



Codex News – June 1, 2021

Upcoming Committee Meetings

Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR)

The 52nd Session of CCPR, rescheduled from April 2020 to July 2021, will convene virtually. Sessions will take place on July 26-30, 2021 from 7:00-10:00 am EDT (13:00 to 16:00 hours CET). The adoption of the Report will take place on August 3, 2021 from 7:00-10:00 am EDT (13:00 to 16:00 hours CET). The provisional agenda and other documents related to the 52nd Session of CCPR will be available soon at: <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CCPR&session=52>. For additional information, please contact Marie Maratos Bhat (Marie.Maratosbhat@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office.

Upcoming Working Groups

Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA)

In anticipation of the 52nd Session of the CCFA, scheduled for September 2021, Working Groups (WGs) will meet virtually in mid-June on a number of topics. The WG on the *General Standard for Food Additives* (GSFA) will take place on June 21-23, 2021 from 5:00-8:00 EDT (11:00-14:00 CET). The WG on the Alignment of the food additive provisions will take place on June 24, 2021 from 5:00-8:00 EDT (11:00-14:00 CET). The WG on Endorsement of the food additive provisions will take place on June 25 from 5:00-6:00 EDT (11:00-12:00 CET). The WG on Note 161 - Provisions for sweeteners will take place on June 25, 2021 from 6:00-8:00 EDT (12:00-14:00 CET). A pre-meeting for first time participants to the CCFA is also planned for August 31, 2021 from 5:00-6:30 EDT (11:00-12:300 CET). You may register for the WGs and the pre-session meeting by selecting the events of interest when registering for CCFA52. All documents (including the reports of the electronic Working Groups) relevant to the upcoming WGs may be found on the CCFA52 webpage: <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CCFA&session=52>. For additional information, please contact Ken Lowery (ken.lowery@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office.

Ad hoc Intergovernmental Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance (TFAMR)

In anticipation of the 8th Session of the TFAMR, scheduled for October 2021, WGs will meet virtually in mid-June to discuss comments received in response to the recent Circular Letters and to progress the work on the revision to the *Code of Practice to Minimize and Contain Foodborne AMR* (COP) and the draft Guidelines for Integrated Monitoring and Surveillance of Foodborne Antimicrobial Resistance (GLIS). The COP WG Sessions will take place on June 14

and June 17, 2021 from 7:00-10:00 am EDT (13:00-16:00 hours CET). The GLIS WG Sessions will take place on June 10, 11, 15 and 18, 2021 from 7:00-10:00 am EDT (13:00-16:00 hours CET). Interpretation will be provided in English, French and Spanish. Additional information on the Working Groups may be found on the TFAMR webpage: <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=TFAMR&session=8>. The Circular Letters may be accessed directly here: [CL32](#) and [CL33](#). For additional information, please contact Marie Maratos Bhat (Marie.Maratosbhat@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office.

Requests for Comments

Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA)

Identity and Purity of Food Additives: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2021/34/OCS-FA) requesting comments at Step 3 on the proposed draft Specifications for the Identity and Purity of Food Additives arising from the 89th Meeting of the Joint Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA). The CL is available in English, French and Spanish at the following link: www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters Comments by observers and countries should be submitted via their Codex Contact Point (CCP) to the Secretariat for CCFA (secretariat@ccfa.cc) with a copy to the Codex Secretariat (codex@fao.org) by July 31, 2021.

Codex Committee on Pesticides Residues (CCPR)

Classification of Food and Feed: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2021/37/OCS-PR) requesting comments at Step 3 on the revision of the Classification of Food and Feed (Class C, Class D and Tables of examples for representative commodities for Class C and Class D). 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) by June 15, 2021. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) June 25, 2021.

Compounds of Low Public Health Concern: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2021/38-PR) requesting comments at Step 3 on the Guidelines for compounds of low public health concerns that could be exempted from the establishment of Codex maximum residue limits or do not give rise to residues. 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) by June 15, 2021. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) June 25, 2021.

Management of Unsupported Compounds: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2021/44/OCS-PR) requesting comments on the management of unsupported compounds without public health concern scheduled for periodic review. 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) by June 15, 2021. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) June 25, 2021.

Review of the International Estimate of Short-Term Intake Equations (IESTI): The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2021/42/OCS/PR-PR) requesting comments on the recommendations for the review of the IESTI equations based on conclusions and information provided in the discussion paper. 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) by June 15, 2021. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) June 30, 2021.

Other

World Food Safety Day: World Food Safety Day was created to draw attention and inspire action to help prevent, detect, and manage foodborne risks. In celebration of its third anniversary on June 7, 2021, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Codex Secretariat will host an online discussion from 8:00-8:45 EDT (13:00-13:45 CET) with Chief Scientists Ismahane Elouafi (FAO) and Soumya Swaminathan (WHO) to highlight the important role science plays in keeping food safe, now and in the future. The scientists will talk about the significance of this year's World Food Safety Day theme: "Safe food now for a healthy tomorrow." Interpretation will be provided in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish. To register for the event, please click on the following link: https://fao.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJArfuGhqDMsHdl6mW_IdY3lgN6Jt73AXFK8. You may also watch directly by clicking on this link: [Follow the webcast live on the FAO website](#). For additional information, please contact: World-Food-Safety-Day@fao.org

Joint FAO/WHO Expert Meeting on Microbiological Risk Assessment (JEMRA): The FAO and WHO have issued an open call for experts who can contribute to future work of JEMRA in assessing the prevention and control of microbiological hazards in fresh fruits and vegetables. Please submit recommendations as soon as possible. Selection of participants began on May 31, 2021 and will continue until suitable candidates are identified. In addition, FAO and WHO are requesting governments, the industry, academia, consumer groups, laboratories, and any other interested organizations and individuals to submit any available data and information to support this work. For more details from the webpages:

- 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-prevention-and-control-of-microbiological-hazards-in-fresh-fruits-and-vegetables>

WHO Call for Expert: The WHO is looking for a consultant to help with work on foodborne disease surveillance. The appointed expert will support the Actions in Food Systems unit with development of a report on emerging topics related to foodborne infections. This is related to a manual that was published in 2017 to help countries strengthen national food safety systems. This manual is now being updated to include subjects such as whole genome sequencing, the use of new technologies, and innovative sampling techniques. The consultant should have five years' experience working in foodborne disease surveillance or a related field and an advanced university degree in epidemiology, microbiology, public health, life science, food safety, or other similar areas. Tasks include proposing a list of emerging topics in foodborne disease surveillance, coordinating the publication process, and conducting literature reviews on the selected topics. The role will start in July and run until the end of this year. Interest applications should submit a resume and cover letter in PDF format to foodsystems@who.int with the subject line: "Consultant foodborne disease," by June 10, 2021.

Public Consultation on WHO Global Strategy for Food Safety: The WHO has launched a public web-based consultation on the draft WHO Global Strategy for Food Safety. Please refer to the WHO webpage(<https://www.who.int/news-room/articles-detail/public-consultation-on-the-draft-who-global-strategy-for-food-safety>) for the full draft strategy and also the general guidance for the submission of comments. Deadline for comments is June 18, 2021.

Report Published: The report of FAO's 2020 Regional Food Safety Conference in Asia and the Pacific has been published. The conference was divided into four sessions with specific focus on different aspects of food safety: national food control systems, science and technology, multi-sectoral collaboration and international trade, communication, and education. The report may be found at the following link: <http://www.fao.org/3/cb3863en/cb3863en.pdf>.