

History of the **International Commission on Microbiological Specifications for Food (ICMSF)**

Martin B. Cole, Ph.D.

Science Director CSIRO Agriculture and Food

ICMSF Chairman since 2000



ICMSF and its Food Safety World audiences



books, position papers,
advice to governments, Codex, FAO WHO

Annually meeting as a working party since 1962, 50 meetings in 28 countries



Raison d'être Statement

Be a leading source for independent and impartial scientific concepts, that when adopted by governmental agencies and industry, will reduce the incidence of microbiological food-borne illness and food spoilage worldwide and facilitate global trade.

About the ICMSF

- 19 food microbiologists from 17 different countries
- Broad professional background
- Selected on technical expertise, not as national delegates
- Use of extensive network of consultants/experts
- All work is voluntary and without honoraria
- The recommendations have no official status

Publications & Position Papers

International Journal of Food Microbiology, 4 (1987) 227–247

Elsevier

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Available online at www.sciencedirect.com

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Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Food Control

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/foodcont

Relating microbiological criteria to food safety objectives and performance objectives

M. van Schothorst^a, M.H. Zwietering^{b,*}, T. Ross^c, R.L. Buchanan^d, M.B. Cole^e,
International Commission on Microbiological Specifications for Foods (ICMSF)

^aChemin du Grammont 20, La Tour-de-Peilz, CH-1814, Switzerland

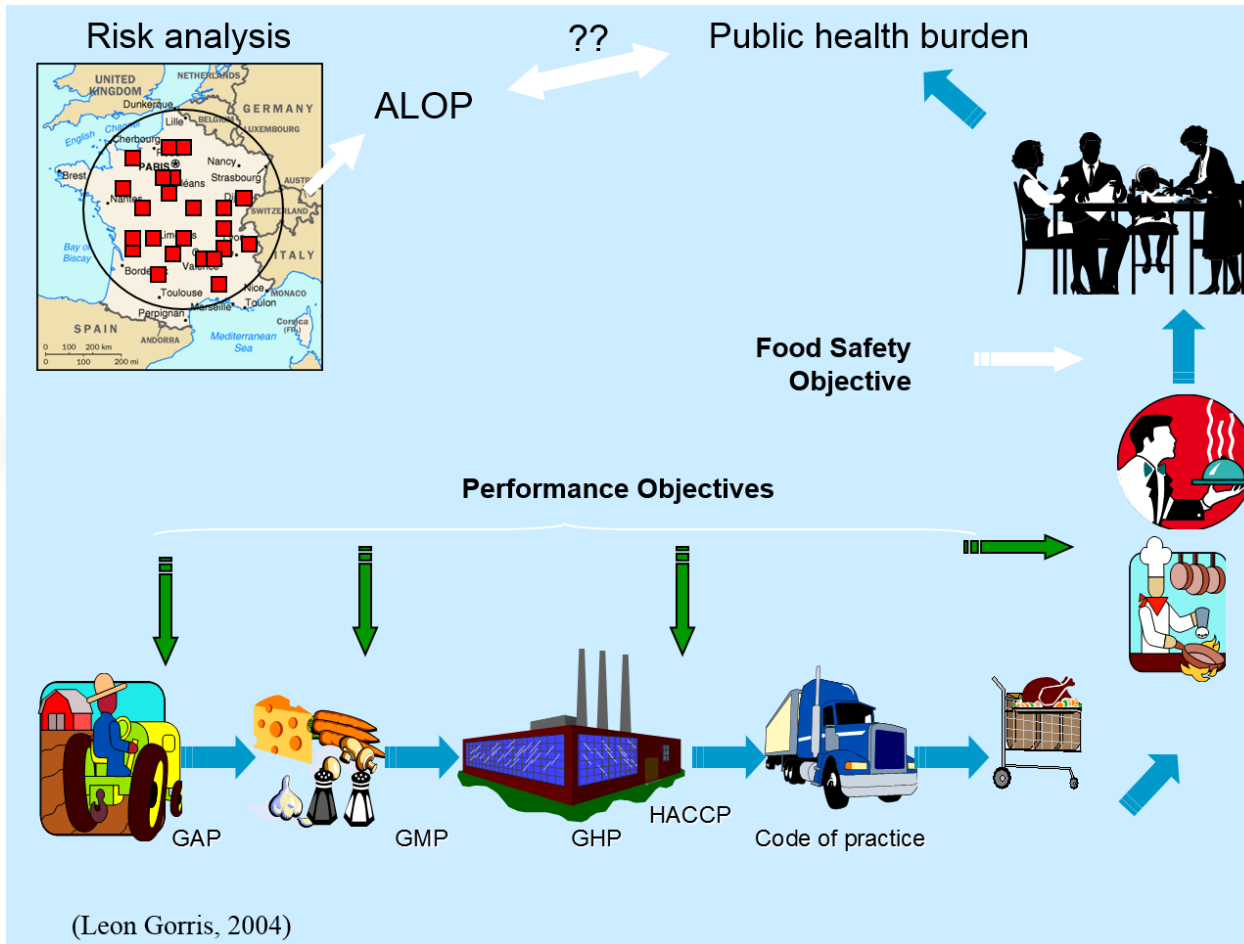
^bLaboratory of Food Microbiology, Wageningen University, 6700 EV Wageningen, The Netherlands

^cTasmanian Institute of Agricultural Research, School of Agricultural Science, University of Tasmania, Hobart, Tasmania 7001, Australia

^dCenter for Food Systems Safety and Security, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742, USA

^eNational Center for Food Safety and Technology (NCFST), Illinois Institute of Technology, 6502 S. Archer Road, Summit-Argo, IL 60501, USA

Evolution of Food Safety Management



**2000s-2010s
Risk Management**

Evolution of Food Safety Management



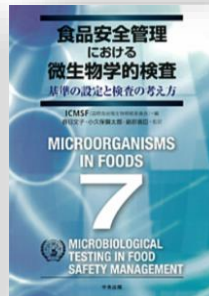
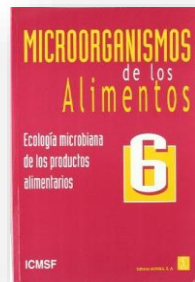
1960s – 1980s
Methods and Testing

1980s-2000s
Microbial Ecology
HACCP

2000s-2020s
Risk Management

Sub-Commissions & Working groups

Translate and Communicate ICMSF Principles

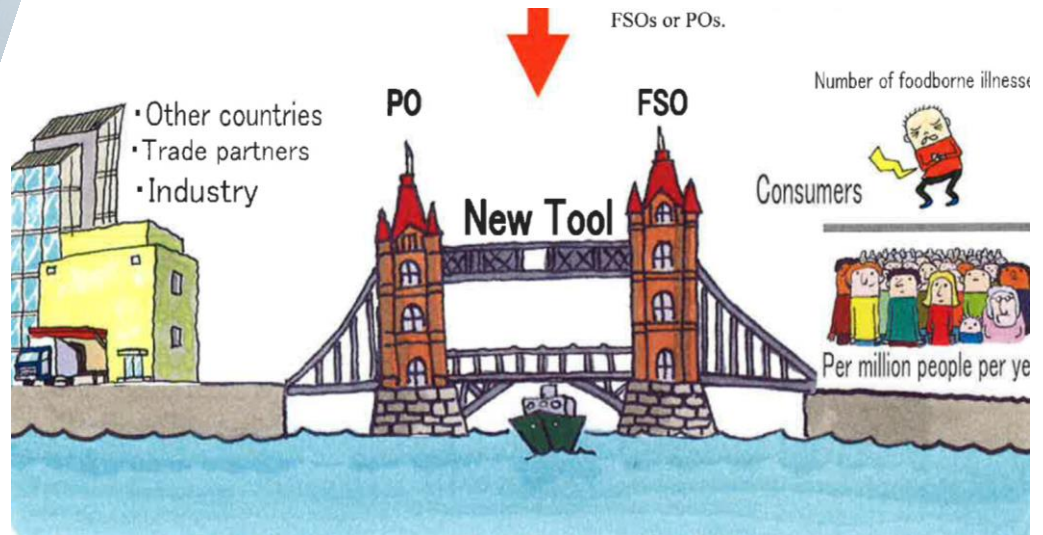
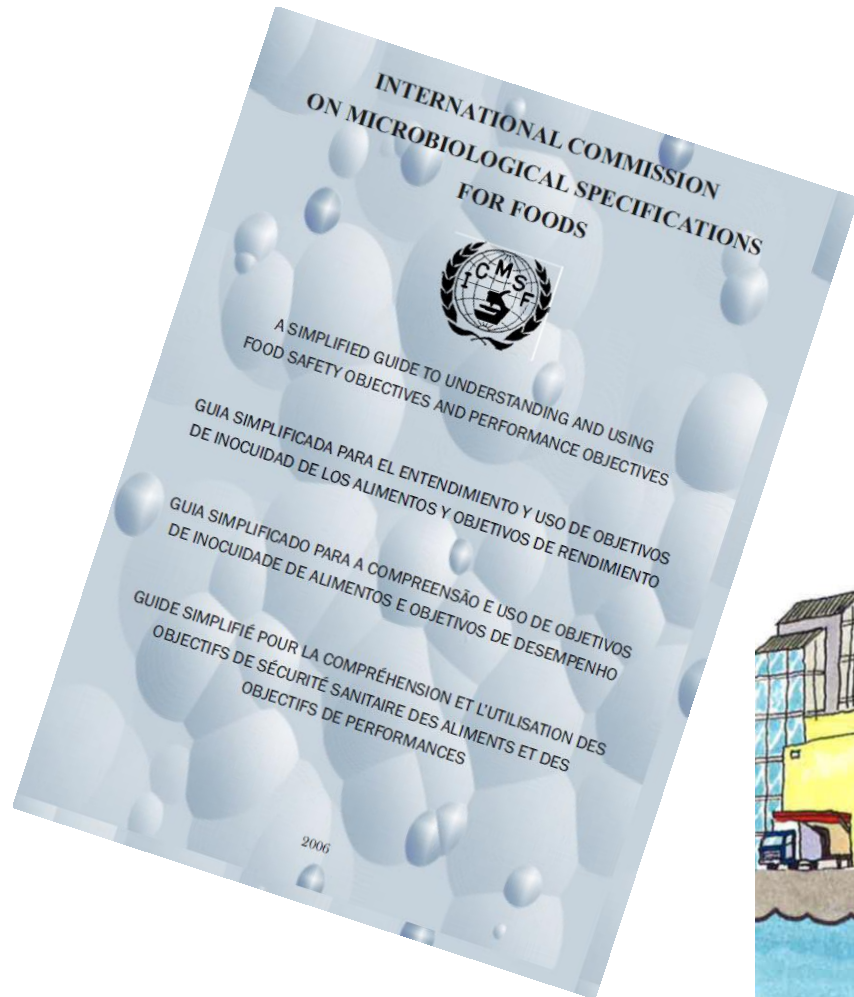


Portuguese
&
Spanish

Japanese

Chinese

Layman Guides and Cartoons



Panels and Workshops





2017

Conclusions

For more
information, see
www.icmsf.org



- Long History of important contributions to the management of food safety and spoilage for foods in international trade.
- Advances in risk management have come full circle and now allow sampling and testing to be more risk based
- Looking ahead it is important that food safety is an enabler of global food security not a barrier