



Codex News – December 29, 2020

### Upcoming Codex Committee Sessions

#### ***Codex Committee on General Principles (CCGP)***

The Codex Secretariat has released a provisional agenda for the 32<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:Kristen.hendricks@usda.gov)) of the U.S. Codex Office.

### Requests for Comments

#### ***Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF)***

**Aflatoxins in Certain Cereals and Cereal-Based Products:** The Codex Secretariat issued a Circular Letter (CL 2020/60/OCS-CF) requesting comments on sampling plans and performance criteria for total aflatoxins in certain cereals and cereal-based products including foods for infants and young children. The CL is currently available in English at the following link: [www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters](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](mailto:doreen.chenmoulec@usda.gov)) by March 5, 2021. 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 March 20, 2021.

#### ***Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products (CCFFP)***

**Sardines:** The Codex Secretariat issued a Circular Letter (CL 2020/61/OCS-FFP) requesting comments on the establishment of an Electronic Working Group (EWG) to evaluate a proposed amendment of *the Standard for Canned Sardines and Sardine-Type Products*. The CL is currently available in English at the following link: [www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters](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)) by January 15, 2021. 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 31, 2021.

#### ***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](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](mailto: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 Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods (CCRVDF)***

**MRLs:** The Codex Secretariat has extended the deadline for a Circular Letter (CL 2020/17(REV1)-RVDF) requesting comments on the MRLs for veterinary drugs. The CL is currently available in English at the following link: [www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters](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)) by February 12, 2021. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP to the CCRVDF Secretariat ([CCRVDF-USSEC@usda.gov](mailto:CCRVDF-USSEC@usda.gov)) with a copy to the Codex Secretariat ([codex@fao.org](mailto:codex@fao.org)) by February 28, 2021.

**Priority List:** The Codex Secretariat has extended the deadline for a Circular Letter (CL 2020/18(REV1)-RVDF) requesting comments/information on the Priority List of Veterinary Drugs for Evaluation or Re-evaluation by JECFA. The CL is currently available in English at the following link: [www.fao.org/fao-whocodexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters/en](http://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 Ken Lowery ([ken.lowery@usda.gov](mailto:ken.lowery@usda.gov)) by February 12, 2021. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP to the CCRVDF Secretariat ([CCRVDF-USSEC@usda.gov](mailto:CCRVDF-USSEC@usda.gov)) with a copy to the Codex Secretariat ([codex@fao.org](mailto:codex@fao.org)) by February 28, 2021.

**Extrapolation of MRLs:** The Codex Secretariat has extended the deadline for a Circular Letter (CL 2020/42(REV1)-RVDF) requesting comments on the approach for the extrapolation of maximum residue limits (MRLs) for veterinary drugs to one or more species and proposals for MRLs based on the approach proposed for extrapolation of MRLs to one or more species. The CL is currently available in English at the following link: [www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters](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)) by February 12, 2021. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP to the CCRVDF Secretariat ([CCRVDF-USSEC@usda.gov](mailto:CCRVDF-USSEC@usda.gov)) with a copy to the Codex Secretariat ([codex@fao.org](mailto:codex@fao.org)) by February 28, 2021.

### **Other**

#### **FAO E-Learning Academy**

**Monitoring and Preventing Ciguatera Poisoning:** An e-learning course titled “Monitoring and Preventing Ciguatera Poisoning” has been published on the FAO’s e-Learning Academy website.

Ciguatera poisoning is one of the most common foodborne illnesses related to consumption of fishery products. The course is a joint effort of FAO, IAEA, IOC, and WHO, and it is available to all who are interested free of charge. Participants can find the course at the following link: <https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=648>.

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

**Summary Report for 90<sup>th</sup> JECFA:** JECFA has published the summary report on the 90<sup>th</sup> 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/](http://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](#).