



Codex News—January 8, 2019

A reminder that the U.S. Codex Program's website is now located at [www.usda.gov/codex](http://www.usda.gov/codex). The U.S. Codex Office will complete transitioning all materials to this new site address in the next few weeks, after which the former site will only have a few specific redirects. Please make sure to go to [www.usda.gov/codex](http://www.usda.gov/codex) for the most up-to-date information.

### **Electronic Working Groups (EWGs)**

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

**Equivalence of National Food Control Systems:** CCFICS invites members and observers to join an EWG, chaired by New Zealand and co-chaired by the United States and Chile, working in English, to revise draft guidelines on the recognition and maintenance of equivalence of National Food Control Systems (NFCS). Individuals in the U.S. interested in working on the U.S. contributions should contact Ken Lowery ([ken.lowery@osec.usda.gov](mailto:ken.lowery@osec.usda.gov)) by January 16, 2019. Other observers and participants 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 [codexnz@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:codexnz@mpi.govt.nz) by January 21, 2019. 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.

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

##### **Nutrient Reference Value-Requirements (NRV-R) for Older Infants and Young Children:**

CCNFSDU invites members and observers to join an EWG, chaired by Ireland and co-chaired by Costa Rica and the United States, working in English and Spanish, to further consider recommendations 3 to 6 taking in account the decision on recommendation 2 in the Discussion Paper (CX/NFSDU 18/40/10), list and prioritize vitamins and minerals, and consider the inclusion of protein for NRV-R for older infants and young children required based on existing Codex texts and determine which ones were to be allocated/applied to which Codex texts. Individuals in the U.S. interested in working on the U.S. contributions to the EWG should contact Doreen Chen-Moulec ([doreen.chenmoulec@osec.usda.gov](mailto:doreen.chenmoulec@osec.usda.gov)) by January 21, 2019. Other observers and countries should send their full contact details including participant's name, official title or position, organization or country, and email address via their CCP to [mflynn@fsai.ie](mailto:mflynn@fsai.ie) with a copy to [olyons@fsai.ie](mailto:olyons@fsai.ie), and [ruairi.colbert@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:ruairi.colbert@agriculture.gov.ie) by January 25, 2019. 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.

**Review of the Follow-up Formula Standard:** CCNFSDU invites members and observers to join an EWG, chaired by New Zealand and co-chaired by France and Indonesia, working in English, to consider proposals on dextrose equivalence (DE) for products (for young children) not based on milk protein and provide recommendation(s) for comment and consideration by the

CCNFSDU41. Individuals in the U.S. interested in working on the U.S. contributions to the EWG should contact Doreen Chen-Moulec ([doreen.chenmoulec@osec.usda.gov](mailto:doreen.chenmoulec@osec.usda.gov)) by January 28, 2019. Other observers and countries should send their full contact details including participant's name, official title or position, organization or country, and email address via their CCP to [charlotte.channer@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:charlotte.channer@mpi.govt.nz) and [jenny.reid@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:jenny.reid@mpi.govt.nz) by February 1, 2019. 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.

### ***Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH)***

**General Principles of Food Hygiene:** CCFH invites members and observers to join an EWG, chaired by the United Kingdom and co-chaired by France, Ghana, India, Mexico, and the United States, working in English, French, and Spanish, to revise the *General Principles of Food Hygiene*. Individuals in the U.S. interested in working on the U.S. contributions to the EWG should contact Marie Maratos ([marie.maratos@osec.usda.gov](mailto:marie.maratos@osec.usda.gov)) by January 28, 2019. Other observers and countries should send their full contact details including participant's name, official title or position, organization or country, and email address via their CCP with a copy to [eWG.GPFH@food.gov.uk](mailto:eWG.GPFH@food.gov.uk) by January 31, 2019. 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.

### **Requests for Comments**

#### ***Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH)***

**Specifications for the Identity and Purity of Food Additives:** The Codex Secretariat issued a Circular Letter (CL 2018/95/OCS-FA) requesting comments at Step 3 on the proposed draft *Specifications for the Identity and Purity of Food Additives* arising from the 86<sup>th</sup> JECFA meeting. The CL is available in English at the following link: [www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters/en](http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters/en). If you are interested in having your comments considered in the U.S. response, please send them to Marie Maratos ([marie.maratos@osec.usda.gov](mailto:marie.maratos@osec.usda.gov)) by January 28, 2019. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted through their CCP using the Online Commenting System ([ocs.codexalimentarius.org](http://ocs.codexalimentarius.org)) by January 31, 2019.

**Histamine Control Guidance:** The Codex Secretariat issued a Circular Letter (CL 2018/92/OCS-FH) requesting comments on the alignment of the *Code of Practice for Fish and Fishery Products* with the Histamine Control Guide. The CL is available in English at the following link: [www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters/en](http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters/en). If you are interested in having your comments considered in the U.S. response, please send them to Marie Maratos ([marie.maratos@osec.usda.gov](mailto:marie.maratos@osec.usda.gov)) by May 27, 2019. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted through their CCP using the Online Commenting System ([ocs.codexalimentarius.org](http://ocs.codexalimentarius.org)) by May 31, 2019.

**Food Allergen Management:** The Codex Secretariat issued a Circular Letter (CL 2018/93/OCS-FH) requesting comments at Step 5 on the proposed draft *Code of Practice on Food Allergen Management for Food Business Operators*. The CL is available in English at the following link: [www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters/en](http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters/en). If you are interested in having your comments considered in the U.S. response, please send them to Marie Maratos ([marie.maratos@osec.usda.gov](mailto:marie.maratos@osec.usda.gov)) by May 27, 2019. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted through their CCP using the Online Commenting System ([ocs.codexalimentarius.org](http://ocs.codexalimentarius.org)) by May 31, 2019.

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

**Voluntary Third-Party Assurance (vTPA) Programmes:** The Codex Secretariat issued a Circular Letter (CL 2018/96/OCS-CCFICS) requesting comments at Step 5 on the Draft Principles and Guidelines for the Assessment and Use of Voluntary Third-Party Assurance (vTPA) Programmes. The CL is available in English at the following link: [www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters/en](http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters/en). If you are interested in having your comments considered in the U.S. response, please send them to Ken Lowery ([ken.lowery@osec.usda.gov](mailto:ken.lowery@osec.usda.gov)) by May 27, 2019. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted through their CCP using the Online Commenting System ([osc.codexalimentarius.org](http://osc.codexalimentarius.org)) by May 31, 2019.

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

**Follow-up Formula:** The Codex Secretariat issued a Circular Letter (CL 2018/94/OCS-FH) requesting comments on the alignment at Step 5 on the Review of the *Standard for Follow-up Formula*: proposed draft scope, description, and labelling for follow-up formula for older infants. The CL is available in English at the following link: [www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters/en](http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters/en). If you are interested in having your comments considered in the U.S. response, please send them to Doreen Chen-Moulec ([doreen.chenmoulec@osec.usda.gov](mailto:doreen.chenmoulec@osec.usda.gov)) by May 27, 2019. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted through their CCP using the Online Commenting System ([ocs.codexalimentarius.org](http://ocs.codexalimentarius.org)) by May 31, 2019.

#### ***Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR)***

**Recommendations of the 2018 Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Residues:** The Codex Secretariat issued a Circular Letter (CL 2018/97-PR) requesting comments at Step 3 on the recommendations of the 2018 joint FAO/WHO meeting on pesticide residues (JMPR). The Report of the JMPR (including the Annex) can be found on the FAO website at: [www.fao.org/agriculture/crops/thematic-sitemap/theme/pests/jmpr/jmpr-rep/en](http://www.fao.org/agriculture/crops/thematic-sitemap/theme/pests/jmpr/jmpr-rep/en) and the WHO website at: [www.who.int/foodsafety/publications/jmpr-reports/en/](http://www.who.int/foodsafety/publications/jmpr-reports/en/). If you are interested in having your comments considered in the U.S. response, please send them to Marie Maratos ([marie.maratos@osec.usda.gov](mailto:marie.maratos@osec.usda.gov)) by February 26, 2019. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP to [ccpr@agri.gov.cn](mailto:ccpr@agri.gov.cn) with a copy to [codex@fao.org](mailto:codex@fao.org) by March 1, 2019.

## **Calls for Data**

**JECFA Call for Data:** The Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA) invites all interested Codex members and observers to submit monitoring data on natural occurrence of nitrates and nitrites in food, including drinking water. This data will be compiled by WHO and be considered by the EWG established at the 50<sup>th</sup> Session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA). The call for data is posted on the WHO website at [www.who.int/foodsafety/Call for data nitrates nitrites November 2018 final.pdf?ua=1](http://www.who.int/foodsafety/Call_for_data_nitrates_nitrites_November_2018_final.pdf?ua=1). Members and observers should upload their data to the GEMS database by January 15, 2019.

## **Other**

**50<sup>th</sup> Session of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene:** The Delegate Report for the 50<sup>th</sup> Session of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH) held in November 2018 has been published. It was posted on the USDA website at: [www.usda.gov/topics/trade/international-food-standards/codex-delegation-reports](http://www.usda.gov/topics/trade/international-food-standards/codex-delegation-reports).