



Codex News- April 21, 2020

Upcoming Public Meetings and Rescheduled Committee Sessions

Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables (CCPFV)

The U.S. Codex Office is sponsoring a public meeting by teleconference only on May 5, 2020, from 2:00-3:30 p.m. EST to provide information and receive public comments on agenda items draft U.S. positions discussed during the 29th Session of the CCPFV, which has been working by correspondence, in preparation for the next session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, 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. Please contact Doreen Chen-Moulec (Doreen.chenmoulec@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office with any questions or concerns.

With regard, to the public meeting, Mr. Dorian LaFond, U.S. Delegate to the 29th Session of the CCPFV, invites U.S. interested parties to submit their comments electronically to the following email address: Doreen.chenmoulec@usda.gov. Attendees who wish to participate by teleconference are requested to register in advance by emailing Doreen Chen-Moulec (Doreen.chenmoulec@usda.gov) by April 24, 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 25th Session of CCRVDF, originally scheduled for May 25-29, 2020, in San Diego, California. The 25th Session has now been re-scheduled for January 25-29, 2021, in Cleveland, Ohio. Documents related to it will be accessible via the internet at the following address: www.codexalimentarius.org/meetings-reports/en. Please contact Ken Lowery (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 25th Session of the CCRVDF, invites U.S. interested parties to submit their comments electronically to the following email address: 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) by April 24, 2020. Please use the call-in number: 1-888-844-9904, participant code: 5126092. A second public meeting regarding the 25th Session of CCRVDF will be arranged closer to the re-scheduled dates as well.

Requests for Comments

Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC)

Sardines: The Codex Secretariat issued a Circular Letter (CL 2020/28-OCS-CAC Rev) requesting comments on the Proposed Amendment of the Standard for Canned Sardines and Sardine-Type Products (CXS 94-1981). The CL is currently available in English at the following link:

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 Ken Lowery (ken.lowery@usda.gov) by May 15, 2020. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by May 31, 2020.

Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS)

Review of CXS 234: The Codex Secretariat issued a Circular Letter (CL 2020/29/OCS-MAS) requesting comments on the review of the *Recommended Methods of Analysis and Sampling* (CXS 234): dairy package and fats and oils package. The CL is currently available in English and French at the following link: 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) by June 15, 2020. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by June 30, 2020.

Extensions to Requests for Comments

The Codex Secretariat would like to inform all Codex members and observers that the commenting periods for the following Circular Letters (CLs) previously issued have been extended as noted below. The CLs can be downloaded from the Codex website through the following link: <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters/en/>

Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF)

- CL 2020/23/OCS-CF: Proposed draft MLs for total aflatoxins in certain cereals and cereal-based products including foods for infants and young children
- CL 2020/22/OCS-CF: Proposed draft revision of the Code of Practice for the prevention and reduction of lead contamination in foods (CXS 56-2004)
- CL 2020/21/OCS-CF: Proposed draft MLs for lead in selected commodities for inclusion in the GSCTFF (CXS 193-1995)
- CL 2020/20/OCS-CF: Proposed draft Code of practice for the prevention and reduction of cadmium contamination in cocoa beans
- CL 2020/19/OCS-CF: Request for comments on the Proposed draft maximum levels for cadmium in chocolates and cocoa-derived products

Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by the new deadline of June 30, 2020. If you are interested in having your comments considered in the U.S. response and have not already submitted them, please send them to Doreen Chen-Moulec (Doreen.chenmoulec@usda.gov) by June 1, 2020.

- CL 2020/24-CF: Priority list of contaminants and naturally occurring toxicants for evaluation by JECFA

Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by the new deadline of January 28, 2021. If you are

interested in having your comments considered in the U.S. response and have not already submitted them, please send them to Doreen Chen-Moulec (Doreen.chenmoulec@usda.gov) by January 4, 2021.

Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH)

- CL 2019/112/OCS-FH: Request for comments at Step 5 on the Proposed Draft Guidance for the Management of Biological Foodborne Outbreaks
- CL 2019/111/OCS-FH: Request for comments at Step 5/8 on the Proposed draft revision of the General Principles of Food Hygiene
- CL 2019/110/OCS-FH: Request for comments at Step 8 on the Draft Code of Practice on Food Allergen Management for Food Business Operators

Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by the new deadline of April 30, 2020. If you are interested in having your comments considered in the U.S. response and have not already submitted them, please send them to Marie Maratos (marie.maratos@usda.gov) by April 24, 2020.

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

- CL 2020/01/OCS-FICS: Request for Comments, at Step 3, on the Proposed Draft Guidance on Paperless use of electronic certificates – (Revision of the Guidelines for Design, Production, Issuance and Use of Generic Official Certificates – CXG 38-2001)
- CL 2020/02/OCS-FICS: Request for Comments at Step 3 on the Proposed Draft Guidelines on recognition and maintenance of equivalence of National Food Control Systems (NFCS)
- CL 2020/03/OCS-FICS: Request for Comments at Step 3 on the Proposed Draft Consolidated Codex Guidelines related to Equivalence
- CL 2020/26/OCS-FICS: Request for Comments on the Draft Principles and Guidelines for the assessment and use of voluntary Third-Party Assurance (vTPA) programmes (Updated Text)

Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by the new deadline of May 1, 2020. If you are interested in having your comments considered in the U.S. response and have not already submitted them, please send them to Kristen Hendricks (kristen.hendricks@usda.gov) by April 24, 2020.

Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (CCFFV)

- CL 2019/109/OCS-FFV: Request for comments at Step 5/8 on the proposed draft standard for yam
- CL 2019/108/OCS-FFV: Request for comments at Step 8 on the draft standard for ware potatoes
- CL 2019/107/OCS-FFV: Request for comments at Step 8 on the draft standard for garlic
- CL 2019/106/OCS-FFV: Request for comments at Step 8 on the draft standard for kiwifruit

Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by the new deadline of April 30, 2020. If you are interested in having your comments considered in the U.S. response and have not already submitted them, please send them to Doreen Chen-Moulec (Doreen.chenmoulec@usda.gov) by April 24, 2020.

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

- CL 2019/116/OCS-NFSDU: Request for comments on provisions for xanthum gum (INS 415) and pectins (INS 440)
- CL 2019/114/OCS-NFSDU: Request for comments at Step 5 on the proposed draft Guidelines for ready to use therapeutic foods
- CL 2019/113/OCS-NFSDU: Request for comments at Step 5 on the review of the Standard for Follow-up Formula: Section B: proposed draft scope, description and labelling

Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by the new deadline of April 30, 2020. If you are interested in having your comments considered in the U.S. response and have not already submitted them, please send them to Kristen Hendricks (kristen.hendricks@usda.gov) by April 24, 2020.

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

- CL 2020/17-RVDF: Request for comments on MRLs for veterinary drugs tissues
- CL 2020/18-RVDF: Request for comments on the priority list of veterinary drugs for evaluation or re-evaluation by JECFA

Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP to the CCRVDF Secretariat with a copy to the Codex Secretariat by the new deadline of November 30, 2020. If you are interested in having your comments considered in the U.S. response and have not already submitted them, please send them to Ken Lowery (ken.lowery@usda.gov) by November 1, 2020.

Codex Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance (TFAMR)

- CL 2020/04/OCS-AMR: Request for comments at Step 5 on the proposed draft revised Code of practice to contain and minimize AMR

Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by the new deadline of April 30, 2020. If you are interested in having your comments considered in the U.S. response and have not already submitted them, please send them to Marie Maratos (marie.maratos@usda.gov) by April 24, 2020.

Coordinating Committee for Africa (CAFRICA)

- CL 2019/105/OCS-AFRICA: Request for comments on the proposed amendments to Sections 3.2.2 and 3.4 of the regional Standard for Shea Butter (CX 325R-2017)
- CL 2019/104/OCS-AFRICA: Request for Comments at Step 5 on the proposed draft Standard for dried meat
- CL 2019/103/OCS-AFRICA: Request for Comments at Step 8 on the draft Standard for fresh leaves of Gnetum Spp
- CL 2019/102/OCS-AFRICA: Request for Comments at Step 8 on the draft Standard for fermented cooked cassava-based products

Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by the new deadline of April 30, 2020. If you are interested in having your comments considered in the U.S. response and have not already submitted them, please send them to Ken Lowery (ken.lowery@usda.gov) by April 24, 2020.

Coordinating Committee for the Near East (CCNEA)

- CL 2020/07/OCS-NE: Request for Comments at Step 8 on the draft Standard for Mixed Zaatar

Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by the new deadline of April 30, 2020. If you are interested in having your comments considered in the U.S. response and have not already submitted them, please send them to Ken Lowery (ken.lowery@usda.gov) by April 24, 2020.

Coordinating Committee for North America and the South West Pacific (CCNASWP)

- CL 2020/16/OCS-NASWP: Request for Comments at Step 5 on the proposed draft Regional Standard for Kava products for use as a beverage when mixed with water
- CL 2020/15/OCS-NASWP: Request for Comments at Step 5 on the proposed draft Regional Standard for Fermented Noni Fruit Juice

Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by the new deadline of April 30, 2020. If you are interested in having your comments considered in the U.S. response and have not already submitted them, please send them to Marie Maratos (marie.maratos@usda.gov) by April 24, 2020.

Electronic Working Groups

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

Given the postponement of the 25th Session of the CCFICS, originally scheduled for April 27-May 1, 2020, in Hobart, Tasmania, Australia, due to the global outbreak of the Coronavirus (COVID-19), the Codex Secretariat has issued an invitation on the extension/continuation of the eWG on the Guidelines on recognition and maintenance of equivalence of National Food Control Systems (NFCS). Individuals in the U.S. interested in working on U.S. contributions to the EWG who have previously not signed up should contact Kristen Hendricks

(Kristen.hendricks@usda.gov) as soon as possible. Codex Members and Observers that have not previously registered for this EWG are invited to register their experts by May 12, 2020 by emailing: CodexNZ@mpi.govt.nz.

Committee Codex Committee on General Principles (CCGP)

Given the postponement of the 32nd Session of the CCGP, originally scheduled for March 23-27, 2020, in Bordeaux, France, due to the global outbreak of the Coronavirus (COVID-19), the Codex Secretariat has issued an invitation on the extension/continuation of the eWG on the Committees Working by Correspondence. The specific terms of reference are to develop criteria to identify work appropriate to be undertaken by committees working by correspondence and to develop procedural guidance for such committees; and to consider and make recommendations as appropriate, whether procedural changes related to committees working by correspondence are necessary (see report of CCGP31 for full terms of reference). Individuals in the U.S. interested in working on U.S. contributions to the EWG who have previously not signed up should contact Kristen Hendricks (Kristen.hendricks@usda.gov) as soon as possible. Codex Members and Observers that have not previously registered for this EWG are invited to register their experts by May 4, 2020 by emailing: codexnz@mpi.govt.nz with a copy to codex.germany@bmel.bund.de, codex_maff@maff.go.jp, and uscodex@usda.gov.