



Codex News – August 25, 2020*

**corrected – see highlighted text*

Confirmation of Virtual Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) Meeting

Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC)

Members of the Codex Alimentarius Commission have endorsed the Codex Secretariat's plan to hold the 43rd Session of the Commission (CAC43) virtually and suspend the rules requiring an in-person meeting of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. The CAC43 meeting will take place in **the format of four three-hour sessions** from September 24-26 and again on October 12 and a fifth session with no set length on October 19, 2020 for the adoption of the report. The Codex Secretariat has circulated an invitation for CAC43 participants, which requires registration including the names, titles, and addresses of attendees using the online system included in the letter by the deadline on September 17, 2020.

Requests for Comments

Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF)

Review of Codex Texts for Contaminants: The Codex Secretariat issued a Circular Letter (CL 2020/53/OCS-CF) requesting comments on approaches to determine the need for revision of Codex standards and related texts developed by the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods. The CL is available in English, French, and Spanish at the following link: 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 October 1, 2020. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their Codex Contact Point (CCP) using the Codex Online Commenting System (OCS) (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by October 15, 2020.

Methylmercury in Fish Species: The Codex Secretariat issued a Circular Letter (CL 2020/52-OCS-CF) requesting comments on Maximum Levels (MLs) for methylmercury in additional fish species, including sampling plans and other risk management recommendations. The CL is available in English, French, and Spanish at the following link: 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 October 1, 2020. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their Codex Contact Point (CCP) using the Codex Online Commenting System (OCS) (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by October 15, 2020.

Cadmium in Chocolates: The Codex Secretariat issued a Circular Letter (CL 2020/50-OCS-CF) requesting comments for work on MLs for cadmium in chocolates and cocoa-derived products. The CL is available in English, French, and Spanish at the following link: 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 observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by September 30, 2020.

Mycotoxins in Cassava: The Codex Secretariat issued a Circular Letter (CL 2020/51-OCS-CF) requesting comments for work related to mycotoxins contamination in cassava and cassava-based products. The CL is available in English, French, and Spanish at the following link: 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 observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by September 30, 2020.

Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH)

New Work: The Codex Secretariat issued a Circular Letter (CL 2020/32-FH) requesting proposals for new work and/or revision of existing standards. The CL is currently available in English, French, and Spanish at the following link: 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 Jenny Scott (jenny.scott@fda.hhs.gov) by May 17, 2021. Comments by other countries and observers should be submitted via their CCP to the CCFH Host Secretariat (CCFH@usda.gov) with a copy to the Codex Secretariat (codex@fao.org) by May 31, 2021.

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

Extrapolation of MRLs: The Codex Secretariat issued a Circular Letter (CL 2020/42-RVDF) requesting comments on the approach for the extrapolation of maximum residue limits (MRLs) for veterinary drugs to one or more species and proposals for MRLs based on the approach proposed for extrapolation of MRLs to one or more species. The CL is available in English, French, and Spanish at the following link: 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 October 16, 2020. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP to the CCRVDF Secretariat (CCRVDF-USSEC@fsis.usda.gov) with a copy to the Codex Secretariat (codex@fao.org) by October 31, 2020.

Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables (CCPFV)

Gochujang: The Codex Secretariat issued a Circular Letter (CL 2020/43/OCS-PFV) requesting comments at Step 5/8 on the proposed draft standard for gochujang. The CL can be found in English, French, and Spanish at the following link: www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/circularletters. 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 27, 2020. Comments by other observers and

countries should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (ocs.codexalimentarius.org) by September 10, 2020.

Chili Sauce: The Codex Secretariat issued a Circular Letter (CL 2020/44/OCS-PFV) requesting comments at Step 5/8 on the proposed draft standard for chili sauce. The CL can be found in English, French, and Spanish at the following link: www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/circularletters. 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 27, 2020. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (ocs.codexalimentarius.org) by September 10, 2020.

Mango Chutney: The Codex Secretariat issued a Circular Letter (CL 2020/45/OCS-PFV) requesting comments at Step 5/8 on the proposed draft standard for mango chutney. The CL can be found in English, French, and Spanish at the following link: www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/circularletters. 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 27, 2020. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (ocs.codexalimentarius.org) by September 10, 2020.

Dried Fruits: The Codex Secretariat issued a Circular Letter (CL 2020/46/OCS-PFV) requesting comments at Step 5/8 on the proposed draft standard for dried fruits. The CL can be found in English, French, and Spanish at the following link: www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/circularletters. 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 27, 2020. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (ocs.codexalimentarius.org) by September 10, 2020.

Canned Mixed Fruits: The Codex Secretariat issued a Circular Letter (CL 2020/47/OCS-PFV) requesting comments at Step 5/8 on the proposed draft standard for canned mixed fruits. The CL can be found in English, French, and Spanish at the following link: www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/circularletters. 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 27, 2020. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (ocs.codexalimentarius.org) by September 10, 2020.

Pickled Cucumbers, Canned Bamboo Shoots, and Jams, Jellies, and Marmalades: The Codex Secretariat issued a Circular Letter (CL 2020/48/OCS-PFV) requesting comments on the revised food additive provisions of the Standard for Pickled Cucumbers (CXS 115-1981), Canned Bamboo Shoots (CXS 241-2003), and Jams, Jellies and Marmalades (CXS 296-2009). The CL can be found in English, French, and Spanish at the following link: www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/circularletters.

[codexalimentarius/resources/circularletters](https://www.codexalimentarius.org/resources/circularletters). 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 27, 2020. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (ocs.codexalimentarius.org) by September 10, 2020.

French Fried Potatoes: The Codex Secretariat issued a Circular Letter (CL 2020/49/OCS-PFV) requesting comments on the proposed amendment to annex on French Fried Potatoes of the Standard for Quick Frozen Vegetables (CXS 320-2015). The CL can be found in English, French, and Spanish at the following link: www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/circularletters. 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 27, 2020. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (ocs.codexalimentarius.org) by September 10, 2020.

Electronic Working Groups

Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA)

Continuation of Class Names and the INS: The Chair of CCFA and the Codex Secretariat have agreed that the EWG should continue to work on the Revision of the Class Names and the International Numbering System for Food Additives (INS) (CXG 36-1989) and report to CCFA52. All Codex Members and Observers that are not already registered for this EWG are invited to register their experts for this EWG, which will be working through the Codex Forum. Individuals in the U.S. interested in working on U.S. contributions to the EWG should contact Ken Lowery (ken.lowery@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 the CCP of Belgium (Christine.Vinkx@health.fgov.be) with a copy to the CCP of Iran (bn31518@yahoo.com) by September 10, 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.

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

Voluntary Third-Party Assurance: The Chair of CCFICS and the Codex Secretariat have agreed that the EWG should continue to work on the Draft Principles and Guidelines for the Assessment and Use of Voluntary Third-Party Assurance (vTPA) and report to CCFICS25. All Codex Members and Observers that are not already registered for this EWG are invited to register their experts for this EWG, which will be working through the Codex Forum. Individuals in the U.S. interested in working on U.S. contributions to the EWG should contact Kristen Hendricks (Kristen.Hendricks@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 the CCP of the United Kingdom (codex@defra.gov.uk) with a copy to the CCPs of Canada (cfia.codex-codex.acia@canada.ca)

and Mexico (codex@cofepris.gob.mx) by September 11, 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.

Codex Committee on Fats and Oils (CCFO)

Work Not Being Initiated: At CCFO26, the Committee agreed to establish an EWG on the List of Acceptable Previous Cargos. The Codex Secretariat recently sent an email and stated that since there were no proposals for new substances or removal of substances, the Chair of the EWG decided not to initiate an EWG for work ahead of CCFO27.

Other

Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA)

JECFA published its monograph on the residue evaluation of certain veterinary drugs created at the 88th meeting of JECFA, which took place in Rome from October 22-31, 2019. JECFA specifically considered residues of veterinary drugs in food at this meeting. The tasks before the Committee were to further elaborate principles for evaluating the safety of residues of veterinary drugs in food, establishing acceptable daily intakes (ADIs) and acute reference doses (ARfDs), and recommending maximum residue limits (MRLs) for such residues when the drugs under consideration are administered to food-producing animals in accordance with good practice in the use of veterinary drugs (GVP); to evaluate the safety of residues of certain veterinary drugs; and to respond to specific requests from the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods (CCRVDF). The monograph can be found at the following link: <http://www.fao.org/3/ca9918en/ca9918en.pdf>.