



Codex News – March 21, 2023

Upcoming Public Meeting

Codex Committee on Contaminants in Food (CCCF)

The U.S. Codex Office is sponsoring a public meeting on Monday, March 27, 2023, from 1:00-4:00 p.m. EDT. The objective of the public meeting is to provide information and receive public comments on agenda items and draft U.S. positions to be discussed at the 16th Session of the CCCF, which will meet in Utrecht, Netherlands on April 18-21 (in person plenary) and April 26, 2023 (virtual report adoption).

- The public meeting will take place via video teleconference only. Documents related to the 16th Session of the CCCF will be accessible via the internet at the following address: www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CCCF&session=16.
- Dr. Lauren Posnick Robin, U.S. Delegate to the 16th Session of the CCCF, invites interested U.S. parties to submit their comments electronically to the following email address: Quynh-Anh Nguyen, quynh-anh.nguyen@fda.hhs.gov. Emailed comments should state in the subject line that they relate to activities of the 16th Session of the CCCF.
- Attendees may register to attend the public meeting here: fda.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJltf-qrrTotHHFHSsnbirJ1PZMFJrvaoUJ. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

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

The U.S. Codex Office is sponsoring a public meeting on Thursday, March 23, 2023, from 1:00-3:00 p.m. EDT. The objective of the public meeting is to provide information and receive public comments on agenda items and draft U.S. positions to be discussed at the 26th Session of the CCFICS, which will meet in Hobart, Tasmania, Australia from May 1-5, 2023.

- The public meeting will take place via video teleconference only. Documents related to the 26th Session of the CCFICS will be accessible via the internet at the following address: <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CCFICS&session=26>.
- Dr. Michelle Catlin, U.S. Delegate to the 26th Session of the CCFICS, invites interested U.S. parties to submit their comments electronically to the following email address: michelle.catlin@usda.gov.
- Attendees may register to attend the public meeting here: <https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJltc-ypqT4rG02UwvpvFjgyoCNe5q1vSXA>. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Codex Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL)

The U.S. Codex Office is sponsoring a public meeting on Tuesday, April 11, 2023, 1:00-4:00 p.m. EDT. The objective of the public meeting is to provide information and receive public comments on agenda items and draft U.S. positions to be discussed at the 47th Session of the CCFL, which will meet in Gatineau, Canada, May 15-19, 2023.

- The public meeting will take place via video teleconference only. Documents related to the 47th Session of the CCFL will be accessible via the internet at the following address: www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CCFL&session=47.
- Dr. Douglas Balentine, U.S. Delegate to the 47th Session of the CCFL, invites interested U.S. parties to submit their comments electronically to the following email address: douglas.balentine@fda.hhs.gov.
- Attendees may register to attend the public meeting here: www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJlsc--upjwsHXeBUO4dR9xL9gyNKRgIcFs. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Upcoming Committee Meetings

Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA)

The 53rd Session of CCFA will meet in Hong Kong, China from March 27-31, 2023. Physical Working Group (PWG) meetings on the General Standard for Food Additives (GSFA) and the Endorsement/Alignment of Food Additive Provisions of Commodity Standards and Relevant Provisions of the GSFA are scheduled in advance of plenary on March 24-25, 2023. The report adoption will take place in person on the last day of the session. The meeting will be broadcast in English, French, and Spanish for those unable to attend in person. The provisional agenda and other working documents related to the 53rd Session of CCFA are available at the following link: <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CCFA&session=53>. For additional information, please contact Doreen Chen-Moulec (doreen.chenmoulec@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office.

Electronic Working Groups (EWG)

Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH)

Traditional Markets: CCFH invites Members and Observers to join an EWG, chaired by Kenya and co-chaired by Bolivia and Nigeria, working in English, on the development of Guidelines for Food Hygiene Control Measures in Traditional Markets for Food. Individuals in the United States interested in working on the U.S. contributions to the EWG should contact Marie Maratos Bhat (marie.maratosbhat@usda.gov) by March 27, 2023. 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 kindikim@kebs.org by March 30, 2023. 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 Contaminants in Foods (CCCF)

Radioactivity: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2023/17-CF) requesting comments on natural radioactivity in feed, food, and drinking-water. 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 Doreen Chen-Moulec (doreen.chenmoulec@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office by June 15, 2023. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the Online Commenting System (OCS) (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by June 30, 2023.

Lead: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2023/18-CF) requesting comments on maximum levels for lead in certain food categories. 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 Doreen Chen-Moulec (doreen.chenmoulec@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office as soon as possible. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by March 25, 2023.

Mycotoxins in Cassava: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2023/19-CF) requesting comments on the Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Mycotoxin Contamination in Cassava and Cassava-Based Products. 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 Doreen Chen-Moulec (doreen.chenmoulec@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office as soon as possible. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by March 25, 2023.

Sampling Plans for Total Aflatoxins: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2023/20-CF) requesting comments on sampling plans for total aflatoxins in certain cereals and cereal-based products including foods for infants and young children. 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 Doreen Chen-Moulec (doreen.chenmoulec@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office as soon as possible. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by March 25, 2023.

Ciguatera Poisoning: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2023/21-CF) requesting comments on the recommendations for the prevention or reduction of ciguatera poisoning. 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 Doreen Chen-Moulec (doreen.chenmoulec@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office as soon as possible. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by March 25, 2023.

Aflatoxins in ready-to-eat peanuts: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2023/23-CF) requesting comments on the recommendations for a maximum level for total aflatoxins in ready-to-eat peanuts and associated sampling plan. 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 Doreen Chen-Moulec (doreen.chenmoulec@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office as soon as possible. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by March 30, 2023.

Aflatoxins and Ochratoxin A: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2023/24-CF) requesting comments on the maximum levels for total aflatoxins and ochratoxin A in nutmeg, dried chili and paprika, ginger, pepper and turmeric and associated sampling plans. 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 Doreen Chen-Moulec (doreen.chenmoulec@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office as soon as possible. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by March 28, 2023.

Codex Committee on Fats and Oils (CCFO)

New Work/Amendments: The Codex Secretariat has further extended the deadline for Circular Letter (CL 2021/96-FO) requesting proposals for new work and/or amendments to existing CCFO texts. 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 Doreen Chen-Moulec (doreen.chenmoulec@usda.gov) by June 1, 2023. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP to codex@fao.org with a copy to ccfo_malaysia@moh.gov.my by to June 30, 2023.

Codex Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL)

Food Allergen Labelling: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2023/06-FL) requesting comments on food allergen labelling. Comments are welcome related to the proposed draft revisions to the *General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods* (GSLP) (CXS 1-1985): Provisions relevant to allergen labelling and the proposed draft Guidelines on Precautionary Allergen Labelling. 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 April 5, 2023. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by April 19, 2023.

E-Commerce: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2023/07/OCS-FL) requesting comments on the proposed draft Guidelines on the Provision of Food Information for Prepackaged Foods Offered via E-Commerce. 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 April 5, 2023. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by April 19, 2023.

Technology: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2023/08/OCS-FL) requesting comments on the proposed draft Guidelines on the Use of Technology to Provide Food Information. 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 April 3, 2023. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by April 14, 2023.

Sustainability Labelling Claims: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2023/16/OCS-FL) requesting comments on the Discussion Paper on Sustainability Labelling Claims. 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 April 3, 2023. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by April 14, 2023.

New U.S. Delegate

Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH)

Dr. Benjamin Warren, Senior Science Advisor for Food Safety in the Office of Food Safety (OFS), Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (CFSAN), Food and Drug Administration (FDA), was recently confirmed as the new delegate to CCFH. He follows in the footsteps of Ms. Jenny Scott, who previously served as U.S. Delegate to CCFH for a number of years.

Other

FAO/WHO Webinar on Food safety Aspects of Cell-Based Food: The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) are organizing a special webinar on the emerging food safety topic of [cell-based food](#) at which they will officially launch the FAO/WHO publication entitled “Food safety aspects of cell-based food.” To accommodate different time zones, two sessions will be held on April 5, 2023 at the following times (with the links to register):

- Register at the following link: [Session 1: 09.00 – 10.30 \(GMT+2\) 5 April 2023](#)
- Register at the following link: [Session 2: 16.00 – 17.30 \(GMT+2\) 5 April 2023](#)

FAO/WHO Call for Experts for the Expert Consultation on the Risks and Benefits of Fish Consumption: FAO and WHO are seeking experts to serve as members of a Joint FAO/WHO Expert Consultation on the risks and benefits of fish consumption. This is an effort to update the original Report of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Consultation on the Risks and Benefits of Fish Consumption which was published in 2010. The expert consultation is planned for October 2023 to review new evidence and update the conclusions and recommendations of the 2010 report as needed. The deadline for submission is April 7, 2023. For more information on desired qualifications, meeting information and objectives, and on how to submit an application, please visit:

- FAO: <https://www.fao.org/3/cc4804en/cc4804en.pdf> and <https://www.fao.org/food-safety/scientific-advice/calls-for-data-and-experts-expert-rosters/en/>
- WHO: <https://www.who.int/news-room/articles-detail/call-for-experts-for-joint-fao-who-expert-consultation-on-the-risks-and-benefits-of-fish-consumption>

JEMRA: The Joint FAO/WHO Expert Meeting on Microbiological Risk Assessment issued a recent call for experts on the microbiological risk assessment of non-typhoidal *Salmonella* spp. and *Campylobacter* spp. in poultry meat. The call for experts is available on the FAO and WHO websites:

- FAO: <https://www.fao.org/3/cc4832en/cc4832en.pdf>
- WHO: <https://www.who.int/news-room/articles-detail/call-for-experts-on-the-microbiological-risk-assessment-of-non-typhoidal-salmonella-spp.-and-campylobacter-spp.-in-poultry-meat>

JECFA: The Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA) Secretariat has just published the call for data for the 98th Meeting which will be dedicated to the evaluation of some residues of veterinary drugs in food. The deadline for data submission is September 30, 2023. The call for data and other information is available on the FAO and WHO web sites:

- FAO: [Calls for data and experts - Expert rosters | Food safety and quality | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations \(fao.org\)](#) and <https://www.fao.org/3/cc4430en/cc4430en.pdf>
- WHO: [Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives \(JECFA\)](#) and [Veterinary Drug Residues in Food: Ninety-eight meeting - Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives \(JECFA\)](#)

Following the 95th Meeting of the Joint Expert Committee on Food Additives, the “Compendium of Food Additive Specifications” has been published:

- FAO: [Compendium of food additive specifications \(fao.org\)](#)

JMPR: The FAO/WHO Joint Meeting on Pesticide Residues has published the report, “Pesticide Residues in Food”:

- FAO: [Report 2022 - Pesticide residues in food \(fao.org\)](#)

FAO Vacancy Announcement: FAO is looking for an Antimicrobial Residues Monitoring Specialist with an advanced degree in chemistry, veterinary medicine, public health, food safety, food science, biotechnology, biology or a related field. The selected specialist will work for the antimicrobial resistance (AMR) Codex Text project (ACT). It is a non-staff opportunity with the duration ranging from 3 to 11 months. For further information, please visit the FAO vacancy website at the following link: [vacancy announcement: 23000570](#). The application due date is March 24, 2023.