



Codex News – October 4, 2022

Upcoming Public Meetings

Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC)

The U.S. Codex Program is sponsoring a public meeting on October 26, 2022, from 1:00 – 4:00 PM EDT to provide information and receive public comments on agenda items and draft U.S. positions to be discussed at the 45th Session of the of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC), on November 21-25, 2022. The report adoption is scheduled for December 12-13, 2022. The public meeting will take place virtually. Documents related to the 45th Session of the CAC will be accessible via the internet at the following address: www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/en.

- Ms. Mary Frances Lowe, U.S. Delegate to the 45th Session of the CAC, invites U.S. interested parties to submit their comments electronically to the following email address: uscodex@usda.gov.
- Please register to attend the public meeting here: <https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJltdO-srDMrGJxRlsmY7r4RU08yTLgsaEE>

Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH)

The U.S. Codex Program is sponsoring a public meeting on October 27, 2022, from 1:00 – 4:00 PM EDT to provide information and receive public comments on agenda items and draft U.S. positions to be discussed at the 53rd Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH), on November 29-December 2, 2022. The report adoption is scheduled for December 8, 2022. The public meeting will take place virtually. Documents related to the 53rd Session of the CCFH will be accessible via the internet at the following address: www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/en.

- Ms. Jenny Scott, U.S. Delegate to the 53rd Session of the CCFH, invites U.S. interested parties to submit their comments electronically to the following email address: jenny.scott@fda.hhs.gov.
- Please register to attend the public meeting here: https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJlSf-urrz8iGN5BcwKKuIL3yAYvR_kbtU

Upcoming Committee Meetings

FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Asia (CCASIA)

The 22nd Session of CCASIA will meet virtually on October 12-14 and 17-18, 2022, from 3:00-6:00 AM EDT (9:00 – 12:00 CET). Virtual report adoption will take place on October 21, 2022 from 3:00-6:00 AM EDT (9:00 – 12:00 CET). The provisional agenda and other working documents related to the 22nd Session of the CCASIA are available at the following link: <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CCASIA&session=22>. For additional information, please contact Doreen Chen-Moulec (doreen.chenmoulec@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office.

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

The 22nd Session of CCLAC will meet virtually on October 24-26, 2022 11:00-14:00 EDT (17:00 – 20:00 CET). Virtual report adoption will take place on October 28, 2022 from 11:00-14:00 EDT (17:00 – 20:00 CET). The provisional agenda and other working documents related to the 22nd Session of the CCLAC are available at the following link: <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CCLAC&session=22>. For additional information, please contact Ken Lowery (ken.lowery@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office.

Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CCEXEC)

The 83rd Session of the CCEXEC will take place physically in the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Headquarters in Rome, Italy, on November 14-16, 2022, from 4:00-7:00 EST (10:00-13:00 CET) and 9:00-12:00 EST (15:00-18:00 CET). Report adoption will also take place physically on November 18, 2022 from 4:00-7:00 EST (10:00-13:00 CET) and 9:00-12:00 EST (15:00-18:00 CET). Remote participation (via Zoom) will also be possible. The provisional agenda and other working documents related to the 83rd Session of the CCEXEC are available at the following link: <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CCEXEC&session=83>. For additional information, please contact the U.S. Codex Office (uscodex@usda.gov).

Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC)

The 45th Session of the CAC will take place physically at FAO Headquarters in Rome, Italy on November 21-25, 2022 from 4:00-7:00 EST (10:00-13:00 CET) and 9:00-12:00 EST (15:00-18:00 CET). Virtual report adoption will take place on December 12-13, 2022 from 6:00-9:00 EST (12:00-15:00 CET). Remote participation (via Zoom) possible for listening and verbal interventions. The provisional agenda and other working documents related to the 45th Session of the CAC are available at the following link: <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CAC&session=45>. For additional information, please contact the U.S. Codex Office (uscodex@usda.gov).

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

The 26th Session of the CCRVDF will take place physically in Portland, Oregon, United States, on February 13-17, 2023. The provisional agenda and other working documents related to the 26th Session of the CCRVDF will soon be available at the following link: <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CCRVDF&session=26>. For additional information, please contact Ken Lowery (ken.lowery@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office.

Electronic Working Groups (EWG)

Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR)

Enhancement of work management of CCPR and JMPR: CCPR invites Members and Observers to join an EWG, chaired by the United States and co-chaired by Costa Rica, France, Germany and Uganda, working in English and Spanish, to explore the enhancement of work management by the CCPR and the FAO/World Health Organization (WHO) Joint Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPR). The specific terms of reference are as follows:

- i) prepare a Circular Letter (CL) to request information from members and observers on the need to enhance CCPR/JMPR and the associated opportunities and challenges. The CL may invite members and observers to consider a second or possibly subsequent workshops that would expand on and further develop some of the themes addressed in the virtual workshop sponsored by CropLife International on March 31, 2022, as described in CX/PR 22/53/20.
- ii) prepare, on the basis of the responses to the CL a summary of the submitted information and a discussion paper that summarizes findings for consideration at CCPR54 and later transmission to JMPR as appropriate.
- iii) coordinate work with related EWGs such as the EWGs on priority lists, national registration database, unsupported compounds.

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) 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 uscodex@usda.gov as soon as possible. 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.

National registration of pesticides: CCPR invites Members and Observers to join an EWG, chaired by Germany and co-chaired by Australia, working in English and Spanish, to amend the National Registration Database for Pesticides for Periodic Review by JMPR. The EWG will also coordinate its work with the EWGs on Priorities and on Unsupported compounds without public health concerns. 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 October 12. 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.germany@bmel.bund.de with a copy to karsten.hohgardt@bvl.bund.de by October 15, 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)

Methylmercury in fish: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2022/47/OCS-CF) requesting information on national sampling plans for methylmercury in fish or other contaminants in fish. 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 December 1, 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 December 25, 2022.

Codex Committee on Fats and Oils (CCFO)

New Work/Amendments: The Codex Secretariat has extended the deadline for Circular Letter (CL 2021/96-FO) requesting proposals for new work and/or amendments to existing CCFO texts. 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 Doreen Chen-Moulec (doreen.chenmoulec@usda.gov) by March 1, 2023. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP to codex@fao.org with a copy to ccfo_malaysia@moh.gov.my by to March 31, 2023.

Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH)

Vibrio: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2022/49/OCS-FH) requesting comments on the discussion paper on the revision of the *Guidelines on the Application of General Principles of Food Hygiene to the Control of Pathogenic Vibrio Species in Seafood* (CXG 73-2010). 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 Marie Maratos Bhat (marie.maratosbhat@usda.gov) and Jenny Scott (jenny.scott@fda.hhs.gov) with a copy to Andrew Yeung (andrew.yeung@fda.hhs.gov) and Eric Stevens (eric.stevens@fda.hhs.gov) by October 21, 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 October 31, 2022.

Viruses: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2022/50/OCS-FH) requesting comments on the discussion paper on revision of the *Guidelines on the Application of General Principles of Food Hygiene to the Control of Viruses in Food* (CXG 79-2012). 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 Marie Maratos Bhat (marie.maratosbhat@usda.gov) and Jenny Scott (jenny.scott@fda.hhs.gov) with a copy to Andrew Yeung (andrew.yeung@fda.hhs.gov) and Eric Stevens (eric.stevens@fda.hhs.gov) by October 21, 2022. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their Codex Contact Point (CCP) using the Online Commenting System (OCS) (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by October 31, 2022.

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

Remote Audit and Verification: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2022/59/FICS) requesting comments on a new work proposal for the Development of Principles and Guidelines on the Use of Remote Audit and Verification in Regulatory Frameworks. 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) of the U.S. Codex Office as soon as possible. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted to the Australian Codex Contact Point (codex.contact@agriculture.gov.au) with a copy to the Codex Secretariat (codex@fao.org) by October 14, 2022.

Codex Committee of Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS)

The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2022/60/OCS-MAS) requesting comments on the fats and oils workable package in the review of the *Recommended Methods of Analysis and Sampling* (CXS 234 – 1999). 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) of the U.S. Codex Office by January 20, 2023. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by February 3, 2023.

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

The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2022/57/OCS-NFSDU) requesting comments on the Guidelines for Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Foods (RUTF). 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 Kristen Hendricks (Kristen.hendricks@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office 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 October 3, 2022.

Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CCEXEC)

The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2022/58/OCS-EXEC) requesting comments on the proposal for revision of the *Standard for milk fat products* (CXS 280-1973). The CL is currently available in English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Chinese and Russian 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 October 3, 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 October 14, 2022.

FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Africa (CAFRICA)

Dried Meat: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2022/61/OCS-AFRICA) requesting comments on the draft Regional Standard for dried meat. 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 Ken Lowery (ken.lowery@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office by October 24, 2022. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by November 4, 2022.

Harmonized Food Safety Legislation: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2022/62/OCS-AFRICA) requesting comments on the proposed draft Guidelines for developing harmonized food safety legislation for the CCAFRICA region. 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 Ken Lowery (ken.lowery@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office by October 24, 2022. Comments by Member Countries

and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by November 4, 2022.

Other

FAO-WHO Publication: The "FAO-WHO Report of the Expert Meeting on Food Safety for Seaweed – Current status and Future perspectives" reviews the available/accessible information on food safety in seaweed and makes recommendations for addressing identified challenges with a view to protect consumers and promote sustainable food security for all. The report may be accessed at the following link: <http://www.fao.org/3/cc0846en/cc0846en.pdf>.