

21/04/2023

**Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification  
Systems (26<sup>th</sup> Session)**

**Hobart, 1-5 May 2023**

**European Union comments on**

**Agenda Item 7**

**Proposed draft Principles and Guidelines on the Use of Remote Audit and  
Verification in Regulatory Frameworks**

**(CX/FICS/ 23/26/7 and CL 2023/12/OCS-FICS)**

***Mixed Competence  
European Union Vote***

The European Union and its Member States (EUMS) would like to thank Australia, Singapore, Canada and China for leading the work on remote audits and inspections.

The EUMS support the proposed draft Principles and Guidelines on the Use of Remote Audit and Inspection in Regulatory Frameworks as presented in Appendix 1 of CX/FICS 23/26/7 with the following comments.

Modify **paragraph 10** as follows:

“Relevant processes for conducting a physical audit or inspection will similarly apply to the remote process, such as **a timely** notification of the need for an activity...”

*Rational:* the period of notification before a remote audit or inspection should allow sufficient time for the auditee to prepare.

Add the following sentence at the end of **paragraph 13**:

“When such conditions cannot be guaranteed, the auditee may require a physical audit or inspection.”

*Rational:* the guidelines should allow the possibility to require a physical audit or inspection when the security and protection of data cannot be guaranteed.