



Codex News – February 7, 2024

Upcoming Committee Meetings

Codex Committee on Fats and Oils (CCFO)

The 28th Session of Codex Committee on Fats and Oils (CCFO28) will meet in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from February 19-23, 2024. The report adoption will take place on the last day of the session. The session and side events will be webcasted in listening mode in English, French and Spanish. The provisional agenda and other documents related to the 28th Session of CCFO are available at the following link: <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CCFO&session=28>. For additional information, please contact Doreen Chen-Moulec (doreen.chenmoulec@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office.

Codex Committee on Contaminants (CCCF)

The 17th Session of the Codex Committee on Contaminants (CCCF17) will meet in Panama City, Panama from April 15-19, 2024. The report adoption will take place on the last day of the session. The meeting will be webcasted in listening mode in English, French. The provisional agenda and other working documents related to the 17th Session of CCCF are available at the following link: <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/de/?meeting=CCCF&session=17>. For additional information, please contact Alexandra Ferraro (Alexandra.ferraro@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office.

Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA)

The 54th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA54) will meet in Chengdu, China from April 22-26, 2024. Physical Working Group (PWG) meetings are scheduled in advance of plenary on April 19-20, 2024, and will be webcast in English, French, Spanish, and Chinese. The meeting will be broadcast in English, French, Spanish, and Chinese for those unable to attend in person. The report adoption will take place in person on the last day of the session. The provisional agenda and other working documents related to CCFA54 are available at the following link: <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CCFA&session=54>. For additional information, please contact Doreen Chen-Moulec (doreen.chenmoulec@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office.

FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Europe (CCEURO)

The 33rd Session of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Europe (CCEURO33) will meet in Berlin, Germany from May 27-31, 2024. The report adoption will take place in person on the last day of the session. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in English, French, Spanish, and Russian. The provisional agenda and other working documents related to CCEURO33 are available at the following link: <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CCEURO&session=33>. For additional information, please contact Doreen Chen-Moulec (doreen.chenmoulec@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office.

Upcoming Virtual Working Groups

Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH)

In preparation for the 54th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH54), a virtual Working Group (VWG) meeting to consider comments on the Proposed draft revision on the *Guidelines on the Application of General Principles of Food Hygiene to the Control of Pathogenic Vibrio Species in Seafood* will meet on February 26, 2024, from 9:00 am-12:00 pm EST (15.00-18.00 CET). The event will be held in English, French and Spanish. Please register in advance at the following link to participate in the VWG: <https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJltcu-vrD0rHsIQlv2cktZlhT6uEMmBKcY>. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Requests for Comments

Codex Executive Committee (CCEXEC)

Strategic Plan: The Codex Secretariat has recently issued a Circular Letter (CL 2023/10-EXEC) requesting comments on the first draft of the Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031. The CL is currently available in English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Chinese, and Russian at the following link: <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters/en/>. If you are interested in having your comments considered in the U.S. response, please send them to the U.S. Codex Office (uscodex@usda.gov) by March 22, 2024. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their Codex Contact Point (CCP) using the Online Commenting System (OCS) (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by April 5, 2024.

Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF)

Maximum Lead: The Codex Secretariat has recently issued a Circular Letter (CL 2024/02-CF) requesting comments on maximum levels for lead in certain food categories. The CL is currently available in English, French, and Spanish at the following link: <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters>. If you are interested in having your comments considered in the U.S. response, please send them to Alexandra Ferraro (Alexandra.ferraro@usda.gov) by March 11, 2024. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) prior to the deadline of March 25, 2024.

Ciguatera Poisoning: The Codex Secretariat has recently issued a Circular Letter (CL 2024/6-CF) requesting comments on the Code of practice for the prevention or reduction of ciguatera poisoning. The CL is currently available in English at the following link: <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters>. If you are interested in having your comments considered in the U.S. response, please send them to Alexandra Ferraro (Alexandra.ferraro@usda.gov) by March 10, 2024. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) prior to the deadline of March 24, 2024.

Food and Feed Safety: The Codex Secretariat has recently issued a Circular Letter (CL 2024/7-CF) requesting information on foresight on emerging issues in food and feed safety relevant to contaminants. The CL is currently available in English, French, and Spanish at the following link: <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters>. If you are interested in having your comments considered in the U.S. response, please send them to Alexandra Ferraro (Alexandra.ferraro@usda.gov) by March 11, 2024. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS

(<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) prior to the deadline of March 25, 2024.

Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA)

JECFA: The Codex Secretariat has recently issued a Circular Letter (CL 2024/19-FA) requesting comments on the proposed draft specifications for the identity and purity of food additives arising from the 96th and 97th Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA) meetings respectively. The CL is currently available in English at the following link: <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters/en/>. If you are interested in having your comments considered in the U.S. response, please send them to the Doreen Chen-Moulec (doreen.chenmoulec@usda.gov) by March 1, 2024. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by March 15, 2024.

INS: The Codex Secretariat has recently issued a Circular Letter (CL 2024/23-FA) requesting comments on the proposed changes to the *International Numbering System (INS) for Food Additives* (CXG 36-1989). The CL is currently available in English at the following link: <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters/en/>. If you are interested in having your comments considered in the U.S. response, please send them to the Doreen Chen-Moulec (doreen.chenmoulec@usda.gov) by February 25, 2024. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by March 10, 2024.

Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH)

Water: The Codex Secretariat has recently issued a Circular Letter (CL 2024/01-FH) requesting comments on Annex II on Fish and Fishery Products, Annex III on the Production of Milk and Milk Products, and the proposed Annex IV on Technologies for recovery and treatment of water for reuse for inclusion in the *Guidelines for the Safe Use and Re-use of Water in Food Production* (CXG 100-2023). The CL is currently available in English, French and Spanish at the following link: <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters/en/>. If you are interested in having your comments considered in the U.S. response, please send them to Marie Maratos Bhat (marie.maratosbhat@usda.gov) as soon as possible. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) prior to the deadline of February 11, 2024.

Vibrio: The Codex Secretariat has recently issued a Circular Letter (CL 2024/09-FH) requesting comments on the Guidelines on the Application of General Principles of Food Hygiene to the Control of Pathogenic Vibrio Species in Seafood (CXG 73-2010). The CL is currently available in English, French and Spanish at the following link: <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters/en/>. If you are interested in having your comments considered in the U.S. response, please send them to Marie Maratos Bhat (marie.maratosbhat@usda.gov) as soon as possible. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) prior to the deadline of February 15, 2024.

Traditional Markets: The Codex Secretariat has recently issued a Circular Letter (CL 2024/11-FH) requesting comments on the proposed draft Guidelines for Food Hygiene Control Measures in Traditional Markets for Food. The CL is currently available in English, French and Spanish at the following link: <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters/en/>. If you are interested in having your comments considered in the U.S. response, please send them to Marie Maratos Bhat (marie.maratosbhat@usda.gov) as soon as possible. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers

should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) prior to the deadline of February 17, 2024.

Alignment: The Codex Secretariat has recently issued a Circular Letter (CL 2024/12-FH) requesting comments on the proposal for alignment of the Codex texts developed by CCFH with the General Principles of Food Hygiene (CXC 1-1969). The CL is currently available in English, French and Spanish at the following link: <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters/en/>. If you are interested in having your comments considered in the U.S. response, please send them to Marie Maratos Bhat (marie.maratosbhat@usda.gov) as soon as possible. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) prior to the deadline of February 17, 2024.

STEC – Fresh Leafy Vegetables: The Codex Secretariat has recently issued a Circular Letter (CL 2024/21-FH) requesting comments on the proposed draft Annex II on fresh leafy vegetables of the *Guidelines for the control of Shiga toxin-producing Escherichia coli (STEC) in raw beef, fresh leafy vegetables, raw milk and raw milk cheeses, and sprouts* (CXG 99-2023). The CL is currently available in English, French, and Spanish at the following link: <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters/en/>. If you are interested in having your comments considered in the U.S. response, please send them to Marie Maratos Bhat (marie.maratosbhat@usda.gov) by February 12, 2024. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) prior to the deadline of February 26, 2024.

STEC – Sprouts: The Codex Secretariat has recently issued a Circular Letter (CL 2024/22-FH) requesting comments on the proposed draft Annex IV on Sprouts of the *Guidelines for the control of Shiga toxin-producing Escherichia coli (STEC) in raw beef, fresh leafy vegetables, raw milk and raw milk cheeses, and sprouts* (CXG 99-2023). The CL is currently available in English at the following link: <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters/en/>. If you are interested in having your comments considered in the U.S. response, please send them to Marie Maratos Bhat (marie.maratosbhat@usda.gov) by February 12, 2024. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) prior to the deadline of February 26, 2024.

Codex Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL)

Alcohol Labelling: The Codex Secretariat has recently issued a Circular Letter (CL 2023/13-FL) requesting information on the labelling of alcoholic beverages. The CL is currently available in English at the following link: <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters/en/>. If you are interested in having your comments considered in the U.S. response, please send them to Alexandra Ferraro (Alexandra.ferraro@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office by March 17, 2024. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) prior to the deadline of March 31, 2024.

Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS)

Emerging Issues: The Codex Secretariat has recently issued a Circular Letter (CL 2024/8-MAS) requesting information relating to methods of analysis/examples of methods of analysis. The CL is currently available in English, French, and Spanish at the following link: <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters/en/>. If you are interested in having your comments considered in the U.S. response, please send them to Heather Selig (heather.selig@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office by March 17, 2024. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their Codex Contact

Point (CCP) using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) prior to the deadline of March 31, 2024.

Electronic Working Groups (EWG)

Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC)

Brix Levels: CAC invites Members and Observers to join an EWG, chaired by Brazil, working in English, French, and Spanish, working on a proposed amendment to the General Standard for Fruit Juices and Nectars (CXS 247-2005) as set out in CRD51 of CAC46 regarding the Brix levels for *Vitis labrusca* and hybrids. Individuals in the United States interested in working on the U.S. contributions to the EWG should contact the U.S. Codex Office uscodex@usda.gov by February 10, 2024. Other countries and observers should send their full contact details including participant's name, official title or position, organization or country, and email address via their Codex Contact Point (CCP) to codexbrasil@inmetro.gov.br by February 15, 2024. As this EWG will operate on the Codex Online Forum, please note that when there is more than one expert, each country or observer organization shall designate one as their official representative to participate in the EWG.

Other

GSFA Online: The Codex General Standard for Food Additives (GSFA) Online Database has been updated up to the 46th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (2023) and is available at the following links:

English: <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/codex-texts/dbs/gsfa/en/>

French: <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/codex-texts/dbs/gsfa/fr/>

Spanish: <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/codex-texts/dbs/gsfa/es/>

Chinese: <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/codex-texts/dbs/gsfa/zh/>