



Codex News – December 15, 2020

Recent Virtual Codex Meetings

Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC)

The 43rd Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC43), which was conducted virtually for the first time in its history (on September 24-26; October 12 and 19, 2020) due to the Covid-19 pandemic, convened on November 5-6, 2020 for the adoption of the CAC43 draft report. The final CAC43 report is currently available in English on the Codex Alimentarius website at the following link: <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CAC&session=43>. Additionally, the U.S. Delegate Report for CAC43 is now available on the USDA website at the following link: <https://www.usda.gov/topics/trade/international-food-standards/codex-delegation-reports>.

Rescheduled Codex Committee Sessions

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

The 25th Session of CCRVDF is now rescheduled for July 12-16, 2021, in Cleveland, Ohio, United States. Documents related to the 25th Session of CCRVDF will be available at the following link: <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CCRVDF&session=25>. For additional information, please contact Ken Lowery (ken.lowery@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office.

Upcoming Codex Committee Sessions

Codex Committee on General Principles (CCGP)

The Codex Secretariat has released a provisional agenda for the 32nd Session of the Committee on General Principles, which will convene virtually from February 8-17, 2021. The agenda is available in English, French, and Spanish at the following link: <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings-reports/detail/en/?meeting=CCGP&session=32>. Working documents for CCGP32 will also be made available at this link. For additional information, please contact Kristen Hendricks (Kristen.hendricks@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office.

Requests for Comments

Codex Committee on General Principles (CCGP)

Committees Working by Correspondence: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2020/59/OCS-GP) requesting comments on the Annex of the Procedural Guidance for Committees Working by Correspondence. The CL is available in English, French and Spanish at the following link: 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) by December 31, 2020. Comments by other

observers and countries should be submitted via their Codex Contact Point (CCP) using the Codex Online Commenting System (OCS) (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by January 15, 2021.

Codex Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL)

Internet Sales and E-Commerce: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2020/58/OCS-FL) requesting comments on the draft guidance on internet sales and e-commerce prepared by EWG members. The CL is available in English, French and Spanish at the following link: 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) by December 15, 2020. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP using the Codex OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by January 8, 2021.

Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS)

Measurement Uncertainty and Criteria for Typing: The Codex Secretariat has extended the deadline on the Circular Letter (CL 2020/31/OCS-MAS) requesting comments on: (i) the proposed revised Guideline on Measurement Uncertainty; (ii) Information document on procedures for the estimation of measurement uncertainty; and (iii) criteria to select Type II methods from multiple Type III methods. The CL is currently available in English, French and Spanish at the following link: www.fao.org/fao-whocodexalimentarius/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) by January 8, 2021. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP using the Codex OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by January 15, 2021.

Other

Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA)

Summary Report for 90th JECFA: JECFA has published the summary report on the 90th Meeting of JECFA, which took place virtually from October 26, 2020 to November 1, 2020, and again on November 24, 2020 to adopt the meeting report. JECFA evaluated 18 substances that may occur as previous cargoes and the trichothecenes T-2 and HT-2. The summary report can be found on the FAO website at the following link: www.fao.org/food-safety/resources/publications/en/.

EHC240: JECFA has finalized and published (as of November 2020) the updates on monograph “Environmental Health Criteria 240 (EHC240): Principles and methods for risk assessment of chemicals in food,” on the following individual sections and chapters:

- [Section 4.5 Genotoxicity](#)
- [Chapter 6: Dietary Exposure Assessment of Chemicals in Food](#)
- [Section 9.1.4.2 Enzymes](#)

Please note that the updates will be incorporated in the online version of the EHC240 when all guideline updates have been finalized. For additional details, please visit:

<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789241572408>.

Guidance Document on *Datura* Seed Contamination: Earlier this year, at the request of the World Food Programme (WFP), JECFA convened to carry out risk assessments of tropane alkaloids (specifically scopolamine and hyoscyamine) and to provide recommendations for risk management. The expert meeting document may be found at the following link: [pdf](#). In addition to that publication, a guidance document was also developed to provide specific recommendations on the limits for *physical toxic Datura stramonium* seed contamination in cereals and grains. This document will be beneficial for screening purposes at the field level. It may be found at the following link: [guidance document](#). The two documents can be used together to prevent future food poisoning outbreaks due to tropane alkaloids from *Datura* seeds. For additional information, please read the FAO news story about the documents by clicking [here](#).

FAO Publications

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations has released two new publications this week, including:

- [Joint FAO/WHO Expert Meeting on Tropane Alkaloids: Report](#)
- [FAO/IFIF publication - Good practices for the feed sector - Implementing the Codex Alimentarius Code of Practice on Good Animal Feeding](#)