



Codex News – July 11, 2023

Upcoming Committee Meetings

Codex Committee on General Principles (CCGP)

The 33rd Session of the CCGP will convene physically in Bordeaux, France from October 2- 6, 2023. The report adoption will take place on the last day of the Session. The Session and side events will be broadcasted in listening mode in English, French and Spanish. The provisional agenda and other documents related to the 33rd Session of CCGP are available at: <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CCGP&session=33>. For additional information, please contact Marie Maratos Bhat (marie.maratosbhat@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office.

Requests for Comments

Codex Committee on Fats and Oils (CCFO)

JECFA Assessments: The Codex Secretariat has extended the deadline for the Circular Letter (CL 2022/81/OCS-FO) requesting comments on the recommendations from the 90th and 91st Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA90 and JECFA91) on Assessment of substances proposed as previous cargoes. 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 of the U.S. Codex Office by August 17, 2023. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by August 31, 2023.

Codex Committee for Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH)

New Work: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2023/01-SCH) requesting submissions of new work proposals. 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) of the U.S. Codex Office by August 17, 2023. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by August 31, 2023.

FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Asia (CCASIA)

Fermented Soybean Products: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2023/51/OCS-ASIA) requesting comments on the proposed draft regional standard for soybean products fermented with *Bacillus* species. 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) August 17, 2023. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by August 31, 2023.

Rice in Plant Leaves: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2023/52/OCS-ASIA) requesting comments on the proposed draft regional standard for cooked rice wrapped in plant leaves. 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) by August 17, 2023. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by August 31, 2023.

Frozen Dumpling: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2023/53/OCS-ASIA) requesting comments on the proposed draft regional standard for quick frozen dumpling. 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) August 17, 2023. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by August 31, 2023.

Electronic Working Groups (EWG)

Codex Committee on Contaminants in Food (CCCF)

Aflatoxin B1: CCCF invites Members and Observers to join an EWG, chaired by Canada, working in English, to work on the discussion paper to determine the need for updates to the *Code of practice for the reduction of aflatoxin B1 in raw materials and supplemental feeding stuffs for milk-producing animals* (CXC 45-1997). Individuals in the United States interested in working on the U.S. contributions to the EWG should contact Doreen Chen-Moulec (doreen.chenmoulec@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office by August 6, 2023. 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 Codex Contact Point (CCP) to codex_canada@hc-sc.gc.ca by August 11, 2023. 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 in the EWG.

Codex Committee for Food Additives (CCFA)

Revision to the INS: CCFA invites Members and Observers to join an EWG, chaired by Belgium, working in English, to develop the Revision of the *Class Names and the International Numbering System for Food Additives* (INS) (CXG36-1989). Individuals in the United States interested in working on the U.S. contributions to the EWG should contact Doreen Chen-Moulec (doreen.chenmoulec@usda.gov) by September 10, 2023. 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 apf.food.additives@health.fgov.be by September 15, 2023. 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 in the EWG.

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

Equivalence Consolidation: CCFICS invites Members and Observers to join an EWG, chaired by New Zealand and co-chaired by the United States and Kenya, working in English, to progress consolidation of all CCFICS guidance on equivalence. Individuals in the United States interested in working on the U.S. contributions to the EWG should contact Heather Selig (Heather.Selig@usda.gov) by July 23, 2023. 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 codexNZ@mpi.govt.nz by July 28, 2023. 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 in the EWG.

Revision to Traceability: CCFICS invites Members and Observers to join an EWG, chaired by the United States and co-chaired by Australia, Ecuador, Honduras, and the United Kingdom, working in English and Spanish, to progress work on the revision and updating of *Principles for Traceability/Product Tracing as a Tool Within a Food Inspection and Certification Systems* (CXG 60- 2006). Individuals in the United States interested in working on the U.S. contributions to the EWG should contact Heather Selig (Heather.Selig@usda.gov) by August 5, 2023. 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 uscodex@usda.gov by August 10, 2023. 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 in the EWG.

Codex Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL)

Food Information for Prepackaged Foods: CCFL invites Members and Observers to join an EWG, chaired by the United Kingdom and co-chaired by Chile, Japan, India, and China, working in English and Spanish, to further develop the e-commerce *Guidelines on the Provision of Food Information for Prepackaged Foods*. Individuals in the United States interested in working on the U.S. contributions to the EWG should contact Marie Maratos Bhat (marie.maratosbhat@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office by July 26, 2023. 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 codex@defra.gov.uk by July 31, 2023. 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 in the EWG.

Allergen Labelling: CCFL invites Members and Observers to join an EWG, chaired by Australia and co-chaired by the United Kingdom and the United States, working in English, to further develop the revision of the *General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods* (GSLPF). Individuals in the United States interested in working on the U.S. contributions to the EWG should contact Marie Maratos Bhat (marie.maratosbhat@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office by July 28, 2023. 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 codex.contact@agriculture.gov.au by August 18, 2023. 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 in the EWG.

Sustainability Claims: CCFL invites Members and Observers to join an EWG, chaired by New Zealand and co-chaired by the European Union, United States, and Costa Rica, to focus on:

- Stocktaking work being undertaken by other international organizations on sustainability related labelling claims on food.
- Identifying areas where CCFL could provide guidance on sustainability-related labelling claims on food.
- Taking into account a) and b) identify possible revisions to the *General Guidelines on Claims* (CXG 1-1979) for claims in general, and sustainability-related labelling claims on food.

Individuals in the United States interested in working on the U.S. contributions to the EWG should contact Marie Maratos Bhat (marie.maratosbhat@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office by August 27, 2023. 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 codexnz@mpi.govt.nz with a copy to Phillippa.hawthorne@mpi.govt.nz by September 1, 2023. 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 in the EWG.

Food Information Technology: CCFL invites Members and Observers to join an EWG, chaired by Canada and co-chaired by New Zealand and India, working in English, to further develop the *Guidelines on the Use of Technology to Provide Food Information*. Individuals in the United States interested in working on the U.S. contributions to the EWG should contact Marie Maratos Bhat (marie.maratosbhat@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office by August 27, 2023. 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 codex_canada@hc-sc.gc.ca with a copy to Codex_CFIA@inspection.gc.ca by September 1, 2023. 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 in the EWG.

Codex Committee on Methods and Sampling (CCMAS)

Sampling Guidelines: CCMAS invites Members and Observers to join an EWG, chaired by New Zealand and co-chaired by Germany, working in English, to continue working on the information document, namely the e-book with the sampling plans applications. Individuals in the United States interested in working on the U.S. contributions to the EWG should contact Heather Selig (heather.selig@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office by August 26, 2023. 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 CodexNZ@mpi.govt.nz by August 31, 2023. 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 in the EWG.

Fish and Fishery Products: CCMAS invites Members and Observers to join an EWG, chaired by Norway, working in English, to review the methods specified in the Recommended Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CXS-234) for fish and fishery products. Individuals in the United States interested in working on the U.S. contributions to the EWG should contact Heather Selig (heather.selig@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office by September 6, 2023. 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 ewgccmas@mattilsynet.no by September 11, 2023. 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 in the EWG.

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

Optional Ingredients in the Infant Formula Standard: CCNFSDU invites Members and Observers to join an EWG, chaired by the United States, working in English, to work on the Optional Ingredients in the *Standard for Infant Formula and Formulas for Special Medical Purposes Intended for Infants* (CXS 72-1981). The specific terms of reference are as follows:

- review the use of fructans, beta-carotene, lycopene in the context of optional ingredients in the *Standard for Infant Formula and Formulas for Special Medical Purposes Intended for Infants* (CXS 72-1981)
- develop recommendations to CCNFSDU44 regarding the safety and suitability of these ingredients as optional ingredients in CXS 72-1981
- submit a report for discussion at CCNFSDU44.

Individuals in the United States interested in working on the U.S. contributions to the EWG should contact Douglas Balentine (douglas.balentine@fda.hhs.gov) with a copy to Marie Maratos Bhat (marie.maratosbhat@usda.gov) by July 26, 2023. 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 uscodex@usda.gov by July 31, 2023. 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 in the EWG.

New Chair

Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH)

Dr. Evelyne Mbandi, Director of the Microbiological and Chemical Hazards Staff in the Office of Public Health Science at the Food Safety and Inspection Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), was recently confirmed as the new Chair of CCFH. She follows in the footsteps of Dr. Emilio Esteban, who previously served as Chair to CCFH for a number of years and currently serves as USDA'S Under Secretary of Food Safety.