



Codex News – September 8, 2020

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 of official member country and observer organization delegations by their Codex Contact Points by September 17, 2020.

In preparation for the virtual CAC 43 session, the Codex Secretariat will host an online meeting providing guidance to Codex members and observers on September 11, 2020. The meeting will be held in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, and Spanish. There will also be a "side event" on the Codex Trust Fund on September 9. The goal of the Trust Fund is to enhance effective participation in Codex by developing countries.

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.

Electronic Working Groups

FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Asia (CCASIA)

Development of an SOP: The Committee invites members and observers to join an EWG chaired by India, working in English, to develop an SOP for coordination among CCASIA members. 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 India ([codex-](#)

india@nic.in) by September 15, 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 Additives (CCFA)

Continuation of Work on 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.

Other

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

Call for Data Ahead of JECFA 92 Meeting: JECFA has issued a call for data ahead of the 92nd meeting of JECFA, scheduled for June 2021. This call for data has a deadline of December 31, 2020. The list of topics covered by this call for data and other submission information can be found at the following link: <https://www.who.int/news-room/articles-detail/call-for-data---jecfa-92-meeting>

Call for Data on Cadmium and Lead in Food: JECFA has issued a call for data on two topics currently relevant to work in the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods. The first call for data pertains to cadmium in all food categories, with a deadline of December 1, 2020. The call for data on cadmium can be found at the following link: www.fao.org/food-safety/scientific-advice/calls-for-data-and-experts/en/

The second call for data covers lead in food for infants and young children (spices and aromatic herbs; eggs; sugars and confectionary (excluding cocoa)), with a deadline of November 21, 2020. The call for data on lead can be found at the following link: <https://www.who.int/foodsafety/call-data/en/>

World Health Organization Technical Advisory Group on Foodborne Disease Burden Epidemiology Reference Group (FERG)

The WHO Department of Nutrition and Food Safety has created a call for experts by the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) on Food Foodborne Disease Burden Epidemiology Reference Group (FERG) with a deadline of October 31, 2020. This TAG has a mandate to create an up-to-date report on the global burden of foodborne diseases at the national, regional, and international levels by 2025. The FERG call for experts, Terms of Reference, and registration can be found at this link: <https://www.who.int/news-room/articles-detail/call-for-experts-who-initiative-estimate-global-burden-of-foodborne-diseases>.

World Health Organization Technical Advisory Group on Food Safety

The WHO Department of Nutrition and Food Safety has extended the deadline for the call for experts by the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) on Food Safety to September 11, 2020. This TAG will advise WHO on current and future challenges along the agri-food supply chain, directions to be prioritized to improve national food safety systems and interventions and activities to improve food safety. The TAG will also advise on the Global Strategy for Food Safety. The TAG has issued a call for experts which can be found at the following link: <https://www.who.int/news-room/articles-detail/call-for-experts-who-technical-advisory-group-on-food-safety-safer-food-for-better-health>.