



Codex News – February 9, 2021

### Rescheduled Codex Committee Sessions

#### ***Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS)***

The 41<sup>st</sup> Session of CCMAS, which is now rescheduled for May 17-25, 2021, will convene virtually. The provisional agenda and other documents related to the 41<sup>st</sup> Session of CCMAS are available at the following link: <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CCMAS&session=41>. For additional information, please contact Heather Selig ([heather.selig@usda.gov](mailto:heather.selig@usda.gov)) of the U.S. Codex Office.

#### ***Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH)***

The 5<sup>th</sup> Session of CCSCH, which is now rescheduled for April 20-29, 2021, will convene virtually. The provisional agenda and other documents related to the 5<sup>th</sup> Session of CCSCH are available at the following link: <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CCSCH&session=5>. For additional information, please contact Heather Selig ([heather.selig@usda.gov](mailto:heather.selig@usda.gov)) of the U.S. Codex Office.

### Requests for Comments

#### ***Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products (CCFFP)***

**Sardines:** The Codex Secretariat has extended the deadline for the Circular Letter (CL 2020/61/OCS REV-FFP) requesting comments on the establishment of an Electronic Working Group (EWG) to evaluate a proposed amendment to *the Standard for Canned Sardines and Sardine-Type Products*. The CL is currently available in English, French and Spanish at the following link: [www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters](http://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 Heather Selig ([Heather.Selig@usda.gov](mailto:Heather.Selig@usda.gov)) as soon as possible. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their Codex Contact Point (CCP) using the Codex Online Commenting System (OCS) (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by February 14, 2021.

#### ***Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH)***

**Biological Foodborne Outbreaks:** The Codex Secretariat issued a Circular Letter (CL 2021/4/OCS-FH) requesting comments at Step 6 on the draft Guidance for the Management of Biological Foodborne Outbreaks. The CL is available in English, French and Spanish at the following link: [www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters](http://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 Marie Maratos Bhat ([Marie.MaratosBhat@usda.gov](mailto:Marie.MaratosBhat@usda.gov)) by June 16, 2021. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by June 30, 2021.

### ***Codex Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL)***

**Allergen Labeling:** The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2021/9/OCS-FL) requesting comments on allergen labeling (revision of the *General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods*). The CL is available in English the following link: [www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters](http://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 Kristen Hendricks ([Kristen.hendricks@usda.gov](mailto:Kristen.hendricks@usda.gov)) by March 17, 2021. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP using the Codex OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by March 31, 2021.

### ***Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU)***

**Standard for Follow-Formula (Section B):** The Codex Secretariat issued a Circular Letter (2021/3/OCS-NFSDU) requesting comments at Step 6 on the draft revision of the Standard for Follow-Formula (Section B, scope, definition, and labelling). The CL is currently available in English, French, and Spanish at the following link: <http://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 Kristen Hendricks ([Kristen.hendricks@usda.gov](mailto:Kristen.hendricks@usda.gov)) by February 26, 2021 for section 2.1.1 and June 16, 2021 for the rest of the text. Comments by other countries and observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS by March 31, 2021 for section 2.1.1 and June 30, 2021 for the rest of the text.

### ***Codex Committee on Pesticides Residues (CCPR)***

**Schedules and Priority Lists of Pesticides:** The Codex Secretariat issued a Circular Letter (2021/07-PR) requesting comments on the establishment of the schedules and priority lists of pesticides for evaluation / re-evaluation by the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Meetings on Pesticide Residues (JMPR). The CL is currently available in English, French and Spanish at the following link: <http://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 Marie Maratos Bhat ([Marie.MaratosBhat@usda.gov](mailto:Marie.MaratosBhat@usda.gov)) and Aaron Niman ([niman.aaron@epa.gov](mailto:niman.aaron@epa.gov)) by February 12, 2021. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP to the Chair of the electronic Working Group (EWG) ([karina.budd@awe.gov.au](mailto:karina.budd@awe.gov.au)) with a copy to the CCPR Secretariat ([ccpr@agri.gov.cn](mailto:ccpr@agri.gov.cn)) and the Codex Secretariat ([codex@fao.org](mailto:codex@fao.org)) by February 28, 2021.

**MRL Recommendations from 2019 JECFA Meetings:** The Codex Secretariat issued an updated Circular Letter (2020/06(REV2)-PR) requesting new and/or further comments on the recommendations for maximum residue levels arising from the Extraordinary and Regular Sessions of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Meetings on Pesticide Residues (JMPR) that took place in May and September 2019, respectively. Comments may also include relevant information and data in order to facilitate the consideration of the schedules and priority lists at the upcoming CCPR. The CL is currently available in English, French and Spanish at the following link: <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters>. Please note that the excel file containing the schedules / priority lists can be downloaded from the link provided in the CL and is available in English only. 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](mailto:Marie.MaratosBhat@usda.gov)) and Aaron Niman ([niman.aaron@epa.gov](mailto:niman.aaron@epa.gov)) by February 12, 2021. Codex members and observer organizations who have not yet provided comments or would like to provide additional comments should submit them via their CCP to the CCPR Secretariat ([ccpr@agri.gov.cn](mailto:ccpr@agri.gov.cn)) with a copy to the Codex Secretariat ([codex@fao.org](mailto:codex@fao.org)) by February 28, 2021.

### **Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods (CCRVDF)**

**Codex Database on Countries' Needs for MRLs for Veterinary Drugs:** The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (2021/2/OCS-RVDF) requesting comments on the use and maintenance of the database on countries' needs for maximum residue limits for veterinary drugs in foods. The CL is currently available in English, French, and Spanish at the following link: <http://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 Ken Lowery ([ken.lowery@usda.gov](mailto:ken.lowery@usda.gov)) by March 17, 2021. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by March 31, 2021.

**Parallel Review:** The Codex Secretariat issued a Circular Letter (2021/5/OCS-RVDF) requesting comments on principles and procedure for the parallel review of a new veterinary drug by JECFA and national regulatory agencies. The CL is currently available in English, French and Spanish at the following link: <http://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 Ken Lowery ([ken.lowery@usda.gov](mailto:ken.lowery@usda.gov)) by March 17, 2021. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by March 31, 2021.

### **Other**

**Code of Practice for Fish and Fishery Products:** The WHO recently published an updated version of the *Code of Practice for Fish and Fishery Products*. This document, created with the FAO, is the central text of the Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products, and may be found at the following link: <https://apps.who.int/iris/handle/10665/336524>.

**International Innovation Award for Sustainable Agriculture:** The FAO is accepting applications for this year's International Innovation Award for Sustainable Agriculture. The theme this year is "Innovation to transform food systems." Individuals, private companies, and institutions around the world are being called to submit agricultural innovations that demonstrate concrete results and contribute to the environmental, economic, and social dimensions of sustainable development. The award acknowledges digital innovation as well as new or existing products or practices that are used in a specific context, to increase effectiveness, competitiveness, and resilience. Additional information and the application form may be found at the following link: <http://www.fao.org/innovation/awards/en/>.

**Webinar on International Instruments on Antimicrobial Use:** The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), WHO, and FAO have jointly published a report titled *International instruments on the use of antimicrobials across the human, animal, and plant sectors*. On February 10, 2021, there will be a webinar to present the Tripartite Report; additional information about the webinar along with the full report may be found at the following link: <http://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240013964>.