



Codex News- March 24, 2020

### **Public Meetings related to the Postponed Upcoming Committee Sessions**

*As indicated in our special edition of the Codex News issued on March 19, 2020, due to public health guidance related to the outbreak of novel coronavirus (COVID-19), all scheduled Public Meetings for the now postponed/cancelled Codex Committee Sessions will be held by teleconference only. Specific details for each committee may be found below.*

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

The U.S. Codex Program is sponsoring a public meeting by teleconference only on March 25, 2020 from 1:00-4:00 p.m. EST to provide information and receive public comments on agenda items and draft U.S. positions for the 25<sup>th</sup> Session of the CCFICS, originally scheduled for April 27-May 1, 2020, in Hobart, Tasmania, Australia. The 25<sup>th</sup> Session has since been cancelled, however documents related to it will be accessible via the internet at the following address: [www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CCFICS&session=25](http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CCFICS&session=25). Information regarding how work will continue and when the next meeting will take place will be published on the Codex website as soon as it becomes available. Please contact Kristen Hendricks ([Kristen.hendricks@usda.gov](mailto:Kristen.hendricks@usda.gov)) of the U.S. Codex Office with any questions or concerns.

With regard to the public meeting, Mary Stanley, U.S. Delegate to the 25<sup>th</sup> Session of the CCFICS, invites U.S. interested parties to submit their comments electronically to the following email address: [mary.stanley@usda.gov](mailto:mary.stanley@usda.gov). Attendees who wish to participate by teleconference are requested to register in advance by Kristen Hendricks ([kristen.hendricks@usda.gov](mailto:kristen.hendricks@usda.gov)) as soon as possible to receive the call-in number and participant code.

#### **Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS)**

The U.S. Codex Program is sponsoring a public meeting by teleconference only on April 16, 2020, from 1:00-2:30 p.m. EST to provide information and receive public comments on agenda items and draft U.S. positions for 40<sup>th</sup> Session of the CCMAS, originally scheduled for May 11-15, 2020, in Budapest, Hungary. The 40<sup>th</sup> Session has since been cancelled, however documents related to it will be accessible via the internet at the following address: <http://www.codexalimentarius.org/meetings-reports/en>. Information regarding how work will continue and when the next meeting will take place will be published on the Codex website as soon as it becomes available. Please contact Doreen Chen-Moulec ([doreen.chenmoulec@usda.gov](mailto:doreen.chenmoulec@usda.gov)) of the U.S. Codex Office with any questions or concerns.

With regard to the public meeting, Gregory O. Noonan, Ph.D., U.S. Delegate to the 40<sup>th</sup> Session of the CCMAS, invites U.S. interested parties to submit their comments electronically to the following email address: [gregory.noonan@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:gregory.noonan@fda.hhs.gov). Attendees who wish to participate by teleconference are requested to register in advance by emailing Doreen Chen-Moulec

([doreen.chenmoulec@usda.gov](mailto:doreen.chenmoulec@usda.gov)) by April 14, 2020. Please use the call-in number: 1-888-844-9904, participant code: 5126092.

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

The U.S. Codex Office is sponsoring a public meeting by teleconference only on April 30, 2020, from 1:00-3:00 p.m. EST to provide information and receive public comments on agenda items and draft U.S. positions for the 25<sup>th</sup> Session of CCRVDF, originally scheduled for May 25-29, 2020, in San Diego, California. The 25<sup>th</sup> Session has since been postponed and is tentatively re-scheduled for January 2021, exact dates to be confirmed. Documents related to it will be accessible via the internet at the following address: [www.codexalimentarius.org/meetings-reports/en](http://www.codexalimentarius.org/meetings-reports/en). Please contact Ken Lowery ([ken.lowery@usda.gov](mailto:ken.lowery@usda.gov)) of the U.S. Codex Office with any questions or concerns.

With regard, to the public meeting, Ms. Brandi Robinson, U.S. Delegate to the 25<sup>th</sup> Session of the CCRVDF, invites U.S. interested parties to submit their comments electronically to the following email address: [brandi.robinson@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:brandi.robinson@fda.hhs.gov). Attendees who wish to participate by teleconference are requested to register in advance by emailing Ken Lowery ([ken.lowery@usda.gov](mailto:ken.lowery@usda.gov)) by April 24, 2020. Please use the call-in number: 1-888-844-9904, participant code: 5126092.

### **Electronic Working Groups (EWG)**

***Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (CCFFV)*** invites members and observers to join an EWG chaired by Mexico, working in English and Spanish, on the Proposed Draft Standard for Berry Fruits. Individuals in the U.S. interested in working on U.S. contributions to the EWG should contact Doreen Chen-Moulec ([Doreen.chenmoulec@usda.gov](mailto:Doreen.chenmoulec@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 CCP to [codexmex@economia.gob.mx](mailto:codexmex@economia.gob.mx) with a copy to: [economyta@hotmail.com](mailto:economyta@hotmail.com), [tania.fosado@economia.gob.mx](mailto:tania.fosado@economia.gob.mx), and [cesar.orozco@economia.gob.mx](mailto:cesar.orozco@economia.gob.mx) as soon as possible. Please note that when there is more than one expert, each country or observer organization shall designate one as the official representative to participate in the EWG.

### **Requests for Comments**

#### ***Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF)***

**Cadmium in Chocolates:** The Codex Secretariat issued a Circular Letter (CL 2020/19-OCS-CF) requesting on the proposed draft maximum levels for cadmium in chocolates and cocoa-derived products. For background information, please refer to document CX/CF 20/14/6. In submitting comments, please take into account the conclusions presented in paragraphs 4-9 of CX/CF 20/14/6, the data analysis presented in Appendix II of the said working document and the background information presented in CL 2019/81-CF. In addition, please consider the proportionality approach when setting MLs for the different categories, the MLs previously adopted at CAC41 (2018) and the discussion held on the proposed ML for chocolates containing or declaring <30% total cocoa solids on a dry matter basis at CCCF13 and CAC42 in 2019 (for consideration under Agenda Item 5). The CL is available in English at the following link:

[www.fao.org/fao-whocodexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters/en](http://www.fao.org/fao-whocodexalimentarius/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@usda.gov](mailto:Doreen.chenmoulec@usda.gov)) as soon as possible. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by March 31, 2020.

**Maximum Levels of Lead:** The Codex Secretariat issued a Circular Letter (CL 2020/21-OCS-CF) requesting comments on the proposed draft maximum levels for lead in selected commodities. For background information, please refer to document CX/CF 20/14/8. The CL is available in English at the following link: [www.fao.org/fao-whocodexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters/en](http://www.fao.org/fao-whocodexalimentarius/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@usda.gov](mailto:Doreen.chenmoulec@usda.gov)) as soon as possible. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by March 31, 2020.

**Aflatoxins in Cereals:** The Codex Secretariat issued a Circular Letter (CL 2020/23-OCS-CF) requesting comments on the proposed draft maximum levels for total aflatoxins in certain cereals and cereal-based products including foods for infants and young children (including questions on sampling plans, performance criteria and analytical methods). For background information, please refer to document CX/CF 20/14/10 and in particular the information provided in paragraph 6 and Appendix II. The CL is available in English at the following link: [www.fao.org/fao-whocodexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters/en](http://www.fao.org/fao-whocodexalimentarius/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@usda.gov](mailto:Doreen.chenmoulec@usda.gov)) as soon as possible. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by March 31, 2020.

#### ***Codex Committee on Fats and Oils (CCFO)***

**Request for Data and Information on Sunflowerseed Oil:** The Codex Secretariat issued a reminder for Circular Letter (CL 2019/53-FO) requesting data and information on refractive index, saponification value, iodine values, and relative density for sunflower seed oil. The CL is available in English, French and Spanish 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 Kristen Hendricks ([Kristen.hendricks@usda.gov](mailto:Kristen.hendricks@usda.gov)) as soon as possible. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP to [codex@fao.org](mailto:codex@fao.org) with copies to [codex@magyp.gov.ar](mailto:codex@magyp.gov.ar), [mlarre@magyp.gob.ar](mailto:mlarre@magyp.gob.ar), [codexbrasil@inmetro.gov.br](mailto:codexbrasil@inmetro.gov.br), and [ana.peretti@anvisa.gov.br](mailto:ana.peretti@anvisa.gov.br) by March 27, 2020.

**New Work and/or Amendments to Existing Codex Standards:** The Codex Secretariat issued a reminder for Circular Letter (CL 2019/54/FO) requesting proposals for new work and/or amendments to existing Codex Standards. The CL is available in English, French and Spanish 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 Kristen Hendricks ([Kristen.hendricks@usda.gov](mailto:Kristen.hendricks@usda.gov)) by May 19, 2020. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP to [codex@fao.org](mailto:codex@fao.org) with a copy to [ccfo\\_malaysia@moh.gov.my](mailto:ccfo_malaysia@moh.gov.my) by May 29, 2020.

***Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS)***

**Guidelines on Sampling:** The Codex Secretariat issued a Circular Letter (CL 2020/27/OCS-MAS) requesting comments on the proposed draft revision of the *General Guidelines on Sampling* (CXG 50-2004). The CL is available in English at the following link: [www.fao.org/fao-whocodexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters/en](http://www.fao.org/fao-whocodexalimentarius/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@usda.gov](mailto:Doreen.chenmoulec@usda.gov)) by May 20, 2020. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by May 31, 2020.