



Codex News – September 5, 2023

Upcoming Committee Meetings

Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC)

The 46th Session of CAC will meet in Rome, Italy from November 27 to December 2, 2023, from 4:00-7:00 EST (10:00-13:00 CET) and 9:00-12:00 EST (15:00-18:00 CET). The report adoption will take place in person on the last day of the session from 3:00-12:00 EST (9:00-18:00 CET). Remote participation (via Zoom) will be possible for listening and verbal interventions. The provisional agenda and other working documents related to the 46th session of CAC are available at the following link: <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CAC&session=46>. For additional information, please contact the U.S. Codex Office (uscodex@usda.gov).

Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH)

The 7th Session of CCSCH will take place physically in Kochi, Kerala, India from January 29 to February 2, 2024, from 3:30-11:00 EST (9:30-17:00 CET). The report adoption will take place in person on the last day of the session starting at 3:30 EST (9:30 CET). The provisional agenda and other working documents related to the 7th Session of CCSCH are available at the following link: <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/committees/committee/related-meetings/pt/?committee=CCSCH>. For additional information, please contact Heather Selig (heather.selig@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office.

Upcoming Public Meetings

Codex Committee on General Principles (CCGP)

The U.S. Codex Office is sponsoring a public meeting on Thursday, September 14, 2023, from 2:00-4:00 p.m. EDT to provide information and receive public comments on agenda items and draft U.S. positions to be discussed at the 33rd Session of the Codex Committee on General Principles (CCGP), which will meet in Bordeaux, France from October 2-6, 2023.

The public meeting will take place via Video Teleconference only. Documents related to the 33rd Session of the CCGP will be accessible via the internet at the following address: <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CCGP&session=33>.

- Mary Frances Lowe, U.S. Delegate to the 33rd Session of CCGP, invites interested U.S. parties to submit their comments electronically to the following email address: maryfrances.lowe@usda.gov.
- Attendees may register to attend the public meeting at the following link: <https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJltceCtqToiHQmKptH0CtUn35LTAXhR7Hc>. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Requests for Comments

Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC)

Fermented Noni Fruit Juice: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2023/54/OCS-CAC) requesting comments on the draft Regional Standard for Fermented Noni Fruit Juice. The CL is currently available in English, French, and Spanish at the following link: <https://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 Marie Maratos Bhat (marie.maratosbhat@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office by September 14, 2023. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their Codex Contact Point using the Online Commenting System (OCS) (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by September 28, 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 Prepackaged Foods* (GSLPF) (CXS 1-1985). 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.

MRLs: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2023/75/OCS-CAC) requesting comments on maximum residue limits for veterinary drugs in foods. 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 Ken Lowery (ken.lowery@usda.gov) 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.

Contaminants: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2023/76/OCS-CAC) requesting comments on maximum levels for contaminants in foods. 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 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.

Cassava: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2023/77/OCS-CAC) requesting comments on the Code of practice for the prevention and reduction of mycotoxin contamination in cassava and cassava-based products. 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 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.

Pesticide MRLs: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2023/78/OCS-CAC) requesting comments on maximum residue limits for pesticides in food and feeds. 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.

Classification of Food and Feed: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2023/79/OCS-CAC) requesting comments on the revision of the *Classification of Food and Feed* (CXA 4-1989). 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.

Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CCEXEC)

Strategic Plan: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2022/65/OCS-EXEC) requesting comments on the development of the Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031 – Part 1 – how Codex works as part of the multilateral system on food and trade. 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 the U.S. Codex Office (uscodex@usda.gov) by September 9, 2023. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by September 20, 2023.

Electronic Working Groups (EWG)

Codex Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL)

Food Labelling in Joint Presentation and Multipacks: CCFL invites Members and Observers to join an EWG, chaired by Colombia and co-chaired by Jamaica, working in English and Spanish, to prepare a preliminary draft text on food labelling in joint presentation formats and in multiple packages. 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 September 15, 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 dcastrou@invima.gov.co with a copy to sosorioa@invima.gov.co by September 20, 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.

Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR)

Joint EWG: CCPR and the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods (CCRVDF) invite Members and Observers to join an EWG, chaired by the United States and co-chaired by Brazil and New Zealand, working in English to:

- Develop a list of compounds with dual use as a pesticide and veterinary drug for which no or only one Codex MRL has been established with member countries providing the information to populate this list.

- Identify dual-use compounds that have different Codex MRLs for a similar edible commodity of animal origin and recommend on a case-by-case basis, a single, harmonized MRL(s) for the compound(s) and affected commodity(ies). The EWG might recommend that CCRVDF/CCPR consider selecting the higher MRL value.
- Consider the matter related to harmonized food descriptors to be used by JECFA and JMPR.

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) and Ken Lowery (ken.lowery@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 ccrvdf-ussec@usda.gov 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.

CCPR-JMPR: CCPR invites Members and Observers to join an EWG, chaired by the United States and co-chaired by Costa Rica and Uganda, working in English and Spanish, to continue on the Enhancement of Work between the CCPR and JMPR. 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 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 uscodex@usda.gov 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.

Priority Lists: CCPR invites Members and Observers to join an EWG, chaired by Australia, working in English, to provide a report on schedules and priority lists for consideration by CCPR55. 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 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.Contact@agriculture.gov.au 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.

Reference Materials: CCPR invites Members and Observers to join an EWG, chaired by India and co-chaired by Singapore and Argentina, working in English to:

- develop the guidance procedures for monitoring the stability and purity of multiclass pesticide reference materials and their stock solutions during prolonged storage based on the outline provided in CX/PR 23/54/14, Appendix III and taking into account comments submitted in reply to CL 2023/38-PR;
- submit the report of the EWG and the proposed guidance procedures to the Codex Secretariat for circulation for comments at Step 3 and consideration by CCPR55 (2024)

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 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-india@nic.in with a copy to

vs_agch@yahoo.com 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.

Unsupported Compounds: CCPR invites Members and Observers to join an EWG, chaired by Chile and co-chaired by Ecuador, India, and Kenya, working in English and Spanish, to:

- implement the management procedure for unsupported compounds without health concerns for periodic review as described in the report of CCPR54 (REP23/PR54, Appendix XI)
- consider the unsupported compound identified under the priority list in the implementation of the management procedure (REP23/PR54, paragraphs 243, 245, 246)
- coordinate with the Chairs of the EWGs on priority lists and national registration database, respectively, on the identification of other possible unsupported compounds in accordance with the management procedure; and
- based on the above considerations to present the outcomes of the actions made for consideration by CCPR55.

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 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@achipia.gob.cl with a copy to eduardo.aylwin@achipia.gob.cl 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 Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods (CCRVDF)

Joint EWG: CCPR and CCRVDF invites Members and Observers to join an EWG, chaired by the United States and co-chaired by Brazil and New Zealand, working in English to:

- Develop a list of compounds with dual use as a pesticide and veterinary drug for which no or only one Codex MRL has been established with member countries providing the information to populate this list.
- Identify dual-use compounds that have different Codex MRLs for a similar edible commodity of animal origin and recommend on a case-by-case basis, a single, harmonized MRL(s) for the compound(s) and affected commodity(ies). The EWG might recommend that CCRVDF/CCPR consider selecting the higher MRL value.
- Consider the matter related to harmonized food descriptors to be used by the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA) and the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPR).

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) and Ken Lowery (ken.lowery@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 ccrvdf-ussec@usda.gov 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.

Other

Codex Trust Fund: The FAO/WHO Codex Trust Fund just opened the eighth round of applications for support. All application documents can be found at <https://www.who.int/initiatives/codex-trust-fund/support>. The deadline for applications is December 20, 2023.