

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

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**Working Party on the
Accession of Chinese Taipei**

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ACCESSION OF CHINESE TAIPEI

Communication from Chinese Taipei

The following communication concerning the adoption of Codex standards has been received from the Representation of the Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu with the request that it be circulated to Working Party members.

Adoption of Codex Standards
in the Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen, and Matsu

The sanitary requirements for either imported or domestically-produced food products in Chinese Taipei are pursuant to the Law Governing Food Sanitation administrated by the Department of Health (DOH). In setting food sanitation standards, Chinese Taipei always takes Codex standards into account and adopts those Codex standards to allow appropriate level of protection except there is scientific justification for modification.

The issue of “Monitoring the Use of International Standards” has been continuously discussed in the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures since 1995. It is understood that the nature of this issue is complicated and Members questioned the need to establish a list of all international standards and to monitor their use and non-use. Members also concluded that the monitoring of international harmonization should seek to identify areas where the absence of an international standard or where the existing standard is inappropriate. Chinese Taipei would like to take the maximum residue limits (MRLs) of pesticides in foods as a practical example to explain how Chinese Taipei utilises the Codex standards.

Both pesticides MRLs for crops and meat were promulgated by DOH to regulate the pesticides residues in foods. For crop products, there is a complete system of basic research and risk assessment to support the set-up of appropriate standards. The acceptable daily intake (ADI) of a pesticide established by Codex is adopted first, and the residue data obtained from field trials in accordance with registered uses under good agricultural practices (GAP) are used for calculation. Further, the exposure characteristics such as dietary pattern and pest control for local circumstances are considered to obtain conclusions about the acceptance of the Codex MRLs. Using the same principles and practices, Chinese Taipei also establishes other standards based on scientific justification for those pesticides without Codex MRLs on crops.

If there is a need raised by exporting country to set up new MRLs to facilitate its crops importing into Chinese Taipei, a request for revision of the MRLs can be filed together with the necessary information for review. In response to such request, the DOH will fully take into account all the information provided including the GAP of exporting countries in the use of particular pesticides. If the MRLs are revised after such review, the revised MRLs will be equally applied to both domestic and imported products.

On the other hand, the basic research of pesticides residues in meat products is being developed according to the model set for crop products. Before scientific evidence is available for standards set-up, the Codex MRLs for meat products are adopted for current application without further modification.

DOH has been in the process of actively collecting relevant international information, reviewing current laws and regulations, promoting more effective measures, and intensifying basic research and risk assessments. To enhance the transparency of food sanitation measures, the information on food sanitation regulations is always available to the public in the form of brochures. It can also be accessed at the web site of DOH (<http://www.doh.gov.tw>). Chinese Taipei has established its enquiry point of SPS-WTO at the Council of Agriculture and the relevant information is as follows:

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Food and Agriculture Department
Council of Agriculture, Executive Yuan
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In addition, as the standards for food sanitation involves specialized technical issues, the DOH has also designated the following address for contact by Members on the specific issues of food sanitation:

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