



Codex News – November 15, 2023

Upcoming Committee Meetings

Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC)

The 46th Session of CAC will meet in Rome, Italy from November 27 to December 2, 2023, from 4:00-7:00 EST (10:00-13:00 CET) and 9:00-12:00 EST (15:00-18:00 CET). The report adoption will take place in person on the last day of the session from 3:00-12:00 EST (9:00-18:00 CET). Remote participation (via Zoom) will be possible for listening and verbal interventions. The provisional agenda and other working documents related to the 46th session of CAC are available at the following link: <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CAC&session=46>. For additional information, please contact the U.S. Codex Office (uscodex@usda.gov).

Codex Committee on Fats and Oils (CCFO)

The 28th Session of CCFO will meet in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from February 19-23, 2024. The report adoption will take place on the last day of the session. The session and side events will be webcasted in listening mode in English, French and Spanish. The provisional agenda and other documents related to the 28th Session of CCFO are available at the following link: <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CCFO&session=28>. For additional information, please contact Doreen Chen-Moulec (doreen.chenmoulec@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office.

Upcoming Public Meetings

Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH)

The U.S. Codex Office is sponsoring a public meeting on December 6, 2023, from 1:00-2:30 pm. The objective of the public meeting is to provide information and receive public comments on agenda items and draft U.S. positions to be discussed at the 7th Session of the Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH7) of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC). CCSCH7 will meet in Kochi, Kerala, India, from January 29-February 2, 2024.

- The public meeting will take place via Video Teleconference only. Documents related to the 7th Session of the CCSCH will be accessible via the internet at the following address: <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CCSCH&session=7>.
- Mr. Dorian LaFond, U.S. Delegate to the 7th Session of the CCSCH, invites interested U.S. parties to submit their comments electronically to the following email address: dorian.lafond@usda.gov.
- Registration: Attendees may register to attend the public meeting here: <https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJltcuyqrDqsEpm1ar9sahLeoFTqCPXeXiq>. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Requests for Comments

Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF)

Priority List: The Codex Secretariat has recently issued a Circular Letter (CL 2023/83- CF) requesting comments on the review/priority list for revision of Codex standards and related text for contaminants. The CL is currently available in English at the following link: <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters/en/>. If you are interested in having your comments considered in the U.S. response, please send them to Alexandra Ferraro (alexandra.ferraro@usda.gov) by February 1, 2024. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their Codex Contact Point (CCP) using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) prior to the deadline of February 20, 2024.

Codex Committee on Fats and Oils (CCFO)

Avocado Oil: The Codex Secretariat has recently issued a Circular Letter (CL 2023/57/OCS-FO) requesting comments on the draft amendment/revision to the *Standard for Named Vegetable Oils* (CXS 210-1999) – Inclusion of Avocado oil. The CL is currently available in English at the following link: <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters/en/>. 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) of the U.S. Codex Office by January 5, 2024. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) prior to the deadline of January 19, 2024.

Calanus Oil: The Codex Secretariat has recently issued a Circular Letter (CL 2023/62/OCS-FO) requesting comments on the proposed amendment/revision to the *Standard for Fish Oils* (CXS 329-2017) – Inclusion of Calanus oil. The CL is currently available in English at the following link: <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters/en/>. 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) of the U.S. Codex Office by January 5, 2024. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) prior to the deadline of January 19, 2024.

Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (CCFFV)

Fresh Dates: The Codex Secretariat has recently issued a Circular Letter (CL 2023/84/OCS-FFV) requesting comments on the draft Standard for fresh dates. The CL is currently available in English at the following link: <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters/en/>. 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) of the U.S. Codex Office by January 17, 2024. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) prior to the deadline of January 31, 2024.

Codex Committee for Pesticide Residues (CCPR)

National Registration: The Codex Secretariat has recently issued a Circular Letter (CL 2023/86-PR) requesting comments/data/information on national registration of pesticides. The CL is currently available in English at following link: <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters/en/>. 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) of the U.S. Codex Office by Feb 1, 2024. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS

(<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) prior to the deadline of February 15, 2024.

Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH)

Cardamom: The Codex Secretariat has recently issued a Circular Letter (CL 2023/02/OCS-SCH) requesting comments on the 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/en/>. 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 December 29, 2023. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) prior to the deadline of January 12, 2024.

Allspice, Juniper Berry, and Star Anise: The Codex Secretariat has recently issued a Circular Letter (CL 2023/03/OCS-SCH) requesting comments on the draft Standard for spices derived from fruits and berries: Part A: 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/en/>. 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 December 22, 2023. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) prior to the deadline of January 5, 2024.

Vanilla: The Codex Secretariat has recently issued a Circular Letter (CL 2023/55/OCS-SCH) requesting comments on the draft Standard for spices derived from fruits and berries: Part B: Requirements for Vanilla. The CL is currently available in English at the following link: <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters/en/>. 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 December 22, 2023. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) prior to the deadline of January 5, 2024.

Turmeric: The Codex Secretariat has recently issued a Circular Letter (CL 2023/56/OCS-SCH) requesting comments on the proposed draft Standard for dried roots, rhizomes, and bulbs- turmeric (ref. [CX/SCH 24/7/6](#)). The CL is currently available in English at the following link: <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters/en/>. 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 December 22, 2023. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) prior to the deadline of January 5, 2024.

Updated Template: The Codex Secretariat has recently issued a Circular Letter (CL 2023/81/OCS-SCH) requesting comments on the Updated Template for Spices and Culinary Herbs (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/en/>. 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 December 1, 2023. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) prior to the deadline of December 15, 2023.

Electronic Working Groups (EWG)

FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for the Near East (CCNE)

Regional Workplan: CCNE invites Members and Observers to join an EWG, chaired by Saudi Arabia and co-chaired by Egypt, working in English and Arabic, to develop the regional workplan for 2024 and 2025 to support implementation of the Codex Strategic Plan. Individuals in the United States interested in working on the U.S. contributions to the EWG should contact Ken Lowery (ken.lowery@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office by December 5, 2023. 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.cne@sfd.gov.sa by December 10, 2023. 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 representatives to participate in the EWG.

Other

JEMRA Publication: The Joint FAO/WHO Expert Meeting on Microbiological Risk Assessment has published the following report: "Joint FAO/WHO Expert Meeting on microbiological risk assessment of viruses in foods Part 1: food attribution, analytical methods, and indicators." The report can be found at the following links:

FAO: <https://www.fao.org/3/cc8193en/cc8193en.pdf>

WHO: <https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/jemra-of-viruses-in-foods-part1-food-attribution-analytical-methods-and-indicators>