

## **How international Agencies can affect you as an individual via the legal entanglements of Trade Agreements under the World Trade Organization**

The order of the "Chain of Command and Control":

**UN**–Food and Ag Organization of the UN (**FAO**) in conjunction with **WHO**–World Health Organization

World Trade Organization–(**WTO**)– the hammer on trade for the individual nations

The effective "Agencies" of the **WTO**:

**Codex Alimentarius**–(**Codex**)covers all feed and food as well as supplements, truly everything that is ingestible and medications. Kind of like the Global FDA.

**World Animal Health Organization (OIE)**–Covers all animal health issues. Akin to the Global USDA for animal issues.

**International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)**–Covers all issues of plants and plant products. The Global USDA for plant life.

**International Standards Organization (ISO)**–Design technical standards for virtually everything. Film, paper, radio frequency id, farm buildings and bolt sizes...and most recently , management standards including ISO–8000–9000–14000 and 22000 for traceability. These are standards of production, ie. management standards to help with certification and auditing. Importantly, the ISO is not charged with enforcing any aspect of the WTO agreements, they simply design the management standards that serve as the grease to slide everyone into the programs under the WTO.

**The above agencies are given authority to set guidelines and standards and protocols for WTO member countries' 'competent authority' to harmonize with and implement. In the case of the United States, all agencies work together for implementation via Special Form 424–F. All things affecting your food come through the USDA, FDA, EPA and HHS.**

**Keywords** that let you know you are dealing with these globalization agreements:

harmonize, standardize, sustainable, stakeholder, risk analysis, risk management, HACCP, traceability, farm to fork, best management practices, public private partnership, public private industry partnership, good manufacturing practices, good agricultural practices, good farming practices, precautionary principle, equivalency, auditing, certification, food safety, food sovereignty, emerging economy, developing nations, process verified, competent authority, equilateral, multi-lateral, bi-lateral.

**WTO** agreements that are pertinent in all food related import and export initiatives:

**SPS**- Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary, fancy for Plant and Animal health.

**TBT**- Technical Barriers to Trade: a developed country may not require something of a lesser developed country that may be too difficult for that lesser developed country as a potential barrier to trading with that lesser developed country.

**Equivalency**- The 'competent authority' of a nation should declare measures of desirous trading partners as equivalent if they are close to meeting the legal requirements of the more developed nation.

Common law versus Napoleonic Code: Common law holds that what is not expressly forbidden is permitted. Napoleonic Code holds that what is not expressly permitted is forbidden. Codex is Napoleonic code.

A very good start for documents to give you a solid education on the plans for you and your food:

[http://www.fao.org/prods/gap/resources/keydocuments\\_en.htm](http://www.fao.org/prods/gap/resources/keydocuments_en.htm)

Hope this was helpful for your understanding! Doreen Hannes  
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