



Codex News – July 25, 2023

Upcoming Committee Meetings

Codex Committee on General Principles (CCGP)

The 33rd Session of the Committee on General Principles will convene physically in Bordeaux, France from October 2-6, 2023. The report adoption will take place on the last day of the Session. The Session and side events will be broadcasted in listening mode in English, French, and Spanish. The provisional agenda and other documents related to the 33rd Session of CCGP are available at: <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CCGP&session=33>. For additional information, please contact Marie Maratos-Bhat (marie.maratosbhat@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office.

Requests for Comments

Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC)

NRVs-R: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2023/67/OCS-CAC) requesting comments on the General Principles for establishing Nutrient Reference Values-Requirements (NRVs-R) for persons aged 6 to 36 months. The CL is currently available in English, French, and Spanish at the following link: <https://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 October 2, 2023. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their Codex Contact Point (CCP) using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by October 15, 2023.

Follow-up Formula: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2023/68/OCS-CAC) requesting comments on the revised *Standard for Follow-up Formula* (CXS 156-1987). The CL is currently available in English, French, and Spanish at the following link: <https://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 October 2, 2023. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by October 15, 2023.

GSLPF: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2023/69/OCS-CAC) requesting comments on the provisions relevant to allergen labelling in the revision to the *General Standard for the Labelling of Pre-Packaged Foods* (GSLPF) (CXS 1-1985). The CL is currently available in English at the following link: <https://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 October 2, 2023. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by October 15, 2023.

E-Commerce: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2023/70/OCS-CAC) requesting comments on the Guidelines on the provision of food information for pre-packaged foods to be offered via e-commerce. The CL is currently available in English at the following link: <https://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 October 2, 2023. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by October 15, 2023.

Technology: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2023/71/OCS-CAC) requesting comments on the Guidelines on the use of technology to provide food information. The CL is currently available in English at the following link: <https://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 October 2, 2023. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by October 15, 2023.

Methods of Analysis: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2023/72/OCS-CAC) requesting comments on methods of analysis, numeric performance criteria, and sampling plans. The CL is currently available in English at the following link: <https://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 October 2, 2023. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by October 15, 2023.

Sampling: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2023/73/OCS-CAC) requesting comments on the revised *General Guidelines on Sampling* (CXG 5—2004). The CL is currently available in English at the following link: <https://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 October 2, 2023. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by October 15, 2023.

CCNFSDU Amendments: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2023/74/OCS-CAC) requesting comments on the amendments to the *Standard for Canned Baby Foods* (CXS 73-1981) and the *Advisory list of nutrient compounds for use in foods for special dietary uses intended for infants and young children* (CXG 10-1979). The CL is currently available in English, French, and Spanish at the following link: <https://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 October 2, 2023. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by October 15, 2023.

Codex Committee on Fats and Oils (CCFO)

JECFA Assessments: The Codex Secretariat has extended the deadline for the Circular Letter (CL 2022/81/OCS-FO) requesting comments on the recommendations from the 90th and 91st Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA90 and JECFA91) on Assessment of substances proposed as previous cargoes. The CL is currently available in English, French, and Spanish at the following link: <https://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 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 for Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH)

New Work: The Codex Secretariat has issued a reminder for Circular Letter (CL 2023/01-SCH) requesting submissions of new work proposals. The CL is currently available in English, French, and Spanish at the following link: <https://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 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.

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, French, and Spanish at the following link: <https://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 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.

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, French, and Spanish at the following link: <https://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 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, French, and Spanish at the following link: <https://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 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.

Electronic Working Groups (EWG)

Codex Committee on Contaminants in Food (CCCF)

Aflatoxin B1: CCCF invites Members and Observers to join an EWG, chaired by Canada, working in English, to work on the discussion paper to determine the need for updates to the *Code of practice for*

the reduction of aflatoxin B1 in raw materials and supplemental feeding stuffs for milk-producing animals (CXC 45-1997). Individuals in the United States interested in working on the U.S. contributions to the EWG should contact Doreen Chen-Moulec (Doreen.chenmoulec@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office by August 6, 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 Codex Contact Point (CCP) to codex_canada@hc-sc.gc.ca by August 11, 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 for Food Additives (CCFA)

Revision to the INS: CCFA invites Members and Observers to join an EWG, chaired by Belgium, working in English, to develop the *Revision of the Class Names and the International Numbering System for Food Additives* (INS) (CXG 36-1989). Individuals in the United States interested in working on the U.S. contributions to the EWG should contact Doreen Chen-Moulec (Doreen.chenmoulec@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office by September 10, 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 apf.food.additives@health.fgov.be by September 15, 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 Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS)

Revision to Traceability: CCFICS invites Members and Observers to join an EWG, chaired by the United States and co-chaired by Australia, Ecuador, Honduras, and the United Kingdom, working in English and Spanish, to progress work on the revision and updating of *Principles for Traceability/ Product Tracing as a Tool Within a Food Inspection and Certification Systems* (CXG 60-2006). Individuals in the United States interested in working on the U.S. contributions to the EWG should contact Heather Selig (Heather.Selig@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office by August 5, 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 by August 10, 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.

Food Fraud: CCFICS invites Members and Observers to join an EWG, chaired by the United States and co-chaired by China, the European Union, Iran, and the United Kingdom, working in English, to prepare revised draft guidelines on the prevention and control of food fraud. Individuals in the United States interested in working on the U.S. contributions to the EWG should contact Heather Selig (Heather.Selig@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office by August 18, 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 by September 1, 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 Food Labelling (CCFL)

E-Commerce: CCFL invites Members and Observers to join an EWG, chaired by the United Kingdom and co-chaired by Chile, Japan, India, and China, working in English and Spanish, to further develop the E-Commerce Guidelines on the provision of food information for prepackaged foods. Individuals in the

United States interested in working on the U.S. contributions to the EWG should contact Marie Maratos Bhat (marie.maratosbhat@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office 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 codex@defra.gov.uk 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 representatives to participate in the EWG.

Allergen Labelling: CCFL invites Members and Observers to join an EWG, chaired by Australia and co-chaired by the United Kingdom and the United States, working in English, to further develop the revision of the *General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods (GSLPF)* (CXS 1-1985). Individuals in the United States interested in working on the U.S. contributions to the EWG should contact Marie Maratos Bhat (marie.maratosbhat@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office by July 28, 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 codex.contact@agriculture.gov.au by August 18, 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.

Sustainability Claims: CCFL invites Members and Observers to join an EWG, chaired by New Zealand and co-chaired by the European Union, United States, and Costa Rica, to focus on:

- a. Stocktaking work being undertaken by other international organizations on sustainability related labelling claims on food.
- b. Identifying areas where CCFL could provide guidance on sustainability-related labelling claims on food.
- c. Taking into account a) and b) identify possible revisions to the *General Guidelines on Claims* (CXG 1-1979) claims in general, and sustainability-related labelling claims on food.

Individuals in the United States interested in working on the U.S. contributions to the EWG should contact Marie Maratos Bhat (marie.maratosbhat@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office by August 27, 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 with a copy to Phillippa.hawthorne@mpi.govt.nz by September 1, 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.

Food Information Technology: CCFL invites Members and Observers to join an EWG, chaired by Canada and co-chaired by New Zealand and India, working in English, to further develop the Guidelines on the use of technology to provide food information. Individuals in the United States interested in working on the U.S. contributions to the EWG should contact Marie Maratos-Bhat (marie.maratosbhat@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office by August 27, 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 codex_canada@hc-sc.gc.ca with a copy to Codex_CFIA@inspection.gc.ca by September 1, 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 Methods and Sampling (CCMAS)

Sampling Guidelines: CCMAS invites Members and Observers to join an EWG, chaired by New Zealand and co-chaired by Germany, working in English, to continue working on the information document, namely the e-book with the sampling plans applications. Individuals in the United States interested in working on the U.S. contributions to the EWG should contact Heather Selig (heather.selig@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office by August 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 CodexNZ@mpi.govt.nz by August 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.

Fish and Fishery Products: CCMAS invites Members and Observers to join an EWG, chaired by Norway, working in English, to review the methods specified in the *Recommended Methods of Analysis and Sampling* (CXS 234-1999) for fish and fishery products. Individuals in the United States interested in working on the U.S. contributions to the EWG should contact Heather Selig (heather.selig@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office by September 6, 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 ewgccmas@mattilsynet.no by September 11, 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.

Cereals, Pulses, and Legumes: CCMAS invites Members and Observers to join an EWG, chaired by Canada, working in English, to continue the review of the methods in the cereals, pulses, legumes, and derived products workable package. Individuals in the United States interested in working on the U.S. contributions to the EWG should contact Heather Selig (heather.selig@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office by September 10, 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 codex_canada@hc-sc.gc.ca by September 15, 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)

Work Prioritization: CCNFSDU invites Members and Observers to join an EWG, chaired by Germany, working in English and French, to prepare a revised draft guideline for the preliminary assessment and identification of work priorities. Individuals in the United States interested in working on the U.S. contributions to the EWG should contact Marie Maratos Bhat (marie.maratosbhat@usda.gov) by July 28, 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 codex_canada@hc-sc.gc.ca and ccnfsdu@bvl.bund.de by August 18, 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.

Sweetness Methods: CCNFSDU invites Members and Observers to join an EWG, chaired by the European Union and co-chaired by Switzerland, working in English, to review, identify and, if appropriate, recommend methods for referral to CCMAS for endorsement, in particular ISO 5495, for assessing the sweetness of carbohydrate sources in comparison to lactose in "Product for Young

Children” which is the new proposed title for the revised *Standard for Follow-up Formula* (CXS 156-1987) for those products based on non-milk protein.

Individuals in the United States interested in working on the U.S. contributions to the EWG should contact Marie Maratos Bhat (marie.maratosbhat@usda.gov) by August 27, 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 Sante-Codex@ec.europa.eu by September 1, 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.

Food Additives: CCNFSDU invites Members and Observers to join an EWG, chaired by the European Union, working in English, for the purpose of:

- a. collecting information from the applicants on the use and use levels and confirmation to provide data on the safety assessment for infants below 12 weeks of age on the following additives: guar gum (INS 412), distarch phosphate (INS 1412), phosphated distarch phosphate (INS 1413), acetylated distarch phosphate (INS 1414), hydroxypropyl starch (INS 1440).
- b. collecting information from the applicants with the framework for considering technological justification for use in CXS 72-1981 on food additives for which the use, use levels and commitment to provide the data is confirmed; and
- c. reviewing the information provided and provide recommendations to CCNFSDU44 on the technological justification of each additive.

Individuals in the United States interested in working on the U.S. contributions to the EWG should contact Marie Maratos Bhat (marie.maratosbhat@usda.gov) by September 3, 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 jiri.sochor@ec.europa.eu and Sante-Codex@ec.europa.eu by September 8, 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.

Other

JECFA Publication: The JECFA residue monographs from the 94th meeting that evaluated the following compounds: Imidacloprid, Ivermectin, Nicarbazine and Selectin have been published and may be accessed at the following link: <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc5153en>.

FAO Symposium: The International Symposium on Dietary Protein for Human Health, which will meet in Utrecht from September 14-16, 2023, will bring together international leaders in protein nutrition and related areas, and will provide an update on recent scientific developments of critical importance to human welfare and food security. Registration and abstract submission are now open at <https://web.cvent.com/event/1783d29e-b98f-4342-b4a1-30dbaf3fc357/summary>.