



Codex News – March 6, 2024

Upcoming Committee Meetings

Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH)

The 54th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH54) is scheduled to take place physically in Nairobi, Kenya from March 11-15, 2024. Physical Working Group meetings are scheduled in advance of plenary on March 10-11, 2024, and will be webcast in English, French, and Spanish. The report adoption will take place in person on the last day of the session. The meeting will be broadcast in English, French, and Spanish for those unable to attend in person. The provisional agenda and other working documents related to CCFH54 are available at the following link: <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CCFH&session=54>. For additional information, please contact Marie Maratos Bhat (marie.maratosbhat@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office.

Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS)

The 43rd Session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCMAS43) will meet in Budapest, Hungary from May 13-18, 2024. Physical Working Group (PWG) meetings are scheduled in advance of plenary on May 13, 2024. The meeting will be broadcast in English, French, and Spanish 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 CCMAS43 are available at the following link: <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CCMAS&session=43>. For additional information, please contact Alexandra Ferraro (Alexandra.ferraro@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office.

Upcoming Public Meetings

Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF)

The U.S. Codex Office is sponsoring a public meeting on March 21, 2024. The objective of the public meeting is to provide information and receive public comments on agenda items and draft U.S. positions to be discussed at the 17th Session of the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF17). CCCF17 will be held in Panama City, Panama from April 15-19, 2024. Documents related to CCCF17 will be accessible via the internet at the following address: <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/it/?meeting=CCCF&session=17>.

The U.S. Delegate to CCCF17 invites interested U.S. parties to submit their comments electronically to the following email address: quynh-anh.nguyen@fda.hhs.gov or Alexandra.ferraro@usda.gov. Emailed comments should state in the title that they relate to activities CCCF17. Attendees may register to attend the public meeting here: <https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJlsdOmsrjgpGbqn89rYPIXUAWJawQCq39Y>. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA)

The U.S. Codex Office is sponsoring a public meeting on March 19, 2024. The objective of the public meeting is to provide information and receive public comments on agenda items and draft U.S. positions to be discussed at the 54th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA54). CCFA54 will convene in Chengdu, China from April 22–26, 2024. The public meeting will take place in a hybrid format. The on-site location is Meeting Room 1A–001 and 1A–002 at the Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Harvey Wiley Federal Building, 5001 Campus Drive, College Park, MD 20740–3835. Documents related to CCFA54 will be accessible via the internet at the following address: <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/it/?meeting=CCFA&session=54>.

The U.S. Delegate to CCFA54 invites interested U.S. parties to submit their comments electronically to the following email address: Daniel.Folmer@fda.hhs.gov, Lashonda.Cureton@fda.hhs.gov, or doreen.chenmoulec@usda.gov. In-person attendees may register to attend the public meeting at the following email address: ccfa@cfsan.fda.gov. Virtual attendees may register to attend the public meeting here: <https://fda.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJlscuqyqTwIGKBCWt0kic2WOMeTXzyGcdo>. Attendees should register by March 14, 2024. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Requests for Comments

Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF)

Methylmercury: The Codex Secretariat has recently issued a Circular Letter (CL 2024/03-CF) requesting comments on sampling plans for methylmercury in fish. 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 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.

Cadmium in Foods: The Codex Secretariat has recently issued a Circular Letter (CL 2024/26-CF) requesting comments on the opportunity to develop a Code of practice for the prevention or reduction of cadmium contamination in foods. 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.

Cadmium and Lead in Quinoa: The Codex Secretariat has recently issued a Circular Letter (CL 2024/28-CF) requesting comments on the recommendations for the establishment of maximum levels for cadmium and lead in quinoa. 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 Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (CCFFV)

Dates: The Codex Secretariat has recently issued a Circular Letter (CL 2024/19-FA) requesting comments on the draft standard for fresh dates. 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 the Doreen Chen-Moulec (doreen.chenmoulec@usda.gov) by March 17, 2024. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by March 31, 2024.

Codex Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL)

Emerging Issues and Future of Work: The Codex Secretariat has recently issued a Circular Letter (CL 2023/24-FL) requesting information on emerging issues and future work. 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 Alexandra Ferraro (Alexandra.ferraro@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office by April 1, 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 April 15, 2024.

CCFL Work Prioritization: The Codex Secretariat has recently issued a Circular Letter (CL 2023/29-FL) requesting comments on the revised draft approach and criteria for evaluation and prioritization of the work of CCFL. 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 Alexandra Ferraro (Alexandra.ferraro@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office by April 1, 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 April 15, 2024.

Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS)

Fish: The Codex Secretariat has recently issued a Circular Letter (CL 2024/15-MAS) requesting comments on the fish and fishery products workable package: review of CXS234. The CL is currently available in English 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 Alexandra Ferraro (Alexandra.ferraro@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office by April 1, 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 April 15, 2024.

Other

JECFA: The call for data has been published for the 101st JECFA meeting that will be dedicated to the evaluation of Dioxins and dioxin-like PCBs and Arsenic (inorganic and organic). The deadline for data submission is December 1, 2024. The call for data may be found at the following links:

- FAO: [Call for data for the 101st meeting of JECFA to be held from in October 2024 \(fao.org\)](#)
- WHO: [Food Contaminants: One hundred and first meeting - Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives \(JECFA\)](#)

FAO: FAO has published the first report, “Tackling antimicrobial resistance in food and agriculture,” on FAO’s contribution to the global response to Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) based on the FAO Action Plan on AMR 2021–2025. The report outlines a wide range of activities undertaken by FAO at global, regional, and country level. The report can be found at the following link: <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cc9185en>.

Food allergens: The ad hoc joint FAO/WHO expert consultation on risk assessment of food allergens has published part 4, “Risk assessment of food allergens: part 4: establishing exemptions from mandatory declarations for priority food allergens: meeting report.” The report can be found through the following links:

- FAO: <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cc9554en>
- WHO: <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240088924>

All meeting reports can be found at the following links:

- [Part 1 Priority food allergens;](#)
- [Part 2 Threshold for the priority food allergens;](#)
- [Part 3 Precautionary labelling;](#)
- [Part 4 Exemptions;](#)
- [Part 5 Threshold for other food allergens.](#)