



Codex News – April 4, 2023

Upcoming Public Meeting

Codex Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL)

The U.S. Codex Office is sponsoring a public meeting on Tuesday, April 11, 2023, 1:00-4:00 p.m. EDT. 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 47th Session of the CCFL, which will meet in Gatineau, Canada, May 15-19, 2023.

- The public meeting will take place via video teleconference only. Documents related to the 47th Session of the CCFL will be accessible via the internet at the following address: www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CCFL&session=47.
- Dr. Douglas Balentine, U.S. Delegate to the 47th Session of the CCFL, invites interested U.S. parties to submit their comments electronically to the following email address: douglas.balentine@fda.hhs.gov.
- Attendees may register to attend the public meeting here: www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJlsc--upjwsHXeBUO4dR9xL9gyNKRgIcFs. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Upcoming Committee Meetings

Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF)

The 16th Session of the CCCF will meet in Utrecht, The Netherlands from April 18-21, 2023. The report adoption will take place virtually on April 26, 2023. The provisional agenda and other working documents related to the 16th Session of the CCCF will be available at the following link: <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CCCF&session=16>. For additional information, please contact Doreen Chen-Moulec (doreen.chenmoulec@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office.

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

The 26th Session of the CCFICS, will meet in Hobart, Tasmania, Australia from May 1-5, 2023. Remote participation (via Zoom) will be possible for listening and verbal interventions. A PWG on the proposed draft consolidated Guidelines Related to Equivalence will meet on Sunday, April 30, 2023, from 09:00 to 12:30 AEST with interpretation in English, French and Spanish. The provisional agenda and other working documents related to the 26th Session of the CCFICS will be accessible via the internet at the following address: <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CCFICS&session=26>. For additional information, please contact Heather Selig (heather.selig@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office.

Requests for Comments

Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF)

Radioactivity: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2023/17-CF) requesting comments on natural radioactivity in feed, food, and drinking-water. 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 Doreen Chen-Moulec (doreen.chenmoulec@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office by June 15, 2023. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the Online Commenting System (OCS) (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by June 30, 2023.

Codex Committee on Fats and Oils (CCFO)

New Work/Amendments: The Codex Secretariat has further extended the deadline for Circular Letter (CL 2021/96-FO) requesting proposals for new work and/or amendments to existing CCFO texts. 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 Doreen Chen-Moulec (doreen.chenmoulec@usda.gov) by June 1, 2023. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP to codex@fao.org with a copy to ccfo_malaysia@moh.gov.my by to June 30, 2023.

Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH)

STEC: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2023/28-OCS-FH) requesting comments on the Draft 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 (General Section, Annex I on Raw Beef and Annex III on Raw Milk and Raw Milk Cheeses) proposed for final adoption at Step 5/8 at the 46th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC43) (November 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>. 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) of the U.S. Codex Office by August 15, 2023. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by August 31, 2023.

Water: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2023/29-OCS-FH) requesting comments on the Draft Guidelines for the Safe Use and Reuse of Water in Food Production and Processing (General Section and Annex I on Fresh Produce) proposed for final adoption at Step 5/8 at CAC46 (November 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>. 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) of the U.S. Codex Office by August 15, 2023. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by August 31, 2023.

New Work: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2023/30-OCS-FH) requesting proposals for new work and/or revision of existing proposals. 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) of the U.S. Codex Office by August 15, 2023. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP also to Marie Maratos Bhat, CCFH Secretariat (marie.maratosbhat@usda.gov) with a copy to the Codex Secretariat (codex@fao.org) by September 1, 2023.

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

Equivalence: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2023/10/OCS-FICS) requesting comments on the proposed draft consolidated Codex Guidelines related to Equivalence. 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 Heather Selig (heather.selig@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office by April 10, 2023. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by April 24, 2023.

Food Fraud: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2023/11/OCS-FICS) requesting comments on the proposed draft Guidelines on the Prevention and Control of Food Fraud. 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 Heather Selig (heather.selig@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office by April 10, 2023. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by April 24, 2023.

Remote Audit and Verification: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2023/12/OCS-FICS) requesting comments on the proposed draft Principles and Guidelines on the Use of Remote Audit and Verification in Regulatory Frameworks. 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 Heather Selig (heather.selig@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office by April 10, 2023. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by April 24, 2023.

Codex Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL)

Food Allergen Labelling: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2023/06-FL) requesting comments on food allergen labelling. Comments are welcome related to the proposed draft revisions to the *General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods* (GSLP) (CXS 1-1985): Provisions relevant to allergen labelling and the proposed draft Guidelines on Precautionary Allergen 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 Marie Maratos Bhat (marie.maratosbhat@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office by April 5, 2023. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by April 19, 2023.

E-Commerce: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2023/07/OCS-FL) requesting comments on the proposed draft Guidelines on the Provision of Food Information for Prepackaged Foods Offered via E-Commerce. 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) of the U.S. Codex Office by April 5, 2023. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by April 19, 2023.

Technology: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2023/08/OCS-FL) requesting comments on the proposed draft Guidelines on the Use of Technology to Provide Food Information. The CL is currently available in English 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) of the U.S. Codex Office as soon as possible. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by April 14, 2023.

Sustainability Labelling Claims: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2023/16/OCS-FL) requesting comments on the Discussion Paper on Sustainability Labelling Claims. 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) of the U.S. Codex Office as soon as possible. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by April 14, 2023.

Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS)

General Standard Review: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2023/13/OCS-MAS) requesting comments on the cereals, pulses and legumes workable package in the review of methods in the *General Standard on Methods of Analysis and Sampling* (CXG 234 – 1999). The CL is currently available in English and French 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 Heather Selig (heather.selig@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office by May 11, 2023. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by May 24, 2023.

Measurement Uncertainty: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2023/14/OCS-MAS) requesting comments on the Information Document: Guidelines on Measurement Uncertainty. The CL is currently available in English 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 Heather Selig (heather.selig@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office by May 13, 2023. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by May 26, 2023.

Sampling: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2023/15/OCS-MAS) requesting comments on the revised *General Guidelines on Sampling* (CXG 50-2004). The CL is currently available in English and French 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 Heather Selig (heather.selig@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office by May 17, 2023. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>)

by May 31, 2023.

Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR)

MRLs from 2022 JMPR: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2023/22-PR) requesting comments on recommendations for Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs) arising from the Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPR) held in 2022. 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) of the U.S. Codex Office by May 1, 2023. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by May 25, 2023. Concern forms should be sent separately to the Codex Secretariat (codex@fao.org) with a copy to the CCPR Secretariat (ccpr@agri.gov.cn) in Word also by May 25, 2023.

National Registrations: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2023/25-PR) requesting comments/data/information on national registrations of pesticides (national registration database of pesticides for periodic review by JMPR) (Groups 1 and 2). The comments submitted will be considered by the 55th Session of the Codex Committee Pesticide Residues (CCPR55, 2024). An interim report on the status of work will be provided to CCPR54 (June 2023) for information. The CL is currently available in English 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) of the U.S. Codex Office by August 15, 2023. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP to Karsten Hohgardt, Chair of the CCPR EWG on National Registrations of Pesticides (karsten.hohgardt@bvl.bund.de) with a copy to the CCPR Secretariat (ccpr@agri.gov.cn) and the Codex Secretariat (codex@fao.org) by August 31, 2023.

Schedules and Priority Lists: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2023/26-PR) requesting comments on the establishment of the Schedules and Priority Lists of Pesticides for evaluation/re-evaluation by JMPR. The CL is currently available in English 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) of the U.S. Codex Office by May 1, 2023. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP to Karina Budd, Chair of the CCPR EWG on Priorities (karina.budd@aff.gov.au) with a copy to the CCPR Secretariat (ccpr@agri.gov.cn) and the Codex Secretariat (codex@fao.org) by May 10, 2023.

New U.S. Delegate

Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH)

Dr. Benjamin Warren, Senior Science Advisor for Food Safety in the Office of Food Safety (OFS), Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (CFSAN), Food and Drug Administration (FDA), was recently confirmed as the new delegate to CCFH. He follows in the footsteps of Ms. Jenny Scott, who previously served as U.S. Delegate to CCFH for a number of years.

Other

FAO/WHO Webinar on Food safety Aspects of Cell-Based Food: The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) are organizing a special webinar on the emerging food safety topic of [cell-based food](#) at which they will officially launch the FAO/WHO publication entitled “Food safety aspects of cell-based food.” To accommodate different time zones, two sessions will be held on April 5, 2023 at the following times (with the links to register):

- Register [here](#) for Session 1: 09.00 – 10.30 (GMT+2) 5 April 2023
- Register [here](#) for Session 2: 16.00 – 17.30 (GMT+2) 5 April 2023

FAO/WHO Call for Experts for the Expert Consultation on the Risks and Benefits of Fish Consumption: FAO and WHO are seeking experts to serve as members of a Joint FAO/WHO Expert Consultation on the risks and benefits of fish consumption. This is an effort to update the original Report of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Consultation on the Risks and Benefits of Fish Consumption which was published in 2010. The expert consultation is planned for October 2023 to review new evidence and update the conclusions and recommendations of the 2010 report as needed. The deadline for submission is April 7, 2023. For more information on desired qualifications, meeting information and objectives, and on how to submit an application, please visit:

- FAO: <https://www.fao.org/3/cc4804en/cc4804en.pdf> and
- WHO: [Call for experts for Joint FAO/WHO Expert Consultation on the Risks and Benefits of Fish Consumption](#)

FAO Call for data and information, stakeholder consultation and experts on Antimicrobials: The FAO Committee on Agriculture Sub-Committee on Livestock has requested FAO to collect scientific evidence on alternative feeding practices to replace the use of medically important antimicrobial growth promoters (AGPs), their effectiveness and safety, and to conduct an inventory of these alternative feeding practices. In addition, the Sub-Committee has requested FAO to share successful experiences and good practices, including traditional knowledge (e.g. the use of traditional remedies such as plant-based growth promoters), to support its Members to reduce the need for antimicrobials, and to collect data on the impact of measures to phase out or ban the use of medically important AGPs on livestock production, health and welfare. FAO will organize an Expert Meeting at FAO Headquarters in Rome, Italy, in July 2023, to take into consideration the data and information provided as a response to an open call and the inputs provided by a stakeholder consultation. Please note that the deadline is April 10, 2023. Additional information may be found at the following link: www.fao.org/3/cc5091en/cc5091en.pdf.

FAO/IOC/IAEA: The Joint FAO/Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC)/International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) technical guidance for the implementation of early warning systems for harmful algal blooms (HABs) was recently published. The document will guide competent authorities and relevant institutions involved in consumer protection or environmental monitoring to implement early warning systems for HABs present in their areas (marine and brackish waters), specifically those affecting food safety or food security (benthic HABs, fish-killing HABs, pelagic toxic HABs, and cyanobacteria HABs). Additional information may be found on the FAO Website at the following links: <http://www.fao.org/3/cc4794en/cc4794en.pdf> and <http://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cc4794en>.

JECFA Compendium: The “Compendium of Food Additive Specifications” subsequent to the 95th Meeting of the Joint Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA) has been published and is available at on the FAO website at the following link: [Compendium of food additive specifications \(fao.org\)](https://www.fao.org/compendium-of-food-additive-specifications/)

JEMRA Call for Experts: The Joint FAO/WHO Expert Meeting on Microbiological Risk Assessment (JEMRA) has issued a call for experts on the microbiological risk assessment of non-typhoidal *Salmonella* spp. and *Campylobacter* spp. in poultry meat. Additional information may be found at the links below:

- FAO: <https://www.fao.org/3/cc4832en/cc4832en.pdf>
- WHO: <https://www.who.int/news-room/articles-detail/call-for-experts-on-the-microbiological-risk-assessment-of-non-typhoidal-salmonella-spp.-and-campylobacter-spp.-in-poultry-meat>

JMPR: The FAO/WHO Joint Meeting on Pesticide Residues has published the 2022 report entitled: “Pesticide Residues in Food” which is available on the FAO website at the following link: [Report 2022 - Pesticide residues in food \(fao.org\)](https://www.fao.org/pesticide-residues-in-food/)