



Codex News – November 29, 2023

Upcoming Committee Meetings

Codex Committee on Fats and Oils (CCFO)

The 28th Session of CCFO will convene physically 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 be held 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/vJltcuyqrDgsEpm1ar9sahLeoFTqCPXeXiq>. 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, 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 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 Food Labelling (CCFL)

Added Sugars: The Codex Secretariat has recently issued a Circular Letter (CL 2023/94-FL) requesting comments or information on the establishment of a definition of added sugars. 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 Alexandra Ferraro (alexandra.ferraro@usda.gov) by January 2, 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 16, 2024.

Codex Committee for 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.

Camellia Seed Oil: The Codex Secretariat has recently issued a Circular Letter (CL 2023/58/OCS-FO) requesting comments on the draft amendment/revision to the *Standard for Named Vegetable Oils* (CXS 210-1999) – Inclusion of Camellia seed 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.

Sacha Inchi Oil: The Codex Secretariat has recently issued a Circular Letter (CL 2023/59/OCS-FO) requesting comments on the proposed amendment/revision to the *Standard for Named Vegetable Oils* (CXS 210-1999): Inclusion of Sacha inchi 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 12, 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 26, 2024.

High Oleic Acid Soybean Oil: The Codex Secretariat has recently issued a Circular Letter (CL 2023/60/OCS-FO) requesting comments on the proposed amendment/revision to the *Standard for Named Vegetable Oils* (CXS 210-1999): Inclusion of high oleic acid soybean 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 12, 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 26, 2024.

Acceptable Previous Cargoes: The Codex Secretariat has recently issued a Circular Letter (CL 2023/63/OCS-FO) requesting comments on the proposed revision to the list of acceptable previous cargoes – ([CXC 36-1987, Appendix 2](#)). 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 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, 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 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, 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 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 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 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, 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 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.

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 Plans. Individuals in the United States interested in working on the U.S. contributions to the EWG should contact Alexandra Ferraro (alexandra.ferraro@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.