



Codex News – July 13, 2021

Upcoming Public Meetings

Codex Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL):

The U.S. Codex Program is sponsoring a virtual public meeting on September 1, 2021, from 2:00 – 4:00 EDT to provide information and receive public comments on agenda items and draft U.S. positions to be discussed at the 46th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling, scheduled for September 27 - October 1, 2021, with the report adoption on October 7, 2021. Documents related to the 46th Session of the CCFL will be accessible via the internet at the following address: <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CCFL&session=46>.

- Dr. Douglas Balentine, U.S. Delegate to the 46th Session of the CCFL, invites U.S. interested parties to submit their comments electronically to the following email address: douglas.balentine@fda.hhs.gov.
- Please register to attend by emailing uscodex@usda.gov by August 27, 2021. Early registration is appreciated.

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 Pesticide Residues (CCPR)

This is a reminder that the 52nd Session of CCPR, rescheduled from April 2020 to July 2021, will convene virtually. Sessions will take place on July 26-30, 2021 from 7:00-10:00 am EDT (13:00 to 16:00 hours CET). The adoption of the Report will take place on August 3, 2021 from 7:00-10:00 am EDT (13:00 to 16:00 hours CET). The provisional agenda and other documents related to the 52nd Session of CCPR may be found at: <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CCPR&session=52>. For additional information, please contact Marie Maratos Bhat (Marie.Maratosbhat@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office.

Electronic Working Groups

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

Guidelines on equivalence of National Food Control Systems (NFCS) and Consolidation of all Codex guidance on Equivalence: CCFICS invites members and observers to join an EWG, chaired by New Zealand, working in English, to revise the draft guidelines on Equivalence of NFCS based on discussions at CCFICS25 and to progress consolidation of all CCFICS guidance on equivalence. Individuals interested in working on the U.S. contributions to the EWG should contact Kristen Hendricks (Kristen.Hendricks@usda.gov) by July 23, 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 CodexNZ@mpi.govt.nz by July 30, 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.

Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS)

Revision of Standard CXS-234-- Cereals, Pulses, and Legumes: 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 13, 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.

Review of Standard CXS-234--Fats and Oils: CCMAS invites members and observers to join an EWG, chaired by The Netherlands, working in English, to review the fats and oils workable package, in coordination with the SDOs and CCFO. Individuals interested in working on the U.S. contributions to the EWG should contact Heather Selig (Heather.Selig@usda.gov) by August 9, 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 Yannick.weesepoel@wur.nl by August 13, 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.

Review of Standard CXS-234--Processed Fruits and Vegetables: CCMAS invites members and observers to join an EWG, chaired by the United States, working in English, to review methods of analysis on the processed fruits and vegetables workable package. Individuals interested in working on the U.S. contributions to the EWG should contact Heather Selig (Heather.Selig@usda.gov) by September 27, 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) also to Heather.Selig@usda.gov by September 30, 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.

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* (CXS 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.

Olive Oil: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2021/29/OCS –FO) requesting comments at Step 3 on the proposed draft revision to the *Standard for Olive Oils and Olive Pomace Oils* (CXS 33-1981). 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 31, 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, 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 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 Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS)

Third-Party Assurance (vTPA) Programmes: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2021/52/OCS-FICS) requesting comments at Step 8 on the draft Principles and Guidelines for the assessment and use of voluntary Third-Party Assurance (vTPA) programmes. 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 September 16, 2021. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by September 30, 2021.

Paperless Use of Electronic Certificates: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2021/53/OCS-FICS) requesting comments at Step 5/8 on the Proposed Draft Guidance on paperless use of electronic certificates (revision to the *Guidelines for Design, Production, Issuance and Use of Generic Official Certificates* (CXG 38-2001)). The CL is currently available in English at the following link: <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters>.

[codexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters](https://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 September 16, 2021. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by September 30, 2021.

Codex Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL)

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.

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

Knowledge Session: As momentum builds towards the [UN Food Systems Summit](#), an FAO knowledge session on publications and resources will take place tomorrow, July 14, 2021 at 8:00 EDT (14:00 CET). This first of five sessions will guide participants to using FAO resources, dig deeper into [Action Track 1](#) which is about ‘Ensuring access to safe and nutritious food for all’, and show how to stay up to date on new releases. For those interested in participating, please click on the following link to register: https://fao.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_v-SF2rCQ_CLVC7IN_tjaQ. For additional information regarding the session, please click on the following link: : <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/news-and-events/news-details/en/c/1415835/>.

Call for Expressions of Interest - Food Standards Specialists: The Codex Secretariat is currently establishing a roster of qualified candidates to provide short term support to the work of the Codex Secretariat. Full details, including how to apply are available on the FAO webpage – Careers Section and can be directly accessed [here](#). Deadline for applications is July 26, 2021.

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/>.