



Codex News – November 1, 2022

### Upcoming Committee Meetings

#### ***Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CCEXEC)***

This is a reminder that the 83rd Session of the CCEXEC will take place physically in the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Headquarters in Rome, Italy, on November 14-16, 2022, from 4:00-7:00 EST (10:00- 13:00 CET) and 9:00-12:00 EST (15:00-18:00 CET). Report adoption will also take place physically on November 18, 2022 from 4:00-7:00 EST (10:00-13:00 CET) and 9:00-12:00 EST (15:00-18:00 CET). Remote participation (via Zoom) will also be possible. The provisional agenda and other working documents related to the 83rd Session of the CCEXEC are available at the following link: <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CCEXEC&session=83>. For additional information, please contact the U.S. Codex Office ([uscodex@usda.gov](mailto:uscodex@usda.gov)).

#### ***Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC)***

The 45th Session of the CAC will take place physically at FAO Headquarters in Rome, Italy on November 21-25, 2022 from 4:00-7:00 EST (10:00-13:00 CET) and 9:00-12:00 EST (15:00-18:00 CET). Virtual report adoption will take place on December 12-13, 2022 from 6:00-9:00 EST (12:00-15:00 CET). Remote participation (via Zoom) possible for listening and verbal interventions. The provisional agenda and other working documents related to the 45th Session of the CAC are available at the following link: <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CAC&session=45>. For additional information, please contact the U.S. Codex Office ([uscodex@usda.gov](mailto:uscodex@usda.gov)).

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

The 43<sup>rd</sup> 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 43<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:Kristen.hendricks@usda.gov)) and Marie Maratos Bhat ([marie.maratosbhat@usda.gov](mailto: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 Electronic Working Group (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](mailto: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](mailto:codexnz@mpi.govt.nz) with copy to [HC.Codex.Canada.SC@Canada.ca](mailto: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.

## Requests for Comments

### ***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, 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](mailto:marie.maratosbhat@usda.gov)) and Jenny Scott ([jenny.scott@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:jenny.scott@fda.hhs.gov)) with a copy to Andrew Yeung ([andrew.yeung@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:andrew.yeung@fda.hhs.gov)) and Eric Stevens ([eric.stevens@fda.hhs.gov](mailto: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.

**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, 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](mailto:marie.maratosbhat@usda.gov)) and Jenny Scott ([jenny.scott@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:jenny.scott@fda.hhs.gov)) with a copy to Andrew Yeung ([andrew.yeung@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:andrew.yeung@fda.hhs.gov)) and Eric Stevens ([eric.stevens@fda.hhs.gov](mailto: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 Marie Maratos Bhat ([marie.maratosbhat@usda.gov](mailto: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](mailto:Phillippa.hawthorne@mpi.govt.nz)) with a copy to the Codex Secretariat ([codex@fao.org](mailto:codex@fao.org)) by January 14, 2023.

**Prioritization of Work:** The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2022/73/FL) requesting comments on the proposed draft approach and criteria for evaluation and prioritization of the work of CCFL. 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 Marie Maratos Bhat ([marie.maratosbhat@usda.gov](mailto:marie.maratosbhat@usda.gov)) of the U.S. Codex Office by January 17, 2023. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by January 31, 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, 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 Ken Lowery ([ken.lowery@usda.gov](mailto: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, 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](mailto: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, 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](mailto: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, 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](mailto: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, 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](mailto: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, 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](mailto: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, 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](mailto: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 (CCAFRICA)***

**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, 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 Ken Lowery ([ken.lowery@usda.gov](mailto:ken.lowery@usda.gov)) of the U.S. Codex Office as soon as possible. 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 CCAFRICA region. 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 Ken Lowery ([ken.lowery@usda.gov](mailto:ken.lowery@usda.gov)) of the U.S. Codex Office as soon as possible. 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, 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 Ken Lowery ([ken.lowery@usda.gov](mailto:ken.lowery@usda.gov)) of the U.S. Codex Office as soon as possible. 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 U.S. Delegates and Alternate U.S. Delegates**

#### ***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.

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

Dr. Michelle Catlin, International Coordination Executive for the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, was recently confirmed as the new delegate to CCFICS. She follows in the footsteps of Ms. Mary Stanley, who previously served as U.S. Delegate to CCFICS for a number of years.

### **Other**

**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/>

**JMPR 2022 Summary Report:** The Fall 2022 Joint FAO/WHO Meetings on Pesticide Residues (JMPR) summary report is now available at the following link: <https://www.fao.org/3/cc2469en/cc2469en.pdf>.

**JMPR 2023 Call for Data:** The FAO and WHO have issued a call for data for JMPR 2023, planned for September 19-28, 2023 in Geneva. The call for data is on the list of substances scheduled for new compounds, periodic reevaluation, follow up evaluation or new uses and request for data. The submission of data on those compounds for toxicological evaluation is requested before December 1, 2022. Data for residue evaluations are requested before December 20, 2022. This call for data may be found at the following link: <https://www.fao.org/pest-and-pesticide-management/guidelines-standards/faowhojoint-meeting-on-pesticide-residues-jmpr/en/>.

**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>.

**FAO Microplastics Report:** The FAO recently published a report entitled “Microplastics in food commodities: a food safety review on human exposure through dietary sources.” The report may be found at the following link: <http://www.fao.org/3/cc2392en/cc2392en.pdf>