



Codex News – October 5, 2021

Upcoming Public Meetings

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

The U.S. Codex Program is sponsoring a public meeting on October 19, 2021, from 2:00 – 4:00PM EDT to provide information and receive public comments on agenda items and draft U.S. positions to be discussed at the 42nd Session of the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU), scheduled for November 19-25, 2021. The public meeting will take place virtually. Documents related to the 42nd Session of the CCNFSDU will be accessible via the internet at the following address: www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/en.

- Dr. Douglas Balentine, U.S. Delegate to the 42nd Session of the CCNFSDU, invites U.S. interested parties to submit their comments electronically to the following email address: douglas.balentine@fda.hhs.gov.
- Please register to attend the public meeting by emailing the U.S. Codex Office at: uscodex@usda.gov.

Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC)

The U.S. Codex Program is sponsoring a public meeting on October 21, 2021, from 1:00 – 4:00PM EDT to provide information and receive public comments on agenda items and draft U.S. positions to be discussed at the 44th Session of the of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC), scheduled for November 8-18, 2021. The public meeting will take place virtually. Documents related to the 44th 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 44th 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: www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJlsc-GsqDotGb4I3ySJrLPQpRdHvb6jLuM

Upcoming Committee and Task Force Meetings

Codex Committee on Fats and Oils (CCFO)

The 27th Session of the CCFO will meet virtually on October 18-22, 2021 from 3:00- 6:00 EDT (9:00-12:00 CET); the report adoption is planned for October 26, 2021 from 3:00-6:00 EDT (9:00-12:00 CET). The Session will be conducted in English, French, and Spanish. The provisional agenda and other working documents related to the 27th Session of the CCFO are available at:

<http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CCFO&session=27>. For additional information, please contact Doreen Chen-Moule (doreen.chenmoule@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office.

Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CCEXEC)

This is reminder that the CCEXEC will conduct its 81st Session virtually from October 28-29, 2021 from 6:00-9:00 EDT (12:00-15:00 CET) and from November 1-3, 2021 from 7:00-10:00 EDT (12:00-15:00 CET). Please note that times are adjusted to reflect that Daylight savings time ends in Europe on October 31, 2021. The adoption of the report is planned for November 5, 2021 from 6:00-9:00 EST (12:00-15:00 CET). The provisional agenda and other documents related to CCEXEC81 can be found at: <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CCEXEC&session=81>. For additional information, please contact the U.S. Codex Office at: uscodex@usda.gov.

Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC)

Codex Members recently endorsed the request for a virtual session for the 44th Session of the CAC and the proposed approach for election of the new Chairperson and Vice Chairpersons. As such, CAC44 will meet virtually from November 8-18, 2021. Plenary sessions will convene on November 8-13 and November 15, 2021 from 6:00-9:00 EST (12:00-15:00 CET); the report adoption is planned for November 17-18, 2021 from 6:00-9:00 EST (12:00-15:00 CET). The Session will be conducted in all working languages of the CAC: English, French, Spanish, Russian, Arabic and Chinese. The provisional agenda and other working documents related to the 44th Session of the CAC will be available at: <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CAC&session=44>. For additional information, please contact the U.S. Codex Office (uscodex@usda.gov).

Electronic Working Groups (EWG)

Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH)

Saffron: CCSCH invites Members and Observers to join an EWG, chaired by Iran and co-chaired by Greece, working in English, to develop a Draft Standard for Saffron under the group “dried floral parts.” Individuals in the United States interested in working on the U.S. contributions to the EWG should contact Heather Selig (Heather.Selig@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 Points (CCP) to the following email addresses: sadat77@gmail.com; codex@efet.gr; gc@novinsaffron.com; and codex_office@isiri.gov.ir 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.

Group Standard Layout: CCSCCH invites Members and Observers to join an EWG, chaired by the United States and co-chaired by Brazil, Ghana, India, Iran, and the United Kingdom, working in English, to develop a proposed draft group standard layout based on the discussion paper submitted by the United States and comments made at the 5th CCSCCH Session (2021). Individuals in the United States interested in working on the U.S. contributions to the EWG should contact Heather Selig (Heather.Selig@usda.gov) by October 12, 2021. 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 the following email addresses: dorian.lafond@usda.gov; uscodex@usda.gov; and heather.selig@usda.gov by October 15, 2021. 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.

Spices Derived from Dried Fruits and Berries: CCSCCH invites Members and Observers to join an EWG, chaired by the United States and co-chaired by India, working in English, to develop a proposed draft standard for spices derived from dried fruits and berries, taking in to account the proposal submitted and comments made at the 5th CCSCCH Session (2021). Individuals in the United States interested in working on the U.S. contributions to the EWG should contact Heather Selig (Heather.Selig@usda.gov) by October 12, 2021. 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 the following email addresses: dorian.lafond@usda.gov; uscodex@usda.gov; and heather.selig@usda.gov by October 15, 2021. 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.

Dried Fruits and Berries-Small Cardamom: CCSCCH invites Members and Observers to join an EWG, chaired by India and co-chaired by Iran, working in English to develop a draft standard for dried fruits and berries-small cardamom. Individuals in the United States interested in working on the U.S. contributions to the EWG should contact Heather Selig (Heather.Selig@usda.gov) by October 12, 2021. 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 the following email addresses: ccsch.bisht@gmail.com; codex-india@nic.in; and sadat77@gmail.com by October 15, 2021. 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 Food Additives (CCFA)

General Standard for Food Additives: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2021/68/OCS-FA) requesting comments on the following:

- i) draft and proposed draft food additive provisions of the *General Standard for Food Additives* (GSFA) at Steps 8 and 5/8;
- ii) inclusion of xanthan gum (INS 415) and pectins (INS 440) in Food Category (FC) 13.1.3 of the GSFA;
- iii) changes relating to the group header STEVIOL GLYCOSIDES in the GSFA;
- iv) revised provisions of the GSFA in relation to the amendments to title and food category number for CXS 283 in Annex C of the GSFA;
- v) revised food additive provisions of the GSFA in relation to the alignment of 18 commodity standards;
- vi) revised food additive provisions of the GSFA in relation to the partial alignment of CXS 249-2006, CXS 273-1968, CXS 275-1973 and CXS 288-1978 to include tamarind seed polysaccharide (INS 437);
- vii) revised food additive provisions of the GSFA in relation to the linked entry for FC 12.5 in the References to Commodity Standards for GSFA Table 3 Additives in the Annex to Table 3; and
- viii) revised provisions for sweeteners in different food categories.

The CL is currently available in English 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 Ken Lowery (Ken.Lowery@usda.gov) by October 18, 2021. Comments by Member countries and Codex Observers should be submitted using the Codex Online Commenting System (OCS) (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by October 31, 2021.

Revised Food Additive Sections: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2021/69/OCS-FA) requesting comments on the proposed revised food additive sections of various Codex commodity standards. The CL is currently available in English 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 Ken Lowery (Ken.Lowery@usda.gov) by October 18, 2021. Comments by Member countries and Codex Observers should be submitted using the Codex Online Commenting System (OCS) (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by October 31, 2021.

Specifications for the Identity and Purity of Food Additives: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2021/70/OCS-FA) requesting comments on the proposed draft Specifications for the Identity and Purity of Food Additives at Step 5/8. The CL is currently available in English 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 Ken Lowery (Ken.Lowery@usda.gov) by October 18, 2021. Comments by Member countries and Codex Observers should be submitted using the Codex Online Commenting System (OCS) (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by October 31, 2021.

Class Names and the International Numbering System for Food Additives: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2021/71/OCS-FA) requesting comments on the proposed draft revision at Step 5/8 to the *Class Names and the International Numbering System for Food Additives* (CXG 36-1989). The CL is currently available in English 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 Ken Lowery (Ken.Lowery@usda.gov) by October 18, 2021. Comments by Member countries and Codex Observers should be submitted using the Codex Online Commenting System (OCS) (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by October 31, 2021.

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

General Principles for the Establishment of NRVs: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2021/56/OCS-NFSDU) requesting comments on the proposed draft general principles for the establishment of NRVs for persons aged 6 – 36 months. 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 Kristen Hendricks (Kristen.Hendricks@usda.gov) by October 18, 2021. Comments by Member countries and Codex Observers should be submitted using the Codex Online Commenting System (OCS) (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by October 29, 2021.