



Codex News – June 15, 2021

Upcoming Public Meetings

Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR)

The U.S. Codex Program is sponsoring a public meeting on June 17, 2021, from 1:00-3:00 PM EDT to provide information and receive public comments on agenda items and draft U.S. positions to be discussed at the 52nd Session of the CCPR, scheduled for July 26-31, 2021. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the public meeting will take place via video conference call only. Documents related to the 52nd session of the CCPR are available at the following link: <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CCPR&session=52>.

- CAPT David Miller, U.S. Delegate to the 52nd Session of the CCPR, invites U.S. interested parties to submit their comments electronically at the following email address: miller.davidj@epa.gov.
- Participants are requested to register in advance to participate in the public meeting here: <https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJlSdO2spz8sH8hmjG-maF8BYauGrD4GaQY> or by emailing niman.aaron@epa.gov and marie.maratosbhat@usda.gov as soon as possible.

Upcoming Committee Meetings

Codex Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL)

The 46th Session of CCFL will convene virtually. Sessions will take place on September 27 – October 1, 2021 from 4:00-7:00 pm EDT (21:00-24:00 hours CET). The adoption of the report will take place on October 7, 2021 from 4:00-7:00 pm EDT (21:00-24:00 hours CET). The provisional agenda and other documents related to the 46th Session of CCFL are available at: <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CCFL&session=46>. For additional information, please contact Kristen Hendricks (Kristen.Hendricks@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office.

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

As a reminder, the 25th Session of CCRVDF rescheduled from May 2020 to July 2021, will convene virtually. Sessions will take place on July 12-16, 2021 from 8:00-11:00 am EDT (14:00 to 17:00 hours CET). The adoption of the Report will take place on July 20, 2021 from 8:00-11:00 am EDT (14:00 to 17:00 hours CET). The provisional agenda and other documents related to the 25th Session of CCRVDF are available at the following link: <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CCRVDF&session=25>. For additional information, please contact Ken Lowery (ken.lowery@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 several 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-whocodexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CCFA&session=52>. For additional information, please contact Ken Lowery (ken.lowery@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office.

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

In anticipation of the 25th Session of CCRVDF, the WG on Priority List of Veterinary Drugs for Evaluation / Re-Evaluation by the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA) will meet on Tuesday, July 6 from 9:00 –12:00EDT (14:00-17:00 CET) with interpretation in English, French and Spanish. Please note that only registered participants to CCRVDF will receive a link to join the Priority WG. For additional information, please contact Ken Lowery (ken.lowery@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office.

Recent Committee Delegate Reports

Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH)

The report of the United States Delegate to the 5th Session of the CCSCH has published. The document may be found at the following link:

<https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/delegates-report-2021-spices-culinary-herbs.pdf>

Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF)

The report of the United States Delegate to the 14th Session of the CCCF has published. The document can be found at the following link:

<https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/delegates-report-2021-cccf.pdf>

Requests for Comments

Codex Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL)

Allergen Labelling: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2021/21/OCS-FL) requesting comments at Step 3 on Allergen Labelling: Proposed revisions to the *General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods* (GSLPF) and Guidance on precautionary allergen labelling. 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 Kristen Hendricks (Kristen.Hendricks@usda.gov) by August 23, 2021. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their Codex Contact Point (CCP) using the Online Commenting System (OCS) (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by September 6, 2021.

Front of Pack Nutrition Labelling: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2021/19/OCS-FL) requesting comments at Step 3 on the proposed draft Guidelines for Front of Pack Nutrition Labelling. 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 Kristen Hendricks (Kristen.Hendricks@usda.gov) by August 9, 2021. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by September 1, 2021.

Labelling of Non-Retail Containers: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2021/45/OCS-FL) requesting comments on the draft guidance for the labelling of non-retail containers. 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 Kristen Hendricks (Kristen.Hendricks@usda.gov) by July 14, 2021. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by August 7, 2021.

Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU)

Guideline for Ready-to-use Therapeutic Foods (RUTF): The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2021/31/OCS-NFSDU) requesting comments at Step 6 on the draft Guidelines for RUTF. 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 Kristen Hendricks (Kristen.Hendricks@usda.gov) by August 27, 2021. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by September 10, 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, 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) as soon as possible. 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) as soon as possible. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) June 25, 2021.

Procedures and Principles for the Engagement of JMPR: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2021/43-PR) request for comments on the procedures and principles for the engagement of JMPR in parallel reviews of new compounds. 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 23, 2021. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) July 5, 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 in relation to points (i) and (ii) of the Terms of Reference (TOR) of the Electronic Working Group (EWG) established by the 51st Session of CCPR. 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) as soon as possible. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) June 30, 2021.

Other

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 will begin on May 31, 2021 and 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, please visit 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-prevention-and-control-of-microbiological-hazards-in-fresh-fruits-and-vegetables>

JEMRA Report: The Joint FAO/WHO Expert Meetings on Microbiological Risk Assessment (JEMRA) report on Microbiological Risk Assessment Guidance for Food has been published. The report provides guidance on undertaking risk assessment of all microbial hazards which may adversely affect human health in foods along the food supply chain. This report is also intended to provide practical guidance on a structured framework for carrying out risk assessment of microbiological hazards in foods, focusing on the four components, including hazard identification, hazard characterization, exposure assessment and risk characterization. The report may be found at the following links:

- FAO: <http://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cb5006en>
- WHO: <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240024892>