



Codex News- February 25, 2020

Postponement and Rescheduling of Upcoming Sessions

Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA)

The 52nd Session of the CCFA, originally scheduled for March 2-6, 2020, in Lanzhou, China, has been rescheduled due to the outbreak of the Coronavirus (COVID-19). In collaboration with the China National Health Commission and the CCFA Host Secretariat, the Codex Secretariat has confirmed that the 52nd Session will still take place in Lanzhou, China, but with the new dates of June 22-26, 2020, with the working groups taking place on June 19-20, 2020. Please contact Ken Lowery (ken.lowery@usda.gov) with any questions or concerns regarding the rescheduled session.

Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR)

The 52nd Session of the CCPR, originally scheduled for March 30-April 4, 2020, in Guangzhou, China, has been postponed due to the outbreak of the Coronavirus (COVID-19). In collaboration with the China National Health Commission and the CCPR Host Secretariat, the Codex Secretariat is exploring whether the meeting could be held in China, at a location to be confirmed, at a later date. Please note that the documents related to the 52nd Session of the CCPR remain accessible via the internet at the following address: www.codexalimentarius.org/meetings-reports/en. We will provide an update in an upcoming edition of the Codex News when new information becomes available. In the meanwhile, please contact Marie Maratos (marie.maratos@usda.gov) with any questions or concerns.

***Special Note: Since CCPR52 has been postponed until further notice, the U.S. Codex Program is cancelling the CCPR52 Public Meeting originally planned for February 27, 2020, from 1:00-3:00 p.m. EST at the United States Environmental Protection Agency. We will reschedule the Public Meeting closer to the new dates for CCPR52 and will officially notify via a new Federal Register notice.*

Public Meetings

Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS)

The U.S. Codex Program is sponsoring a public meeting on April 16, 2020, from 1:00-2:30 p.m. EST to provide information and receive public comments on agenda items and draft U.S. positions to be discussed at the 40th Session of the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS), in Budapest, Hungary, May 11-15, 2020. The public meeting will take place at the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), South Building, Room 1442-S, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250. Documents related to the 40th Session of the CCMAS will be accessible via the internet at the following address: <http://www.codexalimentarius.org/meetings-reports/en>.

- Gregory O. Noonan, Ph.D., U.S. Delegate to the 40th Session of the CCMAS, invites U.S. interested parties to submit their comments electronically to the following email address: gregory.noonan@fda.hhs.gov.

- Please register to attend by emailing Doreen Chen-Moulec (doreen.chenmoulec@usda.gov) by April 14, 2020. Early registration is encouraged because it will expedite entry into the building, for which attendees should bring photo identification and plan for adequate time to pass through federal building security screening systems.
- Attendees who are not able to attend in person, but who wish to participate, may do so by phone/conference call; please use the call-in number: 1-888-844-9904, participant code: 5126092.

Electronic Working Groups (EWG)

Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH) invites members and observers to join an EWG, chaired by Honduras and co-chaired by Chile, Denmark, European Union, and India, working in English, to develop guidelines for the safe sourcing, use and reuse of water in direct and indirect contact with food across the food chain (primary production and processing) by applying the principle of ‘fit for purpose’ using a risk-based approach. Individuals in the U.S. interested in working on U.S. contributions to the EWG should contact Marie Maratos (marie.maratos@usda.gov) at their earliest convenience. 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 CCP to msevilla@senasa.gob.hn as soon as possible. Please note that when there is more than one expert, each country or observer organization shall designate one as the official representative to participate in the EWG.

Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (CCFFV) invites members and observers to join an EWG chaired by Iran and co-chaired by Indonesia and India, working in English, on the Proposed Draft Standard on Onions and Shallots. Individuals in the U.S. interested in working on U.S. contributions to the EWG should contact Doreen Chen-Moulec (Doreen.chenmoulec@usda.gov) at their earliest convenience. 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 CCP to nady.ahmadi@yahoo.com and nationalcodex@gmail.com as soon as possible. Please note that when there is more than one expert, each country or observer organization shall designate one as the official representative to participate in the EWG.

Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance (TFAMR) invites members and observers to join an EWG chaired by the United States and co-chaired by Chile, China, Kenya and the United Kingdom, working in English and Spanish, to address the outstanding issues in square brackets in the Proposed draft revision of the Code of Practice to Minimize and Contain Foodborne Antimicrobial Resistance (CXC 61-2005). The specific items for consideration are the following, with the understanding that agreed to text should not be re-opened to the extent possible:

- Section 3 – consideration of inclusion of a definition for “therapeutic use;”
- Section 4 – consideration of inclusion of Principle 6 regarding use of medically important antimicrobials for therapeutic purposes; and
- Section 5 – consideration of use of the term “therapeutic” in the last bullet of paragraph 54 if a definition is not included in CXC 61-2005.

Individuals in the U.S. interested in working on U.S. contributions to the EWG should contact Marie Maratos (marie.maratos@usda.gov) by March 18, 2020. 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 CCP to Bettye.walters@fda.hhs.gov and marie.maratos@usda.gov by March 20, 2020. Please note that when there is more than one expert, each country or observer organization shall designate one as the official representative to participate in the EWG.

Requests for Comments

Codex Committee on Cereals, Pulses and Legumes (CCCPL)

Quinoa: The Codex Secretariat issued a Circular Letter (CL 2020/25-CPL) requesting comments on the analysis of responses to CL 2019/92-CPL: Grain Size in the Standard for Quinoa. The CL is available in English, French, and Spanish at the following link: www.fao.org/fao-whocodexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters/en. If you are interested in having your comments considered in the U.S. response, please send them to Marie Maratos (marie.maratos@usda.gov) by March 1, 2020. Comments by other observers and countries should be sent to the CCCPL Secretariat (USSEC-CCCPL@usda.gov) with a copy to Marie Maratos (marie.maratos@usda.gov), Henry Kim (henry.kim@fda.hhs.gov) and the Codex Secretariat (codex@fao.org) by March 15, 2020.

Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF)

Cadmium in Cocoa Beans: The Codex Secretariat issued a Circular Letter (CL 2020/20-OCS-CF) requesting comments at Step 3 on the proposed draft Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Cadmium Contamination in Cocoa Beans. The CL is available in English at the following link: www.fao.org/fao-whocodexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters/en. If you are interested in having your comments considered in the U.S. response, please send them to Doreen Chen-Moulec (Doreen.chenmoulec@usda.gov) by March 10, 2020. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP to the Codex Secretariat (codex@fao.org) by March 31, 2020.

Lead: The Codex Secretariat issued a Circular Letter (CL 2020/22-OCS-CF) requesting comments at Step 3 on the proposed draft revision of the Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Lead Contamination in Foods (CXC 56-2004). The CL is available in English at the following link: www.fao.org/fao-whocodexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters/en. If you are interested in having your comments considered in the U.S. response, please send them to Doreen Chen-Moulec (Doreen.chenmoulec@usda.gov) by March 10, 2020. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP to the Codex Secretariat (codex@fao.org) by March 31, 2020.

Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS)

Electronic Certificates: The Codex Secretariat issued a Circular Letter (CL 2020/01/OCS-FICS) requesting comments at Step 3 on the Proposed Draft Guidance on Paperless use of Electronic Certificates (Revision of the Guidelines for Design, Production, Issuance and Use of Generic Official Certificates – CXG 38-2001). The CL is available in English at the following link:

www.fao.org/fao-whocodexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters/en. If you are interested in having your comments considered in the U.S. response, please send them to Kristen Hendricks (kristen.hendricks@usda.gov) by March 10, 2020. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (ocs.codexalimentarius.org) by March 31, 2020.

Equivalence: The Codex Secretariat issued a Circular Letter (CL 2020/03/OCS-FICS) requesting comments at Step 3 on the Proposed Draft Consolidated Codex Guidelines related to Equivalence. The CL is available in English at the following link: www.fao.org/fao-whocodexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters/en. If you are interested in having your comments considered in the U.S. response, please send them to Kristen Hendricks (kristen.hendricks@usda.gov) by March 6, 2020. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (ocs.codexalimentarius.org) by March 27, 2020.

Voluntary Third-Party Assurance (vTPA) programmes: The Codex Secretariat issued a Circular Letter (CL 2020/26/OCS-FICS) requesting comments on the Draft Principles and Guidelines for the Assessment and Use of voluntary Third-Party Assurance (vTPA) programmes (Updated Text). The CL is available in English at the following link: www.fao.org/fao-whocodexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters/en. If you are interested in having your comments considered in the U.S. response, please send them to Kristen Hendricks (kristen.hendricks@usda.gov) by March 13, 2020. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (ocs.codexalimentarius.org) by April 3, 2020.

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

MRLs: The Codex Secretariat issued a Circular Letter (CL 2020/17-RVDF) requesting comments on the MRLs for veterinary drugs. The CL is available in English, French and Spanish at the following link: 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 Ken Lowery (ken.lowery@usda.gov) by April 10, 2020. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP to the CCRVDF Secretariat (CCRVDF-USSEC@usda.gov) with a copy to the Codex Secretariat (codex@fao.org) by April 25, 2020.

Priority List: The Codex Secretariat issued a Circular Letter (CL 2020/18-RVDF) requesting comments/information on the Priority List of Veterinary Drugs for Evaluation or Re-evaluation by JECFA. The CL is available in English, French and Spanish at the following link: 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 Ken Lowery (ken.lowery@usda.gov) by April 10, 2020. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP to the CCRVDF Secretariat (CCRVDF-USSEC@usda.gov) with a copy to the Codex Secretariat (codex@fao.org) by April 25, 2020.

Other

Call for data and experts: The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (RAP) is looking to identify experts to contribute to the regional risk assessment in the area of foodborne Group B *Streptococcus agalactiae* (GBS) CC283. In addition, FAORAP is requesting governments, industry, academia, consumer groups, laboratories, and any other interested organizations and individuals to submit any available data and information on attribution, characterization and monitoring of foodborne Group B *Streptococcus agalactiae* (GBS) CC283. Any data relevant to the strain would be valuable because of the emerging nature of the topic, however, the data for risk assessment, including the data for dose-response and exposure assessment would be of particular value.

The full call with the background and details and criteria for expert selection as well as data requirement is available online: <http://www.fao.org/3/ca7759en/ca7759en.pdf>, where the application submission instructions are detailed. The selected experts will be invited to the regional risk assessment expert meeting tentatively scheduled from June 29- July 3, 2020 in Singapore. Should you have any questions, please contact Masami Takeuchi, Food Safety Officer, FAORAP at Masami.Takeuchi@fao.org. Please note this is a regional FAO activity and the initiative has been conducted in collaboration with the FAO JEMRA officers and FAO fisheries/aquaculture officers.

JECFA:

The eighty-seventh report of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA87) on Evaluation of certain food additives has been published and is now available at: <https://apps.who.int/iris/handle/10665/330612>

The Compendium of Food Additive Specifications (JECFA Monographs 23) from JECFA87 are available at: <http://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/ca7513en> and <http://www.fao.org/3/ca7513en/CA7513EN.pdf>

The eighty-eighth report of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA) on Evaluation of certain veterinary drug residues has been published and is now available at: <https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/330821/9789241210324-eng.pdf>

JMPR:

The final reports of the Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPR) from the recent extraordinary meeting (May 2019) and the regular meeting (September 2019) are now available at:

- [JMPR Report, 17-26 September 2019](#)
- [JMPR Report, 7-17 May 2019](#)