



Codex News – June 29, 2021

Upcoming Committee Meetings

Codex Committee on Fats and Oils (CCFO)

The 27th Session of CCFO will convene virtually. Sessions will take place on October 18 – 22, 2021, from 3:00 – 6:00 am EDT (9:00 – 12:00 hours CET). The adoption of the report will take place on October 26, 2021, from 3:00 – 6:00 am EDT (9:00 – 12:00 hours CET). A pre-session webinar, including information for first-time participants, will be organized on October 15, 2021, from 3:00-4:30 am EDT (9:00-10:30 am CET). The provisional agenda and other documents related to the 27th Session of CCFO are available at: <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CCFO&session=27>. For additional information, please contact Doreen Chen-Moulec (Doreen.Chenmoulec@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office.

Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products (CCFFP)

The CCFFP was re-activated at the 43rd Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (November 2020) and will conduct its 35th session by correspondence, from September 20– October 25, 2021. The 35th Session of CCFFP will evaluate if the *Standard for Canned Sardines and Sardine-Type Products* (CXS 94-1981) could be amended to include the fish species *S. lemuru* (Bali Sardinella) in the list of *Sardinella* species under section 2.1. This is in accordance with the *Procedure for the Inclusion of Additional Species in Codex Standards for Fish and Fishery Products*. The working documents will be made available on the Codex website: <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CCFFP&session=35>. For additional information, please contact Heather Selig (Heather.Selig@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office.

Codex Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL)

The 46th Session of CCFL will convene virtually. Sessions will take place on September 27 – October 1, 2021, from 4:00-7:00 pm EDT (21:00-24:00 hours CET). The adoption of the report will take place on October 7, 2021, from 4:00-7:00 pm EDT (21:00-24:00 hours CET). The provisional agenda and other documents related to the 46th Session of CCFL are available at: <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CCFL&session=46>. For additional information, please contact Kristen Hendricks (Kristen.Hendricks@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office.

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

As a reminder, the 25th Session of CCRVDF rescheduled from May 2020 to July 2021, will convene virtually. Sessions will take place on July 12-16, 2021, from 8:00-11:00 am EDT (14:00 to 17:00 hours CET). The adoption of the Report will take place on July 20, 2021, from 8:00-11:00 am EDT (14:00 to 17:00 hours CET). The provisional agenda and other documents related to the 25th Session of CCRVDF are available at the following link: <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CCRVDF&session=25>. For additional information, please contact Ken Lowery (ken.lowery@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office.

Upcoming Working Groups

Codex Committee on Fats and Oils (CCFO)

In preparation for CCFO27, there will be a webinar on the revision of the *Standard for Olive Oil and Olive Pomace Oils* on July 7, 2021, at 6:00 am EDT (12:00 CET). You may register for this webinar by clicking on the following link: https://fao.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_TIO4uETvSaG6OfQ5rpL2og. For additional information, please contact Doreen Chen-Moulec (Doreen.Chenmoulec@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office.

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

In anticipation of the 25th Session of CCRVDF, the Working Group (WG) on Priority List of Veterinary Drugs for Evaluation / Re-Evaluation by the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA) will meet on Tuesday, July 6, 2021, from 8:00 –11:00 am EDT (14:00-17:00 hours CET) with interpretation in English, French, and Spanish. Please note that only registered participants to CCRVDF will receive a link to join the Priority WG. For additional information, please contact Ken Lowery (ken.lowery@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office.

Electronic Working Groups

Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS)

Revision of Standard 234: CCMAS invites members and observers to join an EWG, chaired by Canada, working in English, to continue the review on the cereals, pulses, and legumes workable package and to work in close coordination with the relevant Standards Development Organizations (SDOs). Individuals interested in working on the U.S. contributions to the EWG should contact Heather Selig (Heather.Selig@usda.gov) by September 1, 2021. Other observers and countries should send their full contact details including participant's name, official title or position, organization or country, and email address via their Codex Contact Points (CCPs) to HC.Codex.Canada.SC@Canada.ca by September 17, 2021. 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.

Recent Committee Delegate Reports

Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF)

The report of the United States Delegate to the 14th Session of the CCCF has published. The document can be found at the following link:

<https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/delegates-report-2021-cccf.pdf>

Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH)

The report of the United States Delegate to the 5th Session of the CCSCH has published. The document may be found at the following

link: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/delegates-report-2021-spices-culinary-herbs.pdf>

Requests for Comments

Codex Committee on Fats and Oils (CCFO)

Sunflowerseed Oil: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2021/27/OCS-FO) requesting comments at Step 3 on the proposed draft revision to the Standard for Names Vegetable Oils (CSX 210-1999) (Sunflowerseed Oil – refractive index, saponification value, iodine values and relative density). 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) by August 13, 2021. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP using the Online Commenting System (OCS) (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by August 27, 2021.

New Work: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2021/36/OCS-FO) requesting comments on the project documents for the five proposals for new work and/or amendments to existing Codex Standards. 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) by August 13, 2021. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by August 31, 2021.

Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA)

GSFA: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2021/55/OCS-FA) requesting proposals for new and/or revisions to the food additive provisions in the *General Standard for Food Additives* (GSFA). The CL is currently available in English at the following link: <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters>. Comments should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by January 15, 2022.

Codex Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL)

Front of Pack Nutrition Labelling: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2021/19/OCS-FL) requesting comments at Step 3 on the proposed draft Guidelines for Front of Pack Nutrition Labelling. The CL is currently available in English 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 Kristen Hendricks (Kristen.Hendricks@usda.gov) by August 9, 2021. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by September 1, 2021.

Internet Sales/E-Commerce: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2021/20/OCS-FL) requesting comments at Step 3 on the Proposed draft Guidelines on Internet sales / 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 Kristen Hendricks (Kristen.Hendricks@usda.gov) by August 9, 2021. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by September 1, 2021.

Allergen Labelling: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2021/21/OCS-FL) requesting comments at Step 3 on Allergen Labelling: Proposed revisions to the *General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods* (GSLPF) and Guidance 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 Kristen Hendricks (Kristen.Hendricks@usda.gov) by August 23, 2021. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by September 6, 2021.

Labelling of non-retail containers: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2021/45/OCS-FL) requesting comments on the draft guidance for the labelling of non-retail containers. 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

Kristen Hendricks (Kristen.Hendricks@usda.gov) by July 14, 2021. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by August 7, 2021.

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

Guideline for Ready-to-use Therapeutic Foods (RUTF): The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2021/31/OCS-NFSDU) requesting comments at Step 6 on the draft Guidelines for RUTF. 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 Kristen Hendricks (Kristen.Hendricks@usda.gov) by August 27, 2021. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by September 10, 2021.

Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH)

Oregano: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2021/47/OCS – SCH) requesting comments at Step 8 on the draft standard for dried oregano. 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 Heather Selig (Heather.Selig@usda.gov) by August 13, 2021. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by August 27, 2021.

Ginger: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2021/48/OCS – SCH) requesting comments at Step 8 on the draft standard for dried roots, rhizomes, and bulbs — dried or dehydrated ginger. 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 Heather Selig (Heather.Selig@usda.gov) by August 13, 2021. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by August 27, 2021.

Cloves: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2021/49/OCS – SCH) requesting comments at Step 8 on the draft standard for dried floral parts – cloves. 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 Heather Selig (Heather.Selig@usda.gov) by August 13, 2021. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by August 27, 2021.

Basil: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2021/50/OCS – SCH) requesting comments at Step 8 on the draft standard for dried basil. 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 Heather Selig (Heather.Selig@usda.gov) by August 13, 2021. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by August 27, 2021.

Nutmeg: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2021/51/OCS – SCH) requesting comments at Step 5, on the draft Standard for dried seeds – nutmeg. 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 Heather Selig (Heather.Selig@usda.gov) by August 13, 2021. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by August 27, 2021.

Other

Webinar on Food Safety Guidelines: On June 30, 2021, the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the European Union (EU) are hosting a webinar entitled: “Food Safety Guidelines: Keeping workers safe along the food supply chain within acutely food insecure countries,” from 6:00-7:30 am EDT (12:00-13:30 hours CET). To register for the webinar, please use the following link: https://fao.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAlcuyhrjlpHdNGICuigiv5KL6x-VeXOR_r.

Webinar on FAO/WHO Diagnostic Tool for Assessing Status of National Codex Programmes: The Codex Trust Fund (CTF), the FAO Regional Office for Africa, and the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for Africa are hosting a webinar on the FAO/WHO Diagnostic Tool for Assessing Status of National Codex Programmes. This event is aimed at countries interested in assessing the status of their national Codex programmes and in learning how to best use this information to develop workplans that can help strengthen national capacities to contribute to Codex’s work and to adopt Codex texts into national food policy and legislation. The webinar will introduce and outline the effective use of the FAO/WHO Diagnostic Tool and share experiences and lessons by countries in the region that have applied the tool and used the results to inform successful applications to the Codex Trust Fund. The webinar will take place on July 5, 2021, at 7:00 am EDT. If you are interested in participating in the webinar, please use the following link to register: <https://who.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcsc-CsrzMuGtBanCVcOkFXTjAlwjF4Axqe>

FAO Publication: Invasive Disease Linked to Raw Freshwater Fish: FAO recently published a risk profile document on an invasive disease linked to raw freshwater fish--an emerging foodborne hazard that has been detected in several countries in Southeast Asia. Additional

information, including a 4-page factsheet and the full publication, may be found at the following link: <http://www.fao.org/food-safety/news/news-details/en/c/1412831/>.

JEMRA Report: The Joint FAO/WHO Expert Meetings on Microbiological Risk Assessment (JEMRA) report - Microbiological Risk Assessment Guidance for Food has been published. The report provides guidance on undertaking risk assessment of all microbial hazards which may adversely affect human health in foods along the food supply chain. This report is also intended to provide practical guidance on a structured framework for carrying out risk assessment of microbiological hazards in foods, focusing on the four components including hazard identification, hazard characterization, exposure assessment and risk characterization. The report may be found at the following links:

FAO: <http://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cb5006en>

WHO: <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240024892>