



Codex News – April 6, 2021

## Public Meetings

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

The U.S. Codex Program is sponsoring a public meeting on April 12, 2021, from 1:00-4:00PM EDT to provide information and receive public comments on agenda items and draft U.S. positions to be discussed at the 14th Session of the CCCF. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the public meeting will take place via video conference call only. Documents related to the 14th session of the CCCF are available at the following link: <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CCCF&session=14>.

- Dr. Lauren Posnick Robin, U.S. Delegate to the 14<sup>th</sup> Session of the CCCF, invites U.S. interested parties to submit their comments electronically to Dr. Henry Kim at the following email address: [henry.kim@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:henry.kim@fda.hhs.gov).
- Participants are requested to register in advance to participate in the public meeting here: <https://fda.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJIsce6tpz0uGciuxe2thMQL6-nruzmbFdk> or by emailing [henry.kim@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:henry.kim@fda.hhs.gov) as soon as possible.

## Upcoming Committee Meetings

### ***Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA)***

The Codex Secretariat has issued a provisional agenda for the 52<sup>nd</sup> Session of the CCFA, which will convene virtually from September 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, and 10, 2021. Documents related to the 52<sup>nd</sup> Session are available at the following link: <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/tr/?meeting=CCFA&session=52>. For additional information, please contact Ken Lowery ([ken.lowery@usda.gov](mailto:ken.lowery@usda.gov)) of the U.S. Codex Office.

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

The 14<sup>th</sup> Session of CCCF, scheduled for May 3-7 and 13, 2021, will convene virtually. Please note that the scheduled time for the virtual sessions has been revised to 7:00 – 10:00 EDT (13:00 – 16:00 CET). The provisional agenda and other documents related to the 14<sup>th</sup> Session are available at the following link: <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CCCF&session=14>. For additional information, please contact Doreen Chen-Moulec ([doreen.chenmoulec@usda.gov](mailto:doreen.chenmoulec@usda.gov)) of the U.S. Codex Office.

## Requests for Comments

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

**MLs for Cadmium and Lead in Quinoa:** The Codex Secretariat issued a Circular Letter (CL 2021/22/OCS-CF) requesting comments on recommendations for maximum levels for cadmium and lead in quinoa. The CL is available in English, French, and Spanish at the following link: [www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters](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 Dr. Henry Kim ([henry.kim@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:henry.kim@fda.hhs.gov)) as soon as possible. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their Codex Contact Point (CCP) using the Codex Online Commenting System (OCS) (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by April 22, 2021.

**MLs for Aflatoxins in Cereals:** The Codex Secretariat issued a Circular Letter (CL 2021/15/OCS-CF) requesting comments at Step 3 on maximum levels for total aflatoxins in certain cereals and cereal-based foods including foods for infants and young children. The CL is available in English, French, and Spanish at the following link: [www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters](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 Dr. Henry Kim ([henry.kim@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:henry.kim@fda.hhs.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 April 22, 2021.

**Prevention and Reduction of Lead Contamination in Foods:** The Codex Secretariat issued a Circular Letter (CL 2021/14/OCS-CF) requesting comments at Step 3 on the revision of the Code of Practice for the prevention and reduction of lead contamination in foods (CXC 56-2004). The CL is available in English, French, and Spanish at the following link: [www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters](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 Dr. Henry Kim ([henry.kim@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:henry.kim@fda.hhs.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 April 22, 2021.

**Lead in Certain Food Categories:** The Codex Secretariat issued a Circular Letter (CL 2021/13/OCS-CF) requesting comments at Step 3 on maximum levels for lead in certain food categories (see Appendix I in CX/CF 21/14/8). The CL is available in English, French and Spanish at the following link: [www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters](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 Dr. Henry Kim ([henry.kim@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:henry.kim@fda.hhs.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 April 22, 2021.

**Cadmium Contamination in Cocoa Beans:** The Codex Secretariat issued a Circular Letter (CL 2021/12/OCS-CF) requesting comments at Step 3 on the Code of Practice for the prevention and reduction of cadmium contamination in cocoa beans. The CL is available in English, French,

and Spanish at the following link: [www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters](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 Dr. Henry Kim ([henry.kim@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:henry.kim@fda.hhs.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 April 22, 2021.

**MLs for Cadmium in Chocolates:** The Codex Secretariat issued a Circular Letter (CL 2021/11/OCS-CF) requesting comments at Step 3 on maximum levels for cadmium in chocolates containing or declaring  $\geq 30\%$  to  $< 50\%$  total cocoa solids on a dry matter basis and cocoa powder (100% total cocoa solids on a dry matter basis). The CL is available in English, French, and Spanish at the following link: [www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters](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 Dr. Henry Kim ([henry.kim@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:henry.kim@fda.hhs.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 April 22, 2021.

#### ***Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA)***

**Sweeteners Associated with Note 161:** The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2021/26-FA) requesting comments on the relevant provisions for sweeteners associated with Note 161. The CL is available in English at the following link: [www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters](http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters). Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP to the Secretariat for CCFA ([secretariat@ccfa.cc](mailto:secretariat@ccfa.cc)) with a copy to the Codex Secretariat ([codex@fao.org](mailto:codex@fao.org)) by June 10, 2021.

**Food Additive Provisions for the GSFA:** The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2021/25-FA) requesting comments on the food additive provisions for the GSFA. The CL is available in English at the following link: [www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters](http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters). Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP to the Secretariat for CCFA ([secretariat@ccfa.cc](mailto:secretariat@ccfa.cc)) with a copy to the Codex Secretariat ([codex@fao.org](mailto:codex@fao.org)) by June 10, 2021.

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

**Codex Guidelines on Equivalence:** The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2021/18/OCS-FICS) requesting comments at Step 3 on the proposed draft consolidated Codex guidelines related to equivalence. The CL is available in English, French, and Spanish at the following link: [www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters](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 Kristen Hendricks ([Kristen.Hendricks@usda.gov](mailto:Kristen.Hendricks@usda.gov)) by noon on April 15, 2021 (slightly earlier than indicated in the last edition). Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by April 30, 2021.

**Equivalence of National Food Control Systems (NFCS):** The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2021/17/OCS-FICS) requesting comments at Step 3 on the proposed draft guidelines on recognition and maintenance of equivalence of NFCS. The CL is available in English, French, and Spanish at the following link: [www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters](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 Kristen Hendricks ([Kristen.Hendricks@usda.gov](mailto:Kristen.Hendricks@usda.gov)) by noon on April 15, 2021 (slightly earlier than indicated in the last edition). Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by April 30, 2021.

**Paperless Use of Electronic Certificates:** The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2021/16/OCS-FICS) requesting comments at Step 3 on the proposed draft guidance on paperless use of electronic certificates. The CL is available in English, French, and Spanish at the following link: [www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters](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 Kristen Hendricks ([Kristen.Hendricks@usda.gov](mailto:Kristen.Hendricks@usda.gov)) by noon on April 15, 2021 (slightly earlier than indicated in the last edition). Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by April 30, 2021.

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

**General Guidelines on Sampling:** The Codex Secretariat has extended the deadline on the Circular Letter (CL 2021/10/OCS-MAS) requesting comments on the proposed draft revised *General Guidelines on Sampling*. The CL is currently available in English and French at the following link: [www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters](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 Heather Selig ([Heather.Selig@usda.gov](mailto:Heather.Selig@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 April 16, 2021.

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

**Codex Database on Countries' Needs for MRLs for Veterinary Drugs:** The Codex Secretariat has extended the deadline for a Circular Letter (2021/2/OCS-RVDF) requesting comments on the use and maintenance of the database on countries' needs for maximum residue limits for veterinary drugs in foods. 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 Ken Lowery ([ken.lowery@usda.gov](mailto:ken.lowery@usda.gov)) by April 16, 2021. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by April 30, 2021.

**Parallel Review:** The Codex Secretariat has extended the deadline for a Circular Letter (2021/5/OCS-RVDF) requesting comments on principles and procedure for the parallel review

of a new veterinary drug by JECFA and national regulatory agencies. 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 Ken Lowery ([ken.lowery@usda.gov](mailto:ken.lowery@usda.gov)) by April 16, 2021. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by April 30, 2021.

### ***FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean (CCLAC)***

**Alignment of Food Additive Provisions and Alignment Plan for Regional Standards:** The Codex Secretariat has extended the deadline for the Circular Letter (CL 2020/56-LAC) requesting comments on the alignment of food additive provisions and alignment plan for regional standards developed by CCLAC. The CL is available in English and Spanish at the following link: [www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters](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 Ken Lowery ([ken.lowery@usda.gov](mailto:ken.lowery@usda.gov)) by June 16, 2021. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP to the Codex Secretariat ([codex@fao.org](mailto:codex@fao.org)) by June 30, 2021.

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

#### ***FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Asia (CCASIA)***

**Cooked Rice Wrapped in Plant Leaves:** CCASIA invites members and observers to join an EWG, chaired by China, working in English, to work on the alignment of food additive provisions in the regional standards developed by CCASIA. Individuals in the United States interested in working on U.S. contributions to the EWG should contact Ken Lowery ([ken.lowery@usda.gov](mailto:ken.lowery@usda.gov)) by April 30, 2021. 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 the EWG chair ([ccfa@cfsa.net.cn](mailto:ccfa@cfsa.net.cn)) by May 15, 2021. 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.

#### ***FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Near East (CCNE)***

**Alignment of Food Additive Provisions:** CCNE invites members and observers to join an EWG, chaired by Saudi Arabia, working in English and Arabic, to work on the alignment of food additive provisions in the regional standards. Individuals in the U.S. interested in working on U.S. contributions to the EWG should contact Ken Lowery ([ken.lowery@usda.gov](mailto:ken.lowery@usda.gov)) by April 16, 2021. 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 the EWG chair ([CODEX.CP@sfd.gov.sa](mailto:CODEX.CP@sfd.gov.sa)) by May 1, 2021. 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.

**Regional Standard for Maamoul:** CCNE invites members and observers to join an EWG, chaired by Saudi Arabia, working in English and Arabic, to work on the regional standard for maamoul. Individuals in the U.S. interested in working on U.S. contributions to the EWG should contact Ken Lowery ([ken.lowery@usda.gov](mailto:ken.lowery@usda.gov)) by April 19, 2021. 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 the EWG chair ([CODEX.CP@sfd.gov.sa](mailto:CODEX.CP@sfd.gov.sa)) by May 3, 2021. 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.

## Other

**TFAMR Code of Practice Webinar:** The ad hoc Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance (TFAMR) is holding a webinar to discuss developments on the revision to the *Code of Practice to Minimize and Contain Foodborne Antimicrobial Resistance*, on April 8, 2021 at 9:30-11:30 EDT (15:30-17:30 Central European Time) in English, French, and Spanish. The full program, including registration information, can be found on at the following link:

<http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=TFAMR&session=8&last>. For additional information, please contact Marie Maratos Bhat ([marie.maratosbhat@usda.gov](mailto:marie.maratosbhat@usda.gov)) of the U.S. Codex Office.

**One Health High-Level Expert Panel:** The partner organizations for the One Health High-Level Expert Panel (OHHLEP) have issued a joint call for experts for OHHLEP's interdisciplinary work on the intersection of human, animal, and ecosystem health ("One Health"). Partner organizations for OHHLEP include the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) and the World Health Organization (WHO). Further information including instructions for applying can be found at the following link: <https://www.who.int/news-room/articles-detail/call-for-experts-one-health-high-level-expert-panel-ohhlepe>.

**JEMRA:** The Joint FAO/WHO Expert Meetings on Microbiological Risk Assessment (JEMRA) has issued a call for data and experts who can contribute to future work of JEMRA in assessing the safety and quality of water used in the production of fishery and/or dairy products. JEMRA is also asking for assistance from any organizations with data related to this work. The deadline is April 15, 2021 for the call for experts and May 31, 2021 for the call for data. Further information on the calls can be found at the following links:

- FAO: <http://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-and-data-on-the-safety-and-quality-of-water-used-in-the-production-of-fishery-and-dairy-products>
- JEMRA: <http://www.fao.org/3/cb3839en/cb3839en.pdf>