



Codex News – June 27, 2023

### Upcoming Committee Meetings

#### ***Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CCEXEC)***

The 84<sup>th</sup> Session of the CCEXEC will meet in Geneva, Switzerland from July 10-12, 2023. Report adoption will occur in person on July 14, 2023. The provisional agenda and other working documents related to the 84<sup>th</sup> Session of the CCEXEC will be available at the following link: <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/de/?meeting=CCEXEC&session=84>. For additional information, please contact the U.S. Codex Office ([uscodex@usda.gov](mailto:uscodex@usda.gov)).

### Requests for Comments

#### ***FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Asia (CCASIA)***

**Fermented Soybean Products:** The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2023/51/OCS-ASIA) requesting comments on the proposed draft regional standard for soybean products fermented with *Bacillus* species. 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](mailto:heather.selig@usda.gov)) by August 17, 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 August 31, 2023.

**Rice in Plant Leaves:** The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2023/52/OCS-ASIA) requesting comments on the proposed draft regional standard for cooked rice wrapped in plant leaves. 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](mailto:heather.selig@usda.gov)) by August 17, 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.

**Frozen Dumpling:** The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2023/53/OCS-ASIA) requesting comments on the proposed draft regional standard for quick frozen dumpling. 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](mailto:heather.selig@usda.gov)) by August 17, 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.

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

**NFCS:** The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2023/49/OCS-FICS) requesting comments on the proposed Draft Guidelines on recognition and maintenance of equivalence of National Food Control

Systems (NFCS). 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](mailto:heather.selig@usda.gov)) of the U.S. Codex Office by September 22, 2023. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by October 6, 2023.

**Regulatory Frameworks:** The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2023/50/OCS-FICS) requesting comments on the proposed Draft Principles and guidelines on the use of remote audit and inspection in regulatory frameworks. 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](mailto:heather.selig@usda.gov)) of the U.S. Codex Office by September 22, 2023. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by October 6, 2023.

### ***Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR)***

**National Registrations:** The Codex Secretariat has issued a revised Circular Letter (CL 2023/25(Rev 1)-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 55<sup>th</sup> 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, 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](mailto: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](mailto:karsten.hohgardt@bvl.bund.de)) with a copy to the CCPR Secretariat ([ccpr@agri.gov.cn](mailto:ccpr@agri.gov.cn)) and the Codex Secretariat ([codex@fao.org](mailto:codex@fao.org)) by August 31, 2023.

### **Electronic Working Groups (EWG)**

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

**Equivalence Consolidation:** CCFICS invites Members and Observers to join an EWG, chaired by New Zealand and co-chaired by the United States of America and Kenya, working in English, to progress consolidation of all CCFICS guidance on equivalence. Individuals in the United States interested in working on the U.S. contributions to the EWG should contact Heather Selig ([Heather.Selig@usda.gov](mailto:Heather.Selig@usda.gov)) by July 23, 2023. Other countries and observers should send their full contact details including participant's name, official title or position, organization or country, and email address via their CCP to [CodexNZ@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:CodexNZ@mpi.govt.nz) by July 28, 2023. As this EWG will operate on the Codex Online Forum, please note that when there is more than one expert, each country or observer organization shall designate one as their official representative to participate in the EWG.

#### ***Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Use (CCNFSDU)***

**Infant Formula Standard:** CCNFSDU invites Members and Observers to join an EWG, chaired by the United States of America, working in English, to work on the Optional Ingredients in the Infant Formula Standard

for the 44<sup>th</sup> Session of CCNFSDU. The specific terms of reference are to:

- i. review the use of fructans, beta-carotene, lycopene in the context of optional ingredients in the Standard for Infant Formula and Formulas for Special Medical Purposes Intended for Infants (CXS 72-1981);
- ii. develop recommendations to CCNFSDU44 regarding the safety and suitability of these ingredients as optional ingredients in CXS 72-1981; and
- iii. submit a report for discussion at CCNFSDU44.

Individuals in the United States interested in working on the U.S. contributions to the EWG should contact Douglas Balentine ([douglas.balentine@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:douglas.balentine@fda.hhs.gov)) with a copy to Marie Maratos-Bhat ([marie.maratosbhat@usda.gov](mailto:marie.maratosbhat@usda.gov)) by July 26, 2023. Other countries and observers should send their full contact details including participant's name, official title or position, organization or country, and email address via their CCP to [uscodex@usda.gov](mailto:uscodex@usda.gov) by July 31, 2023. As this EWG will operate on the Codex Online Forum, please note that when there is more than one expert, each country or observer organization shall designate one as their official representative to participate in the EWG.

#### **New Chair of Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH)**

Dr. Evelyne Mbandi, formerly Director of the Microbiological and Chemical Hazards Staff within the Office of Public Health Science at the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), was recently confirmed as the new Chair of CCFH. She follows in the footsteps of Dr. Emilio Esteban, who previously served as Chair to CCFH for a number of years.