



Codex News – November 15, 2022

Upcoming Committee Meetings

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) is 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 Food Hygiene (CCFH)

The 53rd Session of the CCFH will take place physically in San Diego, California on November 29-December 2, 2022 from 9:00-18:00 PST (18:00-21:00 CET). There will be a broadcast of the meeting in English, French and Spanish for those who wish to follow along virtually. Virtual report adoption will take place on December 8, 2022 from 6:00-9:00 PST (15:00-18:00 CET). There will be a Physical Working Group (PWG) on November 27th on the proposed draft Guidelines for the control of Shiga toxin-producing *Escherichia coli* (STEC) in raw beef, fresh leafy vegetables, raw milk and raw milk cheeses, and sprouts. On November 28th, there will be two additional PWGs on the proposed draft Guidelines for the safe use and re-use of water in food production from 9:00-12:00 PST and on CCFH New Work / Forward Workplan from 14:00-17:00 PST. The provisional agenda and other working documents related to the 53rd Session of the CCFH are available at the following link: <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CCFH&session=53>. For additional information, please contact Marie Maratos Bhat (Marie.MaratosBhat@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office.

Codex Committee Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods (CCRVDF)

The 26th Session of CCRVDF is scheduled to take place physically in Portland, Oregon from February 13-17, 2023 from 9:00-18:00 PST (18:00-21:00 CET). There will be a PWG on the Priority List of Veterinary Drugs for Evaluation or Re-evaluation by the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA) on February 12, 2023. The provisional agenda and other working documents related to the 26th Session of the CCRVDF are 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.

Requests for Comments

Codex Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL)

Prioritization of Work: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2022/73/FL) requesting comments on the proposed draft approach and criteria for evaluation and prioritization of the work of CCFL. 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 Marie Maratos Bhat (marie.maratosbhat@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office by January 17, 2023. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by January 31, 2023.

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

Food Additives: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2022/80/OCS-NFSDU) requesting comments on the technological justification for the use of certain food additives in foods complying with the *Standard for Infant Formula and Formulas for Special Medical Purposes* (CXS 72-1981) and the plan/program for the consideration of remaining food additives. 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 Marie Maratos Bhat (marie.maratosbhat@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office by January 3, 2023. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by January 16, 2023.

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

JECFA MRLs: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2022/72/RVDF) requesting comments/information on the priority list of veterinary drugs for evaluation or re-evaluation by JECFA. 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 January 2, 2023. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by January 10, 2023.

New U.S. Delegate

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

Dr. Michelle Catlin, International Coordination Executive for the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, was recently confirmed as the new delegate to CCFICS. She follows in the footsteps of Ms. Mary Stanley, who previously served as U.S. Delegate to CCFICS for a number of years.

Other

JEMRA: Two reports were recently published by the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Meetings on Microbiological Risk Assessment (JEMRA):

- MRA 38: *Listeria monocytogenes* in ready-to-eat (RTE) foods: attribution, characterization and monitoring. It may be found at the following link: <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc2400en>
- MRA 39: Control measures for Shiga toxin-producing *Escherichia coli* (STEC) associated with meat and dairy products, <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc2402en>

The FAO also prepared a news release on the two publications entitled “A tale of two pathogens,” which may be accessed at the following link: <https://www.fao.org/food-safety/news/news-details/en/c/1608823/>

JMPR 2022 Summary Report: The Fall 2022 Joint FAO/WHO Meetings on Pesticide Residues (JMPR) summary report is now available at the following link: <https://www.fao.org/3/cc2469en/cc2469en.pdf>.

JMPR 2023 Call for Data: The FAO and WHO have issued a call for data for JMPR 2023, planned for September 19-28, 2023 in Geneva. The call for data is on the list of substances scheduled for new compounds, periodic reevaluation, follow up evaluation or new uses and request for data. The submission of data on those compounds for toxicological evaluation is requested before December 1, 2022. Data for residue evaluations are requested before December 20, 2022. This call for data may be found at the following link: <https://www.fao.org/pest-and-pesticide-management/guidelines-standards/faowhojoint-meeting-on-pesticide-residues-jmpr/en/>.

JECFA 97: The FAO and WHO have issued a call for data on a list of substances for toxicological evaluations, the preparation of specifications for the identity and purity, and for estimating the intake of the compounds that are listed is requested for JECFA97. The deadline for submitting data is in February 2023. Additional information may be found at the following link:
FAO: <https://www.fao.org//food-safety/scientific-advice/calls-for-data-and-experts-expert-rosters/en/>.

FAO Microplastics Report: The FAO recently published a report entitled “Microplastics in food commodities: a food safety review on human exposure through dietary sources.” The report may be found at the following link: <http://www.fao.org/3/cc2392en/cc2392en.pdf>