



Codex News – July 12, 2022

Electronic Working Groups (EWG)

Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF)

Aflatoxins in Cereals: CCCF invites Members and Observers to join an EWG, chaired by Brazil and co-chaired by India, working in English, to develop the sampling plan for total aflatoxins in certain cereals and cereal-based foods. 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) as soon as possible. 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 codexbrasil@inmetro.gov.br with a copy to larissa.porto@anvisa.gov.br, ligia.schreiner@anvisa.gov.br, and Carolina.Vieira@anvisa.gov.br by July 15, 2022. 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.

Aflatoxins in Peanuts: CCCF invites Members and Observers to join an EWG, chaired by India and co-chaired by Senegal, working in English, to develop Maximum Levels (ML) for total aflatoxins in ready-to-eat peanuts and an associated sampling plan. 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 July 27, 2022. 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-india@nic.in by July 31, 2022. 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.

Ciguatera Poisoning: CCCF invites Members and Observers to join an EWG, chaired by the United States and co-chaired by the European Union, working in English, to prepare a discussion paper on the development of a code of practice or guidelines to prevent or reduce ciguatera poisoning. 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) as soon as possible. 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 with a copy to sara.mcgrath@fda.hhs.gov by July 15, 2022. 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.

Guidance on Data Analysis: CCCF invites Members and Observers to join an EWG, chaired by the European Union and co-chaired by Japan, the Netherlands, and the United States, working in English, to elaborate a proposal for general guidance on data analysis for ML development and improved data collection. 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) as soon as possible. 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 sante-codex@ec.europa.eu with a copy to frans.verstraete@ec.europa.eu by July 15, 2022. 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.

Lead in Certain Food: CCCF invites Members and Observers to join an EWG, chaired by Brazil, working in English, to consider the MLs for lead in certain food categories. 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) as soon as possible. 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 codexbrasil@inmetro.gov.br with a copy to larissa.porto@anvisa.gov.br, ligia.schreiner@anvisa.gov.br, and Carolina.Vieira@anvisa.gov.br by July 15, 2022. 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.

Mycotoxins in Cassava: CCCF invites Members and Observers to join an EWG, chaired by Nigeria and co-chaired by Ghana, working in English, to revise the code of practice for the prevention and reduction of mycotoxins contamination in cassava and cassava-based products. 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 July 27, 2022. 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 by July 31, 2022. 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.

Mycotoxins in Spices: CCCF invites Members and Observers to join an EWG, chaired by India, working in English, to prepare new proposals for MLs for certain mycotoxins in spices. 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 July 27, 2022. 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-india@nic.in by July 31, 2022. 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.

Pyrrrolizidine Alkaloids: CCCF invites Members and Observers to join an EWG, chaired by the European Union, working in English, to prepare a discussion paper on pyrrolizidine alkaloids. 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) as soon as possible. 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 sante-codex@ec.europa.eu with a copy to frans.verstraete@ec.europa.eu by July 15, 2022. 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 Additives (CCFA)

Class Names and the INS: CCFA invites Members and Observers to join an EWG, chaired by Belgium and co-chaired by Iran, working in English, to revise 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 August 31, 2022. 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 Christine.Vinkx@health.fgov.be by September 5, 2022. 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.

Requests for Comments

Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF)

Aflatoxins in Spices: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2022/45-CF) requesting comments and/or information on sampling plans: Maximum levels for total aflatoxins and ochratoxin A in spices. The CL is currently available in English at the following link: <http://www.fao.org/fao-whocodexalimentarius/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, 2022. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their Codex Contact Point (CCP) using the Online Commenting System (OCS) (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by September 30, 2022.

Aflatoxins in Cereals: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2022/46-CF) requesting comments on sampling plans for total aflatoxins for cereals and cereal-based foods, including foods for infants and young children. The CL is currently available in English at the following link: <http://www.fao.org/fao-whocodexalimentarius/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, 2022. Comments by

Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their Codex Contact Point (CCP) using the Online Commenting System (OCS) (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by September 30, 2022.

Codex Committee on Fats and Oils (CCFO)

Sunflower Seed Oils: The Codex Secretariat has extended the deadline for the Circular Letter (CL 2021/93/OCS-FO) requesting comments on the proposed revision to the *Standard for Named Vegetable Oils* (CXS 210-1999) – Essential composition of Sunflower Seed oils. The CL is currently available in English, French, and Spanish at the following link: <http://www.fao.org/fao-whocodexalimentarius/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 July 18, 2022. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by July 31, 2022.

Avocado Oil: The Codex Secretariat has extended the deadline for the Circular Letter (CL 2021/94/OCS-FO) requesting comments on the proposed revision to the *Standard for Named Vegetable Oils* (CXS 210-1999) – Inclusion of Avocado oil. 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 July 18, 2022. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by July 31, 2022.

List of Acceptable Previous Cargoes: The Codex Secretariat has extended the deadline for the Circular Letter (CL 2021/95/OCS-FO) requesting proposals for amendments to Appendix 2: List of Acceptable Previous Cargoes of the *Code of Practice for the Storage and Transport of Edible Fats and Oils in Bulk* (CXC 36-1987). 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 July 18, 2022. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by July 31, 2022.

Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (CCFFV)

Onions and Shallots: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2022/40/OCS-FFV) requesting comments on the proposed draft standard for onions and shallots. 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 July 18, 2022. Comments by Member Countries and

Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by July 31, 2022.

Berry Fruits: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2022/41/OCS-FFV) requesting comments on the proposed draft standard for berry fruits. 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 July 18, 2022. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by July 31, 2022.

Fresh Dates: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2022/42/OCS-FFV) requesting comments on the proposed draft standard for fresh dates. 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 July 18, 2022. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by July 31, 2022.

Bananas: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2022/43/OCS-FFV) requesting comments on the proposed amendment to the *Standard for Bananas* (CXS 205-1997). 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 July 18, 2022. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by July 31, 2022.

Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS)

Cereals, Pulses, and Legumes: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2022/44-MAS) requesting comments on the review of the cereal, pulses, and legumes workable package in the *Recommended Methods of Analysis and Sampling* (CXS 234-1999). 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 Heather Selig (Heather.Selig@usda.gov) by July 18, 2022. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted to Thea Rawn (thea.rawn@hc-sc.gc.ca) by August 1, 2022.

Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH)

Saffron: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2022/25/OCS-SCH) requesting comments on the draft standard for saffron. 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 Heather Selig (Heather.Selig@usda.gov) with a copy to uscodex@usda.gov by August 12, 2022. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by August 26, 2022.

Nutmeg: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2022/26/OCS–SCH) requesting comments 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) with a copy to uscodex@usda.gov by August 5, 2022. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by August 19, 2022.

Dried Chilli Peppers and Paprika: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2022/27/OCS–SCH) requesting comments on the proposed draft standard for dried chilli peppers and paprika. 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) with a copy to uscodex@usda.gov by August 5, 2022. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by August 19, 2022.

Cardamom: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2022/28/OCS–SCH) requesting comments on the proposed draft standard for small cardamom. 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) with a copy to uscodex@usda.gov by August 5, 2022. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by August 19, 2022.

Dried Fruits and Berries: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2022/29/OCS–SCH) requesting comments on the draft standard for spices derived from dried fruits and berries (Allspice, Juniper berry, Star anise, and Vanilla). 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) with a copy to uscodex@usda.gov by August 5, 2022. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by August 19, 2022.

Recent U.S. Delegate Reports

Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF)

The report of the U.S. Delegate on the 15th Session of the CCCF has been published. The report can be found at the following link: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/cccf-delegate-report.pdf>.

Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (CCFFV)

The report of the U.S. Delegate on the 22nd Session of the CCFFV has been published. The report can be found at the following link: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ccffv-delegates-report.pdf>.

Other

FAO Food Safety Article and Report: A recent article published by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Food Safety Magazine explores some key new foods and food production systems from a food safety perspective. The article can be accessed at the following link: <https://www.food-safety.com/articles/7805-new-food-sources-and-food-production-systems-exploring-the-food-safety-angle>.

Similarly, a recent FAO report explored the importance of foresight in food safety, while delving into some major global drivers and trends that have implications for food safety and therefore consumer health. The report can be accessed at the following link: <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cb8667en>.

FAO Webinars on AMR: FAO is hosting a series of data-rich monthly webinars on the 2nd Thursday of each month, to bring participants up to date on specific scientific and technical topics related to antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and how to contain it. This may include a variety of topics/disciplines related to AMR in food and agriculture including microbiology, epidemiology, environmental or behavioral science, plant and animal production and health. For more information about past and forthcoming webinars, please visit the following link: <https://www.fao.org/antimicrobial-resistance/news-and-events/events/en/>.

JECFA95 Summary: The summary of the 95th meeting of the Joint FAO / World Health Organization (WHO) Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA) is now available at the following link: https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/food-safety/jecfa/summary-and-conclusions/jecfa95-summary-and-conclusions.pdf?sfvrsn=542e4273_3&download=true.

Aspartame: Evaluations of aspartame, an artificial sweetener, are being undertaken by JECFA and the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) of the WHO. A specific JECFA call will be launched in due course. Further information may be found at the following link: [https://www.who.int/groups/joint-fao-who-expert-committee-on-food-additives-\(jecfa\)](https://www.who.int/groups/joint-fao-who-expert-committee-on-food-additives-(jecfa)).