



Codex News – October 19, 2021

Upcoming Public Meetings

Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC)

The U.S. Codex Program is sponsoring a public meeting on October 21, 2021, 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 44th Session of the of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC), on 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-GsqDotGb4l3ySJrLPQpRdHvb6jLuM

Upcoming Committee and Task Force Meetings

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-whocodexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CCEXEC&session=81>. For additional information, please contact the U.S. Codex Office at: uscodex@usda.gov.

Electronic Working Groups (EWG)

Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH)

Dried Fruits and Berries-Small Cardamom: CCSCH invites Members and Observers to join an Electronic Working Group (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) 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 the following email addresses: ccsch.bisht@gmail.com, codex-india@nic.in, and sadat77@gmail.com 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.

Dried or Dehydrated Chili Pepper and Paprika: CCSCCH invites Members and Observers to join an EWG, chaired by India, working in English, to develop a draft standard for dried or dehydrated chili pepper and paprika. 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 November 10, 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.subbraj@gmail.com and codex-india@nic.in by November 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

Ad hoc Codex Intergovernmental Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance (TFAMR)

Adoption by CAC44: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2021/73-AMR) requesting comments on texts going for adoption by CAC44:

- Revised *Code of Practice to Contain and Minimize Foodborne Antimicrobial Resistance* (CXC 61-2005) (at Step 8)
- Guidelines on Integrated Monitoring and Surveillance of Foodborne Antimicrobial Resistance (at Step 5/8)

The CL is available in English at: <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 Marie Maratos Bhat (Marie.Maratosbhat@usda.gov) by October 25, 2021. Comments by Member countries and Codex Observers should be submitted using the Codex Online Commenting System (OCS) (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by November 5, 2021.

Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF)

The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2021/76-CF) requesting comments on texts going for adoption by CAC44:

- Maximum level for cadmium in chocolates containing or declaring <30% total cocoa solids on a dry matter basis (at Step 8)

- Maximum level for cadmium in chocolates containing or declaring =30% to <50% total cocoa solids on a dry matter basis (at Step 5/8)
- Revision of the Code of practice for the prevention and reduction of lead contamination in foods (CXC 56-2004) (at Step 5/8)
- Code of practice for the prevention and reduction of cadmium contamination in cocoa beans (at Step 5)

The CL is available in English at: <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 October 25, 2021. Comments by Member countries and Codex Observers should be submitted using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by November 5, 2021.

Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA)

Section 3 of the Class Names and International Numbering System of Food Additives: The Codex Secretariat has extended the deadline of a Circular Letter (CL 2021/30-FA) requesting proposals for changes and/or additions to Section 3 of the *Class Names and International Numbering System for Food Additives* (CXG 36-1989). 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 Ken Lowery (Ken.Lowery@usda.gov) by April 18, 2022. Comments by Member countries and Codex Observers should be submitted to the CCFA Secretariat (ccfa@cfsa.net.cn) and the Codex Secretariat (codex@fao.org) by April 30, 2022.

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 and French 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) as soon as possible. Comments by Member countries and Codex Observers should be submitted using the 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 and French 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) as soon as possible. Comments by Member countries and Codex Observers should be submitted using the 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 and French 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) as soon as possible. Comments by Member countries and Codex Observers should be submitted using the 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 and French 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) as soon as possible. Comments by Member countries and Codex Observers should be submitted using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by October 31, 2021.

Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH)

Safe Use and Re-use of Water in Food Production: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2021/64/OCS-FH) requesting comments on the proposed draft guidelines for the safe use and re-use of water in food production. 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 please send them to U.S. Delegate Jenny Scott (jenny.scott@fda.hhs.gov) with a copy to Andrew Yeung (andrew.yeung@fda.hhs.gov) and Marie Maratos Bhat (Marie.Maratosbhat@usda.gov) by December 8, 2021. Comments by Member countries and Codex Observers should be submitted using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by January 15, 2022.

Management of Biological Foodborne Outbreaks: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2021/72/OCS-FH) requesting comments on the revised draft guidance for the management of biological foodborne outbreaks. 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 U.S. Delegate Jenny Scott (jenny.scott@fda.hhs.gov) with a copy to Andrew Yeung (andrew.yeung@fda.hhs.gov) and Marie Maratos Bhat (Marie.Maratosbhat@usda.gov) by December 8, 2021. Comments by Member countries and Codex Observers should be submitted using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by January 8, 2022.

Codex Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL)

Adoption by CAC44: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter ((CL 2021/77-FL) requesting comments on the following texts going for adoption by CAC44:

- Amendment to the labelling provision in the *General Standard for Dried Fruits: Annex on Raisins*
- Draft General Standard for the Labelling on Non-Retail Containers (at Step 8) and the amendment to the *Procedural Manual*
- Proposed Draft Guidelines on Front of Pack Nutrition Labelling (annex to the *Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling*) (at Step 5/8) and the amendment to Section 5 of the *Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling*

The CL is available in English at: <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) by October 25, 2021. Comments by Member countries and Codex Observers should be submitted using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by November 5, 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-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) as soon as possible. Comments by Member countries and Codex Observers should be submitted using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by October 29, 2021.

Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR)

Adoption by CAC44: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter ((CL 2021/74-PR) requesting comments on texts going for adoption by CAC44:

- Maximum residue limits for pesticides in food and food (at Step 5/8)
- Revision of the Classification of Food and Feed (CXA 4-1989):
 - Class C: Primary feed commodities and Table 7: Examples of representative commodities for Class C (at Step 5/8)
 - Class D: Processed foods of plant origin and Table 8: Examples of representative commodities for Class D (at Step 5/8)
- Guidelines for Compounds for Low Public Health Concern that may be exempted from the Establishment of CXLs or do not give rise to residues (at Step 5)

The CL is available in English at: <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 Marie Maratos Bhat (Marie.Maratosbhat@usda.gov) by October 25, 2021. Comments by Member countries and Codex Observers should be submitted using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by November 5, 2021.

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

Adoption by CAC44: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter ((CL 2021/75-RVDF-) requesting comments on texts going for decision and adoption (at Step 8 and Step 5/8) by CAC44. The CL is available in English at: <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) by October 25, 2021. Comments by Member countries and Codex Observers should be submitted using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by November 5, 2021.