



Codex News – March 23, 2021

Requests for Comments

Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF)

MLs for Aflatoxins in Cereals: The Codex Secretariat issued a Circular Letter (CL 2021/15/OCS-CF) requesting comments at Step 3 on maximum levels for total aflatoxins in certain cereals and cereal-based foods including foods for infants and young children. The CL is available in English the following link: 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 Dr. Henry Kim (henry.kim@fda.hhs.gov) by April 2, 2021. 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 April 22, 2021.

Prevention and Reduction of Lead Contamination in Foods: The Codex Secretariat issued a Circular Letter (CL 2021/14/OCS-CF) requesting comments at Step 3 on the 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 the following link: 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 Dr. Henry Kim (henry.kim@fda.hhs.gov) by April 2, 2021. 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 April 22, 2021.

Lead in Certain Food Categories: The Codex Secretariat issued a Circular Letter (CL 2021/13/OCS-CF) requesting comments at Step 3 on maximum levels for lead in certain food categories (see Appendix I in CX/CF 21/14/8). The CL is available in English the following link: 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 Dr. Henry Kim (henry.kim@fda.hhs.gov) by April 2, 2021. 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 April 22, 2021.

Cadmium Contamination in Cocoa Beans: The Codex Secretariat issued a Circular Letter (CL 2021/12/OCS-CF) requesting comments at Step 3 on the Code of Practice for the prevention and reduction of cadmium contamination in cocoa beans. The CL is available in English the following link: 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 Dr. Henry Kim (henry.kim@fda.hhs.gov) by April 2, 2021. 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 April 22, 2021.

MLs for Cadmium in Chocolates: The Codex Secretariat issued a Circular Letter (CL 2021/11/OCS-CF) requesting comments at Step 3 on maximum levels for cadmium in chocolates containing or declaring $\geq 30\%$ to $< 50\%$ total cocoa solids on a dry matter basis and cocoa powder (100% total cocoa solids on a dry matter basis). The CL is available in English the following link: 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 Dr. Henry Kim (henry.kim@fda.hhs.gov) by April 2, 2021. 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 April 22, 2021.

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

Codex Guidelines on Equivalence: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2021/18/OCS-FICS) requesting comments at Step 3 on the proposed draft consolidated Codex guidelines related to equivalence. The CL is available in English, French, and Spanish at the following link: 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) by April 16, 2021. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by April 30, 2021.

Equivalence of National Food Control Systems (NFCS): The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2021/17/OCS-FICS) requesting comments at Step 3 on the proposed draft guidelines on recognition and maintenance of equivalence of National Food Control Systems (NFCS). The CL is available in English, French, and Spanish at the following link: 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) by April 16, 2021. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by April 30, 2021.

Paperless Use of Electronic Certificates: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2021/16/OCS-FICS) requesting comments at Step 3 on the proposed draft guidance on paperless use of electronic certificates. The CL is available in English at the following link: 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) by April 16, 2021. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by April 30, 2021.

Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS)

General Guidelines on Sampling: The Codex Secretariat has extended the deadline on the Circular Letter (CL 2021/10/OCS-MAS) requesting comments on the proposed draft revised *General Guidelines on Sampling*. The CL is currently available in English at the following link: 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) by April 2, 2021. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP using the Codex OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by April 16, 2021.

Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH)

Standard for Chili Pepper and Paprika: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2021/8/OCS-SCH) requesting comments on the proposed draft Standard for dried or dehydrated chili pepper and paprika. The CL is available in English at the following link: 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) as soon as possible. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by April 9, 2021.

Other

CCFICS vTPA programs Webinar: In anticipation of the Committee's upcoming 25th Session, CCFICS will host a webinar on the draft principles and guidelines for the assessment and use of voluntary Third-Party Assurance (vTPA) programs. The webinar will take place on March 25, 2021 from 8:00-10:00 EDT (13:00-15:00 Central European Time) and will be available in English and Spanish. Scheduling information, including the program for the webinar and other pre-session meetings, can be found at the CCFICS25 webpage on the Codex website: <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CCFICS&session=25>. For additional information, please contact Kristen Hendricks (Kristen.hendricks@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office.

Webinar on Carryover in Feed and Transfer from Feed to Food: In anticipation of CCRVDF25, FAO, WHO, and the Codex Secretariat will hold a webinar on carryover in feed and transfer from feed to food of unavailable and unintended residues of approved drugs. The webinar is set for March 25, 2021 from 7:00-8:30 EDT (12:00-13:30 Central European Time). If you are interested in participating in the webinar, you may complete the registration at the following link: <https://fao.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEpceyrrjojHdFj9SniPjybmtdCrrJyySH8>.

TFAMR Code of Practice Webinar: The ad hoc Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance (TFAMR) is holding a webinar to discuss developments on the revision to the *Code of Practice to Minimize and Contain Foodborne Antimicrobial Resistance*, on April 8, 2021 at 9:30-11:30 EDT (15:30-17:30 Central European Time) in English, French, and Spanish. The full program, including registration information, can be found at the following link: http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/codexalimentarius/doc/Webinar/Contain_Foodborne_AMR-webinar5b.pdf. For additional information, please contact Marie Maratos Bhat (marie.maratosbhat@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office.

JEMRA: The Joint FAO/WHO Expert Meetings on Microbiological Risk Assessment (JEMRA) has issued a call for data and experts who can contribute to future work of JEMRA in assessing the safety and quality of water used in the production of fishery and/or dairy products. JEMRA is also asking for assistance from any organizations with data related to this work. The deadline is April 15, 2021 for the call for experts and May 31, 2021 for the call for data. Further information on the calls can be found at the following links:

- FAO: <http://www.fao.org/food-safety/scientific-advice/calls-for-data-and-experts-expert-rosters/en/>
- WHO: <https://www.who.int/news-room/articles-detail/call-for-experts-and-data-on-the-safety-and-quality-of-water-used-in-the-production-of-fishery-and-dairy-products>
- JEMRA: <http://www.fao.org/3/cb3839en/cb3839en.pdf>

JECFA: The Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA) has published its summary report on the 91st Meeting, which took place virtually from February 1-12, 2021 and again on February 25, 2021 to adopt the meeting report. JECFA evaluated contaminants including cadmium and ergot alkaloids and discussed previous cargoes and steviol glycosides. The summary report can be found on the FAO website at the following link: <http://www.fao.org/3/cb3689en/cb3689en.pdf>.