



Codex News – October 18, 2022

Upcoming Public Meetings

Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC)

The U.S. Codex Program is sponsoring a public meeting on October 26, 2022, from 1:00 – 4:00 PM EDT to provide information and receive public comments on agenda items and draft U.S. positions to be discussed at the 45th Session of the of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC), on November 21-25, 2022. The report adoption is scheduled for December 12-13, 2022. The public meeting will take place virtually. Documents related to the 45th Session of the CAC will be accessible via the internet at the following address: www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/en.

- Ms. Mary Frances Lowe, U.S. Delegate to the 45th Session of the CAC, invites U.S. interested parties to submit their comments electronically to the following email address: uscodex@usda.gov.
- Please register to attend the public meeting here: <https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJltdO-srDMrGJxRlsmY7r4RU08yTLgsaEE>.

Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH)

The U.S. Codex Program is sponsoring a public meeting on October 27, 2022, from 1:00 – 4:00 PM EDT to provide information and receive public comments on agenda items and draft U.S. positions to be discussed at the 53rd Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH), on November 29-December 2, 2022. The report adoption is scheduled for December 8, 2022. The public meeting will take place virtually. Documents related to the 53rd Session of the CCFH will be accessible via the internet at the following address: www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/en.

- Ms. Jenny Scott, U.S. Delegate to the 53rd Session of the CCFH, invites U.S. interested parties to submit their comments electronically to the following email address: jenny.scott@fda.hhs.gov.
- Please register to attend the public meeting here: https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJlSf-urrrz8iGN5BcwKKuL3yAYvR_kbtU.

Upcoming Committee Meetings

FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean (CCLAC)

The 22nd Session of CCLAC will meet virtually on October 24-26, 2022 11:00-14:00 EDT (17:00 – 20:00 CET). Virtual report adoption will take place on October 28, 2022 from 11:00-14:00 EDT (17:00 – 20:00 CET). The provisional agenda and other working documents related to the 22nd Session of the CCLAC are available at the following link: <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CCLAC&session=22>. For additional information, please contact Ken Lowery (ken.lowery@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office.

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

The 43rd Session of the CCNFSDU will meet in Duesseldorf, Germany on March 7-10, 2023. The report adoption will take place virtually on March 15, 2023. The provisional agenda and other working documents related to the 43rd Session of the CCNFSDU will be available at the following link: <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CCNFSDU&session=43>. For additional information, please contact Kristen Hendricks (Kristen.hendricks@usda.gov) and Marie Maratos Bhat (marie.maratosbhat@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office.

Electronic Working Groups (EWG)

Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF)

Sampling plans for methylmercury in fish: CCCF invites Members and Observers to join an EWG, chaired by New Zealand and co-chaired by Canada, working in English, to develop sampling plans for methylmercury in fish. 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 November 7, 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 Codex Contact Point (CCP) to codexnz@mpi.govt.nz with copy to HC.Codex.Canada.SC@Canada.ca by November 10, 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 Pesticide Residues (CCPR)

Enhancement of work management of CCPR and JMPR: CCPR invites Members and Observers to join an EWG, chaired by the United States and co-chaired by Costa Rica, France, Germany and Uganda, working in English and Spanish, to explore the enhancement of work management by the CCPR and the FAO/World Health Organization (WHO) Joint Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPR). The specific terms of reference are as follows:

- i) prepare a Circular Letter (CL) to request information from members and observers on the need to enhance CCPR/JMPR and the associated opportunities and challenges. The CL may invite members and observers to consider a second or possibly subsequent workshops that would expand on and further develop some of the themes addressed in the virtual workshop sponsored by CropLife International on March 31, 2022, as described in CX/PR 22/53/20.
- ii) prepare, on the basis of the responses to the CL a summary of the submitted information and a discussion paper that summarizes findings for consideration at CCPR54 and later transmission to JMPR as appropriate.
- iii) coordinate work with related EWGs such as the EWGs on priority lists, national registration database, unsupported compounds.

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) 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 as soon as possible. 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.

National registration of pesticides: CCPR invites Members and Observers to join an EWG, chaired by Germany and co-chaired by Australia, working in English and Spanish, to amend the National Registration Database for Pesticides for Periodic Review by JMPR. The EWG will also coordinate its work with the EWGs on Priorities and on Unsupported compounds without public health concerns. 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) 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 Codex.germany@bmel.bund.de with a copy to karsten.hohgardt@bvl.bund.de as soon as possible. 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)

Methylmercury in fish: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2022/47/OCS-CF) requesting information on national sampling plans for methylmercury in fish or other contaminants in fish. 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 December 1, 2022. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the Online Commenting System (OCS) (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by December 25, 2022.

Codex Committee on Fats and Oils (CCFO)

New Work/Amendments: The Codex Secretariat has extended the deadline for Circular Letter (CL 2021/96-FO) requesting proposals for new work and/or amendments to existing CCFO texts. 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 March 1, 2023. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP to codex@fao.org with a copy to ccfo_malaysia@moh.gov.my by to March 31, 2023.

Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH)

Water: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2022/48/OCS-FH) requesting comments on the proposed draft guidelines for the safe use and reuse of water in food production. 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 Marie Maratos Bhat (marie.maratosbhat@usda.gov) and Jenny Scott (jenny.scott@fda.hhs.gov) with a copy to Andrew Yeung (andrew.yeung@fda.hhs.gov) and Eric Stevens (eric.stevens@fda.hhs.gov) no later than October

31, 2022. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by November 9, 2022.

Vibrio: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2022/49/OCS-FH) requesting comments on the discussion paper on the revision of the *Guidelines on the Application of General Principles of Food Hygiene to the Control of Pathogenic Vibrio Species in Seafood* (CXG 73-2010). 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 Marie Maratos Bhat (marie.maratosbhat@usda.gov) and Jenny Scott (jenny.scott@fda.hhs.gov) with a copy to Andrew Yeung (andrew.yeung@fda.hhs.gov) and Eric Stevens (eric.stevens@fda.hhs.gov) by October 21, 2022. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by October 31, 2022.

Viruses: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2022/50/OCS-FH) requesting comments on the discussion paper on revision of the *Guidelines on the Application of General Principles of Food Hygiene to the Control of Viruses in Food* (CXG 79-2012). 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 Marie Maratos Bhat (marie.maratosbhat@usda.gov) and Jenny Scott (jenny.scott@fda.hhs.gov) with a copy to Andrew Yeung (andrew.yeung@fda.hhs.gov) and Eric Stevens (eric.stevens@fda.hhs.gov) by October 21, 2022. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by October 31, 2022.

STEC: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2022/56/OCS-FH) requesting comments on the proposed draft guidelines for the control of STEC in raw beef, fresh leafy vegetables, raw milk and raw milk cheeses, and sprouts. 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 Marie Maratos Bhat (marie.maratosbhat@usda.gov) and Jenny Scott (jenny.scott@fda.hhs.gov) with a copy to Andrew Yeung (andrew.yeung@fda.hhs.gov) and Eric Stevens (eric.stevens@fda.hhs.gov) no later than October 31, 2022. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by November 9, 2022.

Codex Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL)

Emerging Issues/Future Work: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2022/70/FL) requesting comments on emerging issues/future work. 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 Kristen Hendricks (kristen.hendricks@usda.gov) and Marie Maratos Bhat (marie.maratosbhat@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office by January 2, 2023. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted to Phillippa Hawthorne (Phillippa.hawthorne@mpi.govt.nz) with a copy to the Codex Secretariat (codex@fao.org) by January 14, 2023.

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

JECFA MRLs: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2022/71/RVDF) requesting comments on the maximum residues of veterinary drugs in foods arising from the safety assessment of the 94th Meeting of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA94, 2022) and from discussions at CCRVDF25 (2021). 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 Ken Lowery (ken.lowery@usda.gov) by December 1, 2022. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by January 5, 2023.

Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH)

Saffron: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2022/63/OCS-SCH) requesting comments on the Draft Standard for Dried Floral Parts – 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) of the U.S. Codex Office by October 25, 2022. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) November 4, 2022.

Nutmeg: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2022/64/OCS-SCH) requesting comments on the Draft Standard for Dried Seeds - Nutmeg. 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) of the U.S. Codex Office by October 25, 2022. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) November 4, 2022.

Chilli Pepper and Paprika: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2022/65/OCS-SCH) requesting comments on the proposed Draft Standard for Dried or Dehydrated Chilli Pepper and Paprika. 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) of the U.S. Codex Office by October 25, 2022. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) November 4, 2022.

Cardamom: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2022/66/OCS-SCH) requesting comments on the proposed Draft Standard for Dried Small Cardamom. 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) of the U.S. Codex Office by October 25, 2022. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) November 4, 2022.

Fruits and Berries: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2022/67/OCS-SCH) requesting comments on the proposed Draft Standard for Spices Derived from Fruits and Berries (Allspice, Juniper berry and Star anise). 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) of the U.S. Codex Office by October 25, 2022. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) November 4, 2022.

Labelling Provisions of NRC's: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2022/68/OCS-SCH) requesting comments on the proposed draft amendments to the labelling provisions for non-retail containers in the eight existing SCH standards. 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) of the U.S. Codex Office by October 25, 2022. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) November 4, 2022.

FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Africa (CAFRICA)

Dried Meat: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2022/61/OCS-AFRICA) requesting comments on the draft Regional Standard for dried meat. 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 Ken Lowery (ken.lowery@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office by October 24, 2022. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by November 4, 2022.

Harmonized Food Safety Legislation: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2022/62/OCS-AFRICA) requesting comments on the proposed draft Guidelines for developing harmonized food safety legislation for the CAFRICA region. 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 Ken Lowery (ken.lowery@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office by October 24, 2022. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by November 4, 2022.

Labelling Provisions on NRC's: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2022/69/OCS-AFRICA) requesting comments on the proposed draft revisions to the labelling provisions on non-retail containers in the following:

- Regional Standard for unrefined Shea Butter (CXS 325R-2017) – Section 7.2;
- Regional Standard for fermented cooked cassava-based products (CXS 334R-2020) – Section 7.3; and
- Regional Standard for fresh leaves of Gnetum spp (CXS 335R-2020) – Section 6.2

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 Ken Lowery (ken.lowery@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office by October 24, 2022. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by November 4, 2022.

New Alternate U.S. Delegate

Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH)

Dr. Eric Stevens, International Policy Analyst on the Regulatory Cooperation and Partnership Staff in the Office of International Engagement at the Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, U.S. Food and Drug Administration, was recently confirmed as the new Co-Alternate U.S. Delegate to CCFH. He follows in the footsteps of Dr. Andrew Yeung, who previously served as Co-Alternate U.S. Delegate to CCFH for a number of years.

Other

FAO-WHO Publication: The "FAO-WHO Report of the Expert Meeting on Food Safety for Seaweed – Current status and Future perspectives" reviews the available/accessible information on food safety in seaweed and makes recommendations for addressing identified challenges with a view to protect consumers and promote sustainable food security for all. The report may be accessed at the following link: <http://www.fao.org/3/cc0846en/cc0846en.pdf>.

JEMRA: Two reports were recently published by the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Meetings on Microbiological Risk Assessment (JEMRA):

- MRA 38: *Listeria monocytogenes* in ready-to-eat (RTE) foods: attribution, characterization and monitoring. It may be found at the following link: <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc2400en>
- MRA 39: Control measures for Shiga toxin-producing *Escherichia coli* (STEC) associated with meat and dairy products, <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc2402en>

The FAO also prepared a news release on the two publications entitled "A tale of two pathogens," which may be accessed at the following link: <https://www.fao.org/food-safety/news/news-details/en/c/1608823/>

Call for experts on burden of foodborne diseases: The WHO Department of Nutrition and Food Safety has initiated a process for the collection and assessment of evidence to estimate the burden of foodborne diseases. The WHO Secretariat is seeking support from independent consultants or a group of experts with relevant expertise and experience to undertake systematic reviews and other studies to synthesize the evidence for estimating the burden of foodborne diseases. The deadline to apply is October 31, 2022. Additional information may be found at the following link: <https://www.who.int/news-room/articles-detail/call-for-expressions-of-interest-to-conduct-systematic-reviews-and-other-studies-for-estimating-the-burden-of-foodborne-diseases>.

Call for experts on Trans Fat Elimination Technical Advisory Group (TFATAG): WHO is seeking experts to serve as members of the TFATAG, the principal advisory group that makes recommendations on the granting of the WHO Validation certificate. The deadline to apply is November 3, 2022. Additional information may be found at the following link: <https://www.who.int/news-room/articles-detail/call-for-experts-who-trans-fat-elimination-technical-advisory-group>.