



Proposed Revised Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) Resolution

1. Introduction

As noted in Circular CCSBT Circular #2019/039, the primary goal of the initial TCWG meeting is to work towards resolving outstanding matters in the draft revised Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) Resolution.

The CDS Resolution was originally drafted to operate as a paper-based scheme and has been under review since 2015. The focus of this review has been to improve the efficiency of the existing CDS, remove any deficiencies, and introduce changes to facilitate the smoother implementation of an electronic CDS (eCDS) should Members wish to progress one in future.

2. Background

The CDS review process commenced at the Tenth meeting of the Compliance Committee (CC10) in 2015. At CC10 the Secretariat presented a draft revised CCSBT CDS Resolution. This was followed by a CDS workshop at CCWG4 in April 2016. In October 2016, CC11 made further revisions to the draft revised Resolution text including to Appendix 2¹. CC11 agreed that any outstanding issues could continue to be addressed intersessionally. However, no further progress was subsequently made on the outstanding issues at CC12 (2017), although a small section of new unagreed (and square-bracketed) text was proposed and added as paragraph 6.6.bis by the Secretariat to try to assist Korea with its difficulties regarding validation of landed catch. No further updates to the draft were made at CC13 (2018).

3. Remaining Unresolved Issues

As advised in Circular #2019/039, key items that remain unresolved are:

1. Validation of forms: In particular, whether the delegation of validation permitted by the current CDS should continue into the revised CDS, and how to validate landed weights for exports that are landed directly into a foreign territory without being first landed domestically.
2. Farm Stocking Certificates (FSCs)/Catch Harvest and Export Certificates (CHECs): There is currently debate regarding whether the FSC should remain as a separate certificate, whether it should be attached to relevant Catch Harvest and Export Certificates (CHECs) and Export Certificates (ExCs), or whether it should be incorporated as part of the CHEC. In the current draft Resolution, the FSC is a separate Certificate.

¹ Minimum Procedural and Information Standards for CCSBT Member and Cooperating Non-Member (CNM) Tagging Programmes

- Catch Tagging Certificates (CTFs) and Farm Transfer Certificates (FTCs): There is debate regarding whether CTFs and FTCs should be attached to relevant CHECs/ ExCs.

There are also a variety of technical matters regarding the revised CDS that need to be discussed and further clarified. These include:

- Acceptable discrepancy levels between landed and estimated weights of SBT on a CHEC;
- Whether the requirement to attach only one preceding CHEC or ExC to each ExC² can be made practical or whether this requirement should be reconsidered (*e.g.* removing the requirement or providing a time-limited exemption);
- Whether product described as “head” should be considered as “meat” and need to be accompanied by CDS documentation;
- The current definition of “Landing of Domestic Product”; and
- The EU’s request that consideration be given to developing a simplified set of CDS requirements for Members that have very low SBT catches.

The Secretariat is not aware of any intersessional discussions that have occurred since CC13 to try to resolve these items.

Table 1 below details the current status of each element of the Draft Revised CDS Resolution.

Table 1. Current Status of the Draft Revised CDS Resolution

Revised CDS Resolution	Status	
Main Resolution Text	Not agreed: - Square-bracketed and yellow-highlighted text from CC11, CC12 and CC13 (paragraph 6.6 bis added by the Secretariat at CC12 to try to assist Korea with its validation difficulties) - A grey-highlighted revised (tracked) definition of Landing of Domestic Product proposed by the Secretariat in 2019.	
Appendix 1 (Certificates)	Certificate	Instructions
FSC	Not agreed	Not agreed
FTC	✓ Agreed	✓ Agreed
CHEC	Not agreed	Not yet drafted – awaits finalisation of the CHEC design
ExC	Not agreed	Not agreed
CTC	✓ Agreed	Not agreed – awaits CHEC finalisation
Appendix 2 (Tagging programme)	✓ Agreed	
Appendix 3 (Executive Secretary’s 6/12 monthly CDS reports)	Not agreed: Not reviewed by CCWG4 or CC11/12/13 and therefore remains unchanged from when it was initially presented to CCWG4	

² Limiting the number of possible Preceding Certificates to one would facilitate detection of any over-utilisation of CDS documents.

Attachment A provides the current draft of the revised CDS Resolution text including the unresolved items, which are highlighted and square-bracketed.

Note the following:

- All tracking that was previously square-bracketed in the main Resolution text and Appendix 1 has now been accepted but is retained as square-bracketed text and highlighted in yellow.
- The only remaining tracking within the main Resolution Text and Appendix 1 pertains to revisions that the Secretariat has proposed since CC13. These are:
 - Revisions to footnote 1 of the CDS Resolution - highlighted in grey. There is a proposed change to the definition of Landing of Domestic Product which is discussed in more detail in paper CCSBT-TCWG/1910/06 (Attachment A – Proposal 1). Proposals 2 and 3 of paper CCSBT-TCWG/1910/06 are already catered for within the current draft revised CDS; and
 - A minor editorial revision – addition of the word “by” to the Export Certificate instructions. When the Secretariat accepted the tracked changes within the square-bracketed text of the ExC instructions it was apparent that the word “by” should have been retained, therefore the Secretariat has proposed adding it back in as a minor editorial correction.

4. Electronic CDS (eCDS)

CC12 noted there was general agreement that the CCSBT should be moving towards an eCDS, but that issues such as costs and administrative burdens needed to be minimised.

Since 2018 the Secretariat has been using TUFMAN 2 as the foundation for its database upgrade work. TUFMAN 2 has the benefit that it will support the development of online data systems, including an eCDS. An additional benefit of TUFMAN 2 is that the estimated costs for developing an eCDS on this new platform for either the draft new CDS or the current CDS appear to be quite low and manageable compared to past estimates. The Secretariat has estimated that the costs involved should be approximately AUD \$120,000 plus GST or AUD \$150,000 plus GST respectively - refer to paper CCSBT-TCWG/1910/05 for more detailed information.

The opportunity to move to an eCDS at a lower cost than previously envisaged should be considered by Members when reviewing the current draft CDS. An eCDS could potentially provide more innovative electronic solutions to assist with the resolution of some of the remaining issues than are available in a purely paper-based system. For example, government approval (via a mobile application) of CDS documents validated by a delegated authority may be one potential way of resolving existing validation issues. Similarly, an eCDS may enable faster validation of landed weights of exports that are landed directly into a foreign territory without being first landed domestically.

5. Recommendation

It is recommended that the TCWG:

- Discuss and recommend a draft revised CDS Resolution to the Compliance Committee based on the current draft revised version provided at **Attachment A**, taking into consideration that the associated development of an eCDS could potentially assist by providing new solutions to resolve existing outstanding issues.

Prepared by the Secretariat