



Codex News- May 19, 2020

Rescheduled Codex Committees Sessions

Please note that the following committee sessions that were recently postponed/cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, have tentatively been rescheduled for early 2021. Specific details for each committee may be found below.

Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF)

The 14th Session of CCCF is now rescheduled for May 2-6, 2021, location to be determined. Official comments received by April 30, 2020, in response to the recent Circular Letters are being shared with the Chairpersons/Co-Chairpersons of the electronic Working Groups (EWGs) to revise the documents and continue the discussions in the relevant EWGs, where needed. For additional information, please contact Doreen Chen-Moulec (Doreen.chenmoulec@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office.

Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA)

The 52nd Session of CCFA is now rescheduled for March 8-12, 2021, location to be determined. The CCFA Chairperson and the Codex Secretariat are in the process of following up with all the EWG Chairpersons to determine how best to continue work in the interim. For additional information, please contact Ken Lowery (ken.lowery@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office.

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

The 25th Session of the CCFICS is in the process of being rescheduled for March 22-26, 2021, location to be determined. Work will continue in the EWGs with discussions based on comments received to date. For additional information, please contact Kristen Hendricks (Kristen.hendricks@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office.

Codex Committee on General Principles (CCGP)

The 32nd Session of CCGP is in the process of being rescheduled for the first quarter of 2021, location to be determined. The work of the EWG on Committees Working by Correspondence will continue and the EWG recently circulated a new invitation welcoming new members as it continues its work. For additional information, please contact Kristen Hendricks (Kristen.hendricks@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office.

Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS)

The 41st Session of CCMAS is now rescheduled for May 17–21, 2021, location to be determined. Work will continue in the EWGs with discussions based on comments received to date. For additional information, please contact Doreen Chen-Moulec (Doreen.chenmoulec@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office.

Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR)

The 52nd Session of CCPR is now rescheduled for April 12-17, 2021, location to be determined. The Codex Secretariat is working with the CCPR Chairperson, the Priorities EWG Chairperson

and the JMPR Secretariat to facilitate the continuation of the scientific advice on priorities. For additional information, please contact Marie Maratos (marie.maratos@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office.

Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods

The 25th Session of CCRVDF is now rescheduled for January 25-29, 2021, in Cleveland, Ohio. Work will continue in the EWGs with discussions based on comments received to date. For additional information, please contact Ken Lowery (ken.lowery@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office.

Requests for Comments

Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH)

New Work: The Codex Secretariat issued a Circular Letter (CL 2020/32-FH) requesting proposals for new work and/or revision of existing standards. The CL is currently available in English, French and Spanish 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 Jenny Scott (jenny.scott@fda.hhs.gov) by August 14, 2020. Comments by other countries and observers should be submitted via their CCP to Marie Maratos, CCFH Host Secretariat (CCFH@usda.gov) with a copy to the Codex Secretariat (codex@fao.org) by September 1, 2020.

Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS)

Measurement Uncertainty and Criteria for Typing: The Codex Secretariat issued a Circular Letter (CL 2020/31/OCS-MAS) requesting comments on: (i) the proposed revised Guideline on Measurement Uncertainty; (ii) Information document on procedures for the estimation of measurement uncertainty; and (iii) criteria to select Type II methods from multiple Type III methods. The CL is currently available in English, French and Spanish 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 Online Commenting System (OCS) (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by June 30, 2020.

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

New Work: The Codex Secretariat issued a Circular Letter (CL 2020/30/NFSDU) requesting proposals for new work and emerging issues. The CL is currently available in English, French and Spanish 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 Kristen Hendricks (Kristen.hendricks@usda.gov) by August 14, 2020. Comments by other countries and observers should be submitted via their CCP to Alina Steinert, CCNFSDU Host Secretariat (Alina.Steinert@bmel.bund.de) with a copy to the Codex Secretariat (codex@fao.org) by September 1, 2020.

Coordinating Committee for Africa (CCAFRICA)

Regional Coordinator Nomination: The Codex Secretariat issued a Circular Letter (CL 2020/33/AFRICA) requesting CCAFRICA members to express interest in being considered for nomination as the next Regional Coordinator for CCAFRICA. The CL is currently available in English and French at the following link: www.fao.org/fao-whocodexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters/en. Nominations from CCAFRICA members should be sent to the Codex Secretariat (codex@fao.org) with a copy to the current Regional Coordinator of CCAFRICA (kimutaimaritim@yahoo.co.uk) and the Kenya Bureau of Standards (info@kebs.org) by June 26, 2020. U.S. Stakeholders may contact Ken Lowery (ken.lowery@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office for additional information.

Electronic Working Groups

Coordinating Committee for Africa (CCAFRICA)

Harmonized Food Laws: The committee invites members and observers to join an EWG chaired by Kenya and co-chaired by Morocco and Senegal, working in English and French, to draft guidelines for supporting development of harmonized food laws for the CCAFRICA Region. Individuals in the U.S. interested in working on U.S. contributions to the EWG should contact Ken Lowery (ken.lowery@usda.gov) by June 1, 2020. 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 info@kebs.org with a copy to: codexsenegal@sante.gouv.sn; cnc-maroc@onssa.gov.ma; bouchring@yahoo.fr; and lnamu@kephis.org by June 5, 2020. 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.

Dried Meat: The committee invites members and observers to join an EWG chaired by Botswana and co-chaired by Kenya and Morocco, working in English and French, to continue work on the draft regional standard for dried meat. Individuals in the U.S. interested in working on U.S. contributions to the EWG should contact Ken Lowery (ken.lowery@usda.gov) by June 26, 2020. 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 botswanacodex@gov.bw; lasenwelo@gov.bw; cnc-maroc@onssa.gov.ma; kadirik7@gmail.com; and kindikim@kebs.org by June 30, 2020. 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

General Standard for Food Additives (GSFA) - Implementation of the revised approach relating to Table 3: Following recent decisions of the Codex Committee of Food Additives at its 50th Session (2018; relevant text in REP18/FA paras 41, 42, 60 and 61) and 51st Session (2019; relevant text in REP19/FA paras 129-135), the revised approach to listing corresponding commodity standards in Table 3 of the GSFA in both the PDF and online versions have been implemented. The updated GSFA is now available on the Codex website as follows: <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/codex-texts/dbs/gsfafa/en/>

2019 Report of the FAO/WHO Joint Expert Meeting On Pesticide Residues (JMPR): The report of the JMPR Regular Meeting, held in Geneva, Switzerland, September 17-26, 2019, is now available. Findings of the report which are relevant to the work of CCPR will be considered at its 52nd Session in 2021. The report may be found on the FAO and WHO websites at the following links:

- FAO: <http://www.fao.org/3/ca7455en/ca7455en.pdf> and <http://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/ca7953en>
- WHO: https://www.who.int/foodsafety/areas_work/chemical-risks/JMPR_2019_Sep_Report.pdf?ua=1

Joint FAO/WHO Expert Meeting on Tropane Alkaloids: The expert meeting was convened remotely on March 30-April 3, 2020, to provide scientific advice to allow for appropriate risk management options for products used by the World Food Programme in delivering food assistance in emergencies. The key discussions and outcomes of the expert meeting have been captured in the executive summary at the following link: <http://www.fao.org/3/ca8736en/ca8736en.pdf>. The full meeting report is currently under finalization and will be made available soon.