



Codex News- June 30, 2020

Rescheduled Codex Committee Sessions

Please note that the following sessions that were recently postponed/cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic have tentatively been rescheduled for late 2020/early 2021. Specific details for each session may be found below.

Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Committee (CCEXEC)

The 79th Session of CCEXEC, originally scheduled for a physical meeting from July 6-10, 2020, will now be held as a virtual meeting July 13, 14, 17, and 20, 2020. The meeting is expected to be streamlined and will focus on the CCEXEC's Critical Review role. Documents related to the 79th Session of the CCEXEC are available at the following link: <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CCEXEC&session=79>. For additional information, please contact Mary Frances Lowe (MaryFrances.lowe@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office.

Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC)

The 43rd Session of the CAC, originally scheduled for July 6-11, 2020, has been postponed and will now most likely be in the form of a virtual session with an abbreviated agenda, planned for mid-September 2020. The Codex Secretariat will host a virtual session for Codex members and observers on July 28, 2020, to ask questions and voice their views on the process. Documents related to the 43rd Session of the CAC are available at the following link: <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CAC&session=43>. For additional information, please contact Mary Frances Lowe (MaryFrances.lowe@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office.

Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH)

The 5th Session of CCSCH is now rescheduled for April 26-30, 2021, in Kochi, Kerala, India. Documents related to the upcoming 5th Session of CCSCH may be found at the following link: <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CCSCH&session=5>. For additional information, please contact Doreen Chen-Moulec (Doreen.chenmoulec@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office.

Codex Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL)

The 46th Session of is in the process of being rescheduled for September 2021 most likely, dates still to be determined, in Canada. Documents related to the 46th Session of CCFL will be available at the following link: <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/committees/committee/en/?committee=CCFL>. For additional information, please contact Kristen Hendricks (Kristen.hendricks@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office.

Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH)

The 52nd Session of the CCFH is now rescheduled for November 29–December 3, 2021, in San Diego, California, United States. Documents related to the 52nd Session of CCFH will be available at the following link: <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/committees/committee/en/?committee=CCFH>. For additional information, please contact Marie Maratos (Marie.maratos@usda.gov) and River Scrantz (River.scrantz@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office with a copy to the CCFH Secretariat (CCFH@usda.gov).

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

The 42nd Session of CCNFSDU is now rescheduled for November 22–26, 2021, in a location to be determined. Documents related to the 42nd Session of CCNFSDU will be available at the following link: <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/committees/committee/en/?committee=CCNFSDU>. For additional information, please contact Kristen Hendricks (Kristen.hendricks@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office.

Ad-Hoc Task Force on Anti-Microbial Resistance (TFAMR)

The 8th Session of TFAMR is now rescheduled for June 14–19, 2021, in the Republic of Korea, city to be determined. Documents related to the 8th Session of TFAMR will be available at the following link: <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/committees/committee/en/?committee=TFAMRF>. For additional information, please contact Marie Maratos (marie.maratos@usda.gov) and Kristen Hendricks (Kristen.hendricks@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office.

Requests for Comments

Codex Committee on Fats and Oils (CCFO)

The Codex Secretariat has extended the deadline on the Circular Letter (CL 2019/54-FO) requesting proposals for new work and or amendments to existing Codex Standards in CCFO. The CL is available in English, French and Spanish at the following link: 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) by December 4, 2020. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP to the Codex Secretariat (codex@fao.org) with a copy to the CCFO Secretariat (ccfo_malaysia@moh.gov.my) by December 18, 2020.

Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA)

Expanded Mandates for Electronic Working Groups (EWGs): The Codex Secretariat issued a Circular Letter (CL 2020/34-FA) requesting comments on the expanded mandates by EWGs as established by CCFA51 (2019). The CL is 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) by July 1, 2020. Comments by other observers and countries

should be submitted via their Codex Contact Point (CCP) to Codex Secretariat (codex@fao.org) with a copy to the CCFA Secretariat (ccfa@cfsa.net.cn) by July 15, 2020.

Section 3 of the *Class Names and International Numbering System (INS) for Food Additives (CXG 36-1989)*: The Codex Secretariat issued a Circular Letter (CL 2020/35-FA) requesting proposals for change and/or additions to Section 3 of the INS List. The CL is 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) by September 1, 2020. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their Codex Contact Point (CCP) to the CCFA Secretariat (ccfa@cfsa.net.cn) with a copy to the Codex Secretariat (codex@fao.org) by September 15, 2020.

Priority List of Substances Proposed by JECFA: The Codex Secretariat issued a Circular Letter (CL 2020/37-FA) requesting information and comments on the priority list of substances proposed for evaluation by JECFA. The CL is 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) by December 31, 2020. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their Codex Contact Point (CCP) to the CCFA Secretariat (ccfa@cfsa.net.cn) with a copy to the Codex Secretariat (codex@fao.org) by January 15, 2021.

New and/or Revision of Food Additive Provisions of the GSFA: The Codex Secretariat issued a Circular Letter (CL 2020/36-FA) requesting proposals for new provisions and/or revisions of the Food Additive Provision of the *General Standard for Food Additives* (GSFA). The CL is 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) by December 31, 2020. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their Codex Contact Point (CCP) to the CCFA Secretariat (ccfa@cfsa.net.cn) with a copy to the Codex Secretariat (codex@fao.org) by January 15, 2021.

Codex Committee on Pesticides Residues (CCPR)

Draft Guidelines for Compounds of Low Public Health Concern: The Codex Secretariat issued a Circular Letter (2020/14-PR) requesting comments on the proposed draft guidelines for compounds of low public health concern that may be exempted from the establishment of Codex Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) or that do not give rise to residues. 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 Doreen Chen-Moulec (Doreen.chenmoulec@usda.gov) and Aaron Niman (niman.aaron@epa.gov) by August 14, 2020. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP to the Codex Contact Point of Chile, (codex@achipia.gob.cl) with a copy to the CCPR Secretariat (ccpr@agri.gov.cn) and the Codex Secretariat (codex@fao.org) by August 31, 2020.

Revision of Representative Commodities for Class C and D: The Codex Secretariat issued a Circular Letter (2020/12-PR) requesting comments on the Revision of the Classification of Food and Feed (CXA 4-1989): Proposed tables on examples of representative commodities for commodity groups in different types under Class C – Primary Animal Feed Commodities and Class D – Processed Foods of Plant Origin (For inclusion in the Principles and Guidance for the Selection of Representative Commodities for the Extrapolation of Maximum Residue Limits for Pesticides to Commodity Groups (CXG 84-2012). 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 Doreen Chen-Moulec (Doreen.chenmoulec@usda.gov) and Aaron Niman (niman.aaron@epa.gov) by September 1, 2020. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP to the Classification electronic Working Group (EWG) Chair Bill Barney (barney@njaes.rutgers.edu) and Co-Chair Dorin Poelmans (D.A.M.POELMANS@NVWA.NL) with a copy to the CCPR Secretariat (ccpr@agri.gov.cn) and the Codex Secretariat (codex@fao.org) by September 15, 2020.

Revision of the Classification of Food and Feed (Class D: Processed Foods of Plant Origin): The Codex Secretariat issued a Circular Letter (2020/11-PR) requesting comments on the Revision of the Classification of Food and Feed (CXA 4-1989, Class D: Processed Foods of Plant Origin). 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 Doreen Chen-Moulec (Doreen.chenmoulec@usda.gov) and Aaron Niman (niman.aaron@epa.gov) by September 1, 2020. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP to the Classification EWG Chair Bill Barney (barney@njaes.rutgers.edu) and Co-Chair Dorin Poelmans (D.A.M.POELMANS@NVWA.NL) with a copy to the CCPR Secretariat (ccpr@agri.gov.cn) and the Codex Secretariat (codex@fao.org) by September 15, 2020.

Revision of the Classification of Food and Feed (Class C: Primary Animal Feed Commodities): The Codex Secretariat issued a Circular Letter (2020/10-PR) requesting comments on the Revision of the Classification of Food and Feed (CXA 4-1989, Class C: Primary Animal Feed Commodities). 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 Doreen Chen-Moulec (Doreen.chenmoulec@usda.gov) and Aaron Niman (niman.aaron@epa.gov) by September 1, 2020. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP to the Classification EWG Chair Bill Barney (barney@njaes.rutgers.edu) and Co-Chair Dorin Poelmans (D.A.M.POELMANS@NVWA.NL) with a copy to the CCPR Secretariat (ccpr@agri.gov.cn) and the Codex Secretariat (codex@fao.org) by September 15, 2020.

Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH)

Request for comments, on the Proposed Draft Standard for Nutmeg: The Codex Secretariat has issued a request for comments on a Circular Letter (CL 2020/38-SCH) on the proposed draft standard for nutmeg. 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 September 16, 2020. Comments by other countries and observers should be submitted via their CCP to the Codex Online Commenting System (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by September 30, 2020.

Coordinating Committee for Africa (CCAFRICA)

Regional Coordinator Nomination: The Codex Secretariat has extended the deadline for the Circular Letter (CL 2020/33/AFRICA) requesting CCAFRICA members to provide names for nomination as the next Regional Coordinator for CCAFRICA. The CL is currently available in English and French at the following link: <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters>. 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 July 31, 2020. U.S. Stakeholders may contact Ken Lowery (ken.lowery@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office for additional information.

Electronic Working Groups

Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH)

Dried Cloves: Due to the cancellation of the CCSC5 meeting scheduled for September 21 – 26, 2020, the Committee has extended the deadline for registration and invites members and observers to join the EWG chaired by Nigeria, working in English, to continue work on the draft standard for dried cloves. Countries and observers should only register if they have not already registered for this EWG. Individuals in the U.S. interested in working on U.S. contributions to the EWG who have not previously expressed interest should contact Doreen Chen-Moulec (Doreen.chenmoulec@usda.gov) by July 20, 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 codexsecretariat@son.gov.ng; chiokeyegwu@yahoo.com; and fyne.okita@gmail.com by July 24, 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 Ginger: Due to the cancellation of the CCSC5 meeting scheduled for September 21 – 26, 2020, the Committee has extended the deadline for registration and invites members and observers to join the EWG chaired by Nigeria, working in English, to continue work on the draft standard for dried ginger. Countries and observers should only register if they have not already registered for this EWG. Individuals in the U.S. interested in working on U.S. contributions to the EWG who have not previously expressed interest should contact Doreen Chen-Moulec (Doreen.chenmoulec@usda.gov) by July 20, 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 codexsecretariat@son.gov.ng; chiokeyegwu@yahoo.com; and fyne.okita@gmail.com by July 24, 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.

FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Asia (CCASIA)

Soybean Products Fermented with *Bacillus* Species: The Committee invites members and observers to join an EWG chaired by Japan, working in English, to continue work on the draft regional standard for soybean products fermented with *Bacillus* species. Individuals in the U.S. interested in working on U.S. contributions to the EWG should contact Ken Lowery (ken.lowery@usda.gov) by August 24, 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 food_manufacture.codex@maff.go.jp by August 31, 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

Joint FAO/WHO Expert Meetings on Microbiological Risk Assessment (JEMRA)

In order to support implementation of the *Principles and Guidelines for the Conduct of Microbiological Risk Assessment (CXG-30)*, JEMRA has developed a series of technical guidance documents on microbiological risk assessment, addressing Hazard Characterization, Exposure Assessment and Risk characterization. In recognition of the evolution of science and developments in risk assessment methodology over the last decade, these technical guidance documents have now been revised and compiled into a single Guidance document on Microbiological Risk Assessment.

The document is now open for public comment from Member countries and is available at the following links: <http://www.fao.org/3/ca9519en/ca9519en.pdf> and https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/food-safety/jemra/call-for-consultation/methodology-report-public-comments.pdf?sfvrsn=bf30c148_2. If you are interested in having your comments considered in the U.S. response, please send them to the U.S. Codex Office (uscodex@usda.gov) by July 1, 2020. Comments by other Member countries should be sent directly to jemra@fao.org and jemra@who.int no later than July 15, 2020.