle 2: Remote audit and inspection activities should be aligned with physical audits and inspections activity best practises

Principle 3: Risk-based approach should be used when deciding upon a risk-based audit or inspection

Principle 4: Remote audit and inspection activities-should be planned and conducted in a cooperative manner

Principle 5: Protection of confidential information

Guidance

Roles and Responsibilities
- Competent Authorities/Auditors
- Auditees

Planning
- Timing
- Qualifications
- Technology

Implementation
- Protection of information
- Feedback
- Health and Safety

Questions ?