



Codex News – July 27, 2022

Upcoming Public Meeting

Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH)

The U.S. Codex Program is sponsoring a virtual public meeting on August 22, 2022, from 1:00 – 2:30PM ET to provide information and receive public comments on agenda items and draft U.S. positions to be discussed at the 6th Session of the Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH), which will take place from September 26 – October 3, 2022. Documents related to the 6th Session of the CCSCH will be accessible via the internet at the following address: <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CCSCH&session=6>.

- Mr. Dorian LaFond, U.S. Delegate to the 6th Session of the CCSCH, invites interested U.S. parties to submit their comments electronically to the following email address: dorian.lafond@usda.gov.
- Please register to attend the virtual public meeting here: www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJlsc--rqDwrHUQoI8la985vjKzMsfUOnFA.

Electronic Working Groups (EWG)

Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF)

Aflatoxins in Peanuts: CCCF invites Members and Observers to join an EWG, chaired by India and co-chaired by Senegal, working in English, to develop Maximum Levels (ML) for total aflatoxins in ready-to-eat peanuts and an associated sampling plan. 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) as soon as possible. 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-india@nic.in by July 31, 2022. 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.

Mycotoxins in Cassava: CCCF invites Members and Observers to join an EWG, chaired by Nigeria and co-chaired by Ghana, working in English, to revise the code of practice for the prevention and reduction of mycotoxins contamination in cassava and cassava-based products. 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) as soon as possible. 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

codexsecretariat@son.gov.ng by July 31, 2022. 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.

Mycotoxins in Spices: CCCF invites Members and Observers to join an EWG, chaired by India, working in English, to prepare new proposals for MLs for certain mycotoxins in spices. 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) as soon as possible. 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-india@nic.in by July 31, 2022. 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.

Requests for Comments

Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF)

Aflatoxins in Spices: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2022/45-CF) requesting comments and/or information on sampling plans: Maximum levels for total aflatoxins and ochratoxin A in spices. The CL is currently available in English, French, and Spanish at the following link: <http://www.fao.org/fao-whocodexalimentarius/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 September 16, 2022. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the Online Commenting System (OCS) (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by September 30, 2022.

Aflatoxins in Cereals: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2022/46-CF) requesting comments on sampling plans for total aflatoxins for cereals and cereal-based foods, including foods for infants and young children. The CL is currently available in English, French, and Spanish at the following link: <http://www.fao.org/fao-whocodexalimentarius/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 September 16, 2022. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by September 30, 2022.

Codex Committee on Fats and Oils (CCFO)

Sunflower Seed Oils: The Codex Secretariat has extended the deadline for the Circular Letter (CL 2021/93/OCS-FO) requesting comments on the proposed revision to the *Standard for Named Vegetable Oils* (CXS 210-1999) – Essential composition of Sunflower Seed oils. The CL is currently available in English, French, and Spanish at the following link:

<http://www.fao.org/fao-whocodexalimentarius/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) 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 July 31, 2022.

Avocado Oil: The Codex Secretariat has extended the deadline for the Circular Letter (CL 2021/94/OCS-FO) requesting comments on the proposed revision to the *Standard for Named Vegetable Oils* (CXS 210-1999) – Inclusion of Avocado oil. 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) 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 July 31, 2022.

List of Acceptable Previous Cargoes: The Codex Secretariat has extended the deadline for the Circular Letter (CL 2021/95/OCS-FO) requesting proposals for amendments to Appendix 2: List of Acceptable Previous Cargoes of the *Code of Practice for the Storage and Transport of Edible Fats and Oils in Bulk* (CXC 36-1987). 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) 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 July 31, 2022.

Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH)

Saffron: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2022/25/OCS-SCH) requesting comments on the draft standard for saffron. 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) with a copy to uscodex@usda.gov by August 12, 2022. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by August 26, 2022.

FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean (CCLAC)

Alignment of Food Additive Provisions: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2022/51/OCS-LAC) requesting comments on the alignment of food additive provisions in CCLAC regional standards with the General Standard on Food Additives. The CL is currently available in English 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 September 5, 2022. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by September 18, 2022.

Recent U.S. Delegate Report

Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF)

The report of the U.S. Delegate on the 15th Session of the CCCF has been published. The report can be found at the following link: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/cccf-delegate-report.pdf>.

Calls for Data

Lead in Herbs and Spices: The 15th Session of the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF15) agreed to issue a call for data on lead in fresh and dried culinary herbs and dried spices (including floral parts bark, rhizomes, bulbs, and roots) for consideration by CCCF17. More information about the call for data is available at the following link: https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/food-safety/call-for-data/call-for-data-cccf-lead-2022.pdf?sfvrsn=886c8a26_3. Data submissions in response to the call for data should be submitted to the World Health Organization (WHO) through the GEMS database by October 10, 2022.

Toxicological Data: The Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA) has issued a call for data contributions to the toxicological evaluations, the preparation of specifications, and estimating the intake of substances scheduled for evaluation at JECFA96. The call for data can be accessed at the following link: <https://www.fao.org/3/cc0733en/cc0733en.pdf>. Data submissions should be submitted to the FAO at JECFA-Call@fao.org and to WHO at jecfa@who.int by December 31, 2022.

Call for Experts

Microbiological Hazards: The Joint FAO/WHO Expert Meeting on Microbiological Risk Assessment (JEMRA) has issued a call for experts on risk assessment of microbiological hazards related to food safety to serve on the JEMRA roster. The call for experts can be accessed at the following link: <https://www.fao.org/3/cc0842en/cc0842en.pdf>. Interested applicants are invited to complete an online application and submit their curriculum vitae to jemra@fao.org and jemra@who.int by October 1, 2022.

Other

FAO Webinars on AMR: FAO is hosting a series of data-rich monthly webinars on the 2nd Thursday of each month, to bring participants up to date on specific scientific and technical

topics related to antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and how to contain it. This may include a variety of topics/disciplines related to AMR in food and agriculture including microbiology, epidemiology, environmental or behavioral science, plant and animal production, and health. For more information about past and forthcoming webinars, please visit the following link: <https://www.fao.org/antimicrobial-resistance/news-and-events/events/en/>.

JECFA95 Summary: The summary of the 95th meeting of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA) is now available at the following link: https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/food-safety/jecfa/summary-and-conclusions/jecfa95-summary-and-conclusions.pdf?sfvrsn=542e4273_3&download=true.