



Codex News – March 20, 2024

Upcoming Committee Meetings

Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS)

The 43rd Session of the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS43) will meet in Budapest, Hungary from May 13-18, 2024. Physical Working Group (PWG) meetings are scheduled in advance of plenary on May 13, 2024. The meeting will be broadcast in English, French, and Spanish for those unable to attend in person. The report adoption will take place in person on the last day of the session. The provisional agenda and other working documents related to CCMAS43 are available at the following link:

<https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CCMAS&session=43>. For additional information, please contact Alexandra Ferraro (Alexandra.ferraro@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office.

Requests for Comments

Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA)

JECFA: The Codex Secretariat has extended the deadline to March 22, 2024 on the recently issued a Circular Letter (CL 2024/19-FA) requesting comments on the proposed draft specifications for the identity and purity of food additives arising from the 96th and 97th Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA) meetings respectively. The CL is currently available in English, French, and Spanish at the following link:

<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 the Doreen Chen-Moulec (doreen.chenmoulec@usda.gov) as soon as possible. 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 the new deadline.

Codex Committee on General Principles (CCGP)

Section 2 of the Codex Procedural Manual: The Codex Secretariat has recently issued a Circular Letter (CL 2024/25-GP) requesting comments on the proposed changes to Section 2 Elaboration of Codex Standards and related texts, Procedures for the elaboration of Codex Standards and related texts, Part 7 Guide to the Procedure for modification (corrections, amendments, and new editions) of Codex standards and related texts. The CL is currently available in English at the following link: <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 Bhat (marie.maratosbhat@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office by August 2, 2024. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) prior to the deadline of August 16, 2024.

Language Inconsistencies and Superseded Content in the Codex Procedural Manual: The Codex Secretariat has recently issued a Circular Letter (CL 2024/27-GP) requesting proposals from Members and Observers on inconsistencies in language and superseded content of the Codex *Procedural Manual*, apart from Section 3.

The CL is currently available in English at the following link: <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codex-alimentarius/resources/circular-letters/en/>. 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 August 2, 2024. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) prior to the deadline of August 16, 2024.

Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS)

Cereals, Pulses, and Legumes: The Codex Secretariat has recently issued a Circular Letter (CL 2024/14-MAS) requesting comments on the cereals, pulses, and legumes workable package: review of the *Recommended Methods of Analysis and Sampling* (CXS 234). The CL is currently available in English at the following link: <https://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 Alexandra Ferraro (Alexandra.ferraro@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office by April 1, 2024. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) prior to the deadline of April 15, 2024.

Fish and Fishery Products: The Codex Secretariat has recently issued a Circular Letter (CL 2024/15-MAS) requesting comments on the fish and fishery products workable package: review of the *Recommended Methods of Analysis and Sampling* (CXS 234). The CL is currently available in English, French, and Spanish at the following link: <https://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 Alexandra Ferraro (Alexandra.ferraro@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office by April 1, 2024. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) prior to the deadline of April 15, 2024.

General Guidelines on Sampling: The Codex Secretariat has recently issued a Circular Letter (CL 2024/16-MAS) requesting comments on the Information document: General Guidelines on Sampling (CXG 50-2004). The CL is currently available in English at the following link: <https://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 Alexandra Ferraro (Alexandra.ferraro@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office by April 8, 2024. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) prior to the deadline of April 22, 2024.

Other

97th JECFA: The Compendium of food additive specifications from the 97th JECFA meeting, as well as the titanium dioxide chemical and technical assessment, has been published. The purpose of the meeting was to evaluate the safety of certain food additives and flavorings:

- Monograph 32 can be accessed via the following link: <http://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cc9815en>
- The titanium dioxide chemical and technical assessment is available at: www.fao.org/3/cc9664en/cc9664en.pdf

98th JECFA: The Summary Report for the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA) held on February 20-29, 2024, has been published at the following links:

- <https://www.fao.org/food-safety/resources/publications/en/>
- [https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/ninety-eighth-meeting-joint-fao-who-expert-committee-on-food-additives-\(jecfa\)](https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/ninety-eighth-meeting-joint-fao-who-expert-committee-on-food-additives-(jecfa))

The evaluations of three veterinary drugs (fumagillin, clopidol, and imidacloprid) were completed and the Guidance for the Safety Evaluation of Residues of Veterinary Drugs with incomplete data packages was developed by the Committee.

101st JECFA: The call for data has been published for the 101st JECFA meeting that will be dedicated to the evaluation of Dioxins and dioxin-like PCBs and Arsenic (inorganic and organic). The deadline for data submission is December 1, 2024. The call for data may be found at the following links:

- FAO: [Call for data for the 101st meeting of JECFA to be held from in October 2024 \(fao.org\)](#)
- WHO: [Food Contaminants: One hundred and first meeting - Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives \(JECFA\)](#)

JEMRA: The Joint FAO/WHO Expert Meeting on Microbiological Risk Assessment has published “Full report: Measures for the control of *Campylobacter* spp. in chicken meat” and “Executive summary: Joint FAO/WHO Expert Meeting on microbiological risk assessment of viruses in foods. Part 2: prevention and intervention measures” at the following links:

- FAO Control of *Campylobacter* spp. in chicken meat: <https://www.fao.org/3/cc9607en/cc9607en.pdf>
- FAO Executive summary on microbiological risk assessment: <https://www.fao.org/3/cc9953en/cc9953en.pdf>
- WHO Executive summary on microbiological risk assessment: <https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/jemra-of-viruses-in-foods-part-2-prevention-and-intervention-measures>

FAO: FAO has published the first report, “Tackling antimicrobial resistance in food and agriculture,” on FAO’s contribution to the global response to Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) based on the FAO Action Plan on AMR 2021–2025. The report outlines a wide range of activities undertaken by FAO at global, regional, and country level. The report can be found at the following link: <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cc9185en>.

Food allergens: The ad hoc joint FAO/WHO expert consultation on risk assessment of food allergens has published part 4, “Risk assessment of food allergens: part 4: establishing exemptions from mandatory declarations for priority food allergens: meeting report.” It can be found through the following links:

- FAO: <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cc9554en>
- WHO: <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240088924>

All recent meeting reports related to food allergens can be found at the following links:

- [Part 1 Priority food allergens;](#)
- [Part 2 Threshold for the priority food allergens;](#)
- [Part 3 Precautionary labelling;](#)
- [Part 4 Exemptions;](#)
- [Part 5 Threshold for other food allergens.](#)