



Codex News – November 2, 2021

Upcoming Committee and Task Force Meetings

Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC)

This is a reminder that the 44th Session of the CAC will meet virtually from November 8-18, 2021. Plenary sessions will convene on November 8-13 and November 15, 2021 from 6:00-9:00 EST (12:00-15:00 CET); the report adoption is planned for November 17-18, 2021 from 6:00-9:00 EST (12:00-15:00 CET). The Session will be conducted in all working languages of the CAC: English, French, Spanish, Russian, Arabic and Chinese. The provisional agenda and other working documents related to the 44th Session of the CAC will be available at:

<http://www.fao.org/fao-whocodexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CAC&session=44>. For additional information, please contact the U.S. Codex Office (uscodex@usda.gov).

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

The 42nd Session of the CCNFSDU will meet virtually on November 19 and 22–25, 2021 from 6:00–9:00AM EST (12:00–15:00 CET) with report adoption scheduled for December 1, 2021 from 6:00–9:00AM EST (12:00–15:00 CET). The provisional agenda and other working documents related to the 42nd Session of the CCNFSDU are available at:

<https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CCNFSDU&session=42>. For additional information, please contact Kristen Hendricks (Kristen.Hendricks@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office.

Electronic Working Groups (EWG)

Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF)

Guidance on Data Analysis and Improved Data Collection: CCCF invites Members and Observers to join an Electronic Working Group (EWG), chaired by the European Union, and co-chaired by Japan, the Netherlands, and the United States, working in English, to prepare guidance on data analysis for development of Maximum Levels (MLs) and for improved data collection based on the comments provided at the 14th Session of the CCCF (2021) and those in reply to the Circular Letter (CL 2021/78-CF). 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 10, 2021. 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 the following email

addresses: sante-codex@ec.europa.eu and frans.verstraete@ec.europa.eu by November 15, 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 in the EWG.

Pyrrolizidine Alkaloids (PAs): CCCF invites Members and Observers to join an EWG, chaired by the European Union, working in English, to prepare a discussion paper on pyrrolizidine alkaloids looking into the feasibility of possible follow-up actions for considerations by the next session of the CCCF. 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 10, 2021. 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 following email addresses: sante-codex@ec.europa.eu and frans.verstraete@ec.europa.eu by November 15, 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 in the EWG.

Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA)

General Standard for Food Additives (GSFA): CCFA invites Members and Observers to join an EWG, chaired by the United States, working in English, to consider a series of issues, including the following:

- the result of review of 87th JECFA on carotenoids
- replies from the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables (CCPFV)
- notes associated with food additives contained under group headers
- notes in the GSFA linked to aspartame (INS 951), acesulfame potassium (INS 950) and the aspartame-acesulfame salt (INS 962)
- the provision for propylene glycol alginate (INS 405)
- draft and proposed draft provisions for sweeteners
- provisions with Note 161

For a complete list of the Terms of Reference please consult the relevant paragraph from the Final Report from the 52nd Session of the CCFA (REP 21/FA para. 183¹). Individuals in the United States interested in working on the U.S. contributions to the EWG should contact Ken Lowery (Ken.Lowery@usda.gov) by December 31, 2021. 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 following email address: ccfa@cfsan.fda.gov by January 5, 2022. As this EWG will operate on the Codex Online Forum, please note that when

¹ https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/sh-proxy/en/?lnk=1&url=https%253A%252F%252Fworkspace.fao.org%252Fsites%252Fcodex%252FMeetings%252FCX-804-08%252FREPORT%252FFinalReport%252FREP21_AMR08e.pdf

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 Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH)

Dried or Dehydrated Chili Pepper and Paprika: CCSCH invites Members and Observers to join an EWG, chaired by India, working in English, to develop a draft standard for dried or dehydrated chili pepper and paprika. Individuals in the United States interested in working on the U.S. contributions to the EWG should contact Heather Selig (Heather.Selig@usda.gov) by November 10, 2021. 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 following email addresses: ccsch.subbraj@gmail.com and codex-india@nic.in by November 15, 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 in the EWG.

Requests for Comments

Ad hoc Codex Intergovernmental Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance (TFAMR)

Adoption by CAC44: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2021/73-AMR) requesting comments on texts going for adoption by CAC44:

- Revised *Code of Practice to Contain and Minimize Foodborne Antimicrobial Resistance* (CXC 61-2005) (at Step 8)
- Guidelines on Integrated Monitoring and Surveillance of Foodborne Antimicrobial Resistance (at Step 5/8)

The CL is available in English, French, and Spanish at: <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) as soon as possible. Comments by Member countries and Codex Observers should be submitted using the Codex Online Commenting System (OCS) (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by November 5, 2021.

Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF)

Adoption by CAC44: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2021/76-CF) requesting comments on texts going for adoption by CAC44:

- Maximum level for cadmium in chocolates containing or declaring <30% total cocoa solids on a dry matter basis (at Step 8)
- Maximum level for cadmium in chocolates containing or declaring =30% to <50% total cocoa solids on a dry matter basis (at Step 5/8)

- Revision of the Code of practice for the prevention and reduction of lead contamination in foods (CXC 56-2004) (at Step 5/8)
- Code of practice for the prevention and reduction of cadmium contamination in cocoa beans (at Step 5)

The CL is available in English, French, and Spanish at: <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) as soon as possible. Comments by Member countries and Codex Observers should be submitted using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by November 5, 2021.

Guidance on Data Analysis: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2021/78-CF) requesting for comments on the topics identified in relation to the guidance on data analysis for development of maximum levels and for improved data collection. 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, 2021. Comments by Member countries and Codex Observers should be submitted using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by December 15, 2021.

Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA)

Section 3 of the *Class Names and International Numbering System of Food Additives*: The Codex Secretariat has extended the deadline of a Circular Letter (CL 2021/30-FA) requesting proposals for changes and/or additions to Section 3 of the *Class Names and International Numbering System for Food Additives* (CXG 36-1989). 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) by April 18, 2022. Comments by Member countries and Codex Observers should be submitted to the CCFA Secretariat (ccfa@cfsa.net.cn) and the Codex Secretariat (codex@fao.org) by April 30, 2022.

Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH)

Decision Tree in the *General Principles of Food Hygiene*: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2021/62/OCS-FH) requesting comments at Step 3 on the proposed draft decision tree (revision of the *General Principles of Food Hygiene* (CXC 1-1969)). 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 please send them to U.S. Delegate Jenny Scott (jenny.scott@fda.hhs.gov) with a copy to

Andrew Yeung (andrew.yeung@fda.hhs.gov) and Marie Maratos Bhat (Marie.Maratosbhat@usda.gov) by December 8, 2021. Comments by Member countries and Codex Observers should be submitted using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by January 15, 2022.

Safe Use and Re-use of Water in Food Production: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2021/64/OCS-FH) requesting comments on the proposed draft guidelines for the safe use and re-use of water in food production. 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 please send them to U.S. Delegate Jenny Scott (jenny.scott@fda.hhs.gov) with a copy to Andrew Yeung (andrew.yeung@fda.hhs.gov) and Marie Maratos Bhat (Marie.Maratosbhat@usda.gov) by December 8, 2021. Comments by Member countries and Codex Observers should be submitted using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by January 15, 2022.

Management of Biological Foodborne Outbreaks: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2021/72/OCS-FH) requesting comments on the revised draft guidance for the management of biological foodborne outbreaks. 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 U.S. Delegate Jenny Scott (jenny.scott@fda.hhs.gov) with a copy to Andrew Yeung (andrew.yeung@fda.hhs.gov) and Marie Maratos Bhat (Marie.Maratosbhat@usda.gov) by December 8, 2021. Comments by Member countries and Codex Observers should be submitted using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by January 8, 2022.

Codex Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL)

Adoption by CAC44: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2021/77-FL) requesting comments on the following texts going for adoption by CAC44:

- Amendment to the labelling provision in the *General Standard for Dried Fruits: Annex on Raisins*
- Draft General Standard for the Labelling on Non-Retail Containers (at Step 8) and the amendment to the *Procedural Manual*
- Proposed Draft Guidelines on Front of Pack Nutrition Labelling (annex to the *Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling*) (at Step 5/8) and the amendment to Section 5 of the *Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling*

The CL is available in English at: <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) as soon as possible. Comments by Member countries and Codex

Observers should be submitted using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by November 5, 2021.

Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR)

Adoption by CAC44: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2021/74-PR) requesting comments on texts going for adoption by CAC44:

- Maximum residue limits for pesticides in food and food (at Step 5/8)
- Revision of the Classification of Food and Feed (CXA 4-1989):
 - Class C: Primary feed commodities and Table 7: Examples of representative commodities for Class C (at Step 5/8)
 - Class D: Processed foods of plant origin and Table 8: Examples of representative commodities for Class D (at Step 5/8)
- Guidelines for Compounds for Low Public Health Concern that may be exempted from the Establishment of CXLs or do not give rise to residues (at Step 5)

The CL is available in English at: <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) as soon as possible. Comments by Member countries and Codex Observers should be submitted using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by November 5, 2021.

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

Adoption by CAC44: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2021/75-RVDF) requesting comments on texts going for decision and adoption (at Step 8 and Step 5/8) by CAC44. The CL is available in English, French, and Spanish at: <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) as soon as possible. Comments by Member countries and Codex Observers should be submitted using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by November 5, 2021.