



Codex News – February 7, 2023

Upcoming Public Meetings

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

The U.S. Codex Office is sponsoring a public meeting on Wednesday, February 8, 2023, from 1-4 p.m. EST. 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 43rd Session of the CCNFSDU, which will meet in Dusseldorf, Germany, from March 6-10, 2023. Report adoption will be held virtually on March 15, 2023.

- The public meeting will take place via video teleconference only. Documents related to the 43rd Session of the CCNFSDU will be accessible via the internet at the following address: <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CCNFSDU&session=43>.
- Dr. Douglas Balentine, U.S. Delegate to the 43rd Session of the CCNFSDU, invites interested U.S. parties to submit their comments electronically to the following email address: douglas.balentine@fda.hhs.gov.
- Attendees may register to attend the public meeting here: <https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJltde-srD4oHLqvBHwXapaGAw8FzQxO3j8>.

Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA)

The U.S. Codex Office is sponsoring a public meeting on Tuesday, February 21, 2023, from 9-12 p.m. EST. 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 53rd Session of the CCFA, which will meet in Hong Kong, People's Republic of China, from March 27-31, 2023.

- The public meeting will take place in a hybrid format. The on-site location is Meeting Room 1A-001 at the Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, U.S. Food and Drug Administration, 5001 Campus Drive, College Park, MD 20740-3835. In-person attendees may register to attend the public meeting at the following email address: ccfa@cfsan.fda.gov. Virtual attendees may register to attend the public meeting via video teleconference here: fda.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJltd-6sqj8oEj61dNRGO8b-j0Ml6ffauzw. Attendees should register by February 16, 2023. After registering, attendees will receive a confirmation email with information about joining the meeting.
- Documents related to the 53rd Session of the CCFA will be accessible via the internet at the following address: www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CCFA&session=53.
- Dr. Paul Honigfort, U.S. Delegate to the 53rd Session of the CCFA, invites interested U.S. parties to submit their comments electronically to the following email address: ccfa@cfsan.fda.gov.

Upcoming Working Group

Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS)

The Chair and Co-Chairs of the CCFICS Working Group on Food Fraud will host a virtual workshop/webinar on February 8, 2023 from 5:00-8:00 EST (11:00 – 14:00 CET). The workshop, which requires registration in advance, will take place on Zoom in English and Spanish. Additional information may be found at the following link: <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CCFICS&session=26>.

Upcoming Committee Meetings

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

The 26th Session of CCRVDF is scheduled to take place physically in Portland, Oregon, United States from February 13-17, 2023. The report adoption will take place in person on the last day of the session. The meeting will be broadcast in English, French and Spanish for those unable to attend in person. The provisional agenda and other working documents related to the 26th Session of CCRVDF are available at the following link: <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/it/?meeting=CCRVDF&session=26>. For additional information, please contact Ken Lowery (ken.lowery@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office.

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

The 43rd Session of the CCNFSDU will meet in Duesseldorf, Germany on March 7-10, 2023. The report adoption will take place virtually on March 15, 2023. The provisional agenda and other working documents related to the 43rd Session of the CCNFSDU will be available at the following link: <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CCNFSDU&session=43>. For additional information, please contact Marie Maratos Bhat (marie.maratosbhat@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office.

Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA)

The 53rd Session of CCFA will meet in Hong Kong, China from March 27-31, 2023. Physical Working Group meetings on the *General Standard for Food Additives* (GSFA) and the Endorsement/Alignment of Food Additive Provisions of Commodity Standards and Relevant Provisions of the GSFA are scheduled in advance of plenary on March 24-25, 2023. The report adoption will take place in person on the last day of the session. The meeting will be broadcast in English, French and Spanish for those unable to attend in person. The provisional agenda and other working documents related to the 53rd Session of CCFA are available at the following link: <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CCFA&session=53>. For additional information, please contact Doreen Chen-Moulec (doreen.chenmoulec@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office.

Codex Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL)

The 47th Session of the CCFL will meet in Gatineau (Ottawa), Québec, from May 15-19, 2023. The report adoption will take place in person on the last day of the session. The Session will also be broadcasted in listening mode in English, French and Spanish. The Working Group on Allergen Labelling will meet the week prior virtually on May 9-10, 2023, from 15:00–18:00 EDT with interpretation in English, French and

Spanish. Access to the Virtual Working Group meeting will be provided following registration to the Session. The provisional agenda and other working documents related to the 47th Session of the CCFL will be available at the following link: <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CCFL&session=47>. For additional information, please contact Marie Maratos Bhat (marie.maratosbhat@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office.

Electronic Working Groups (EWG)

Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH)

Vibrio: CCFH invites Members and Observers to join an EWG, chaired by Japan and co-chaired by Chile, officially working in English (although comments in Spanish will also be accepted), on the revision of the Guidelines on the Application of General Principles of Food Hygiene to the Control of Pathogenic Vibrio species in Seafood (CXG 73-2010). Individuals in the United States interested in working on the U.S. contributions to the EWG should contact Marie Maratos Bhat (marie.maratosbhat@usda.gov) as soon as possible. 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 toyofuku@yamaguchi-u.ac.jp as soon as possible. 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.

STEC: CCFH invites Members and Observers to join an EWG, chaired by Chile and co-chaired by the United States, New Zealand, and Kenya, officially working in English (although comments in Spanish will also be accepted), on the development of Annexes 2 (Fresh Leafy Vegetables) and 4 (Sprouts) in the draft Guidelines for the Control of Shiga toxin producing *Escherichia coli* (STEC) in raw beef, fresh leafy vegetables, raw milk and raw milk cheeses, and sprouts. Individuals in the United States interested in working on the U.S. contributions to the EWG should contact Marie Maratos Bhat (marie.maratosbhat@usda.gov) by February 14, 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 constanza.vergara@achipia.gob.cl by February 15, 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 representative to participate in the EWG.

Water: CCFH invites Members and Observers to join an EWG, chaired by the European Union and co-chaired by Chile and IDF, officially working in English (although comments in French and Spanish will also be accepted), on the development of Annexes 2 (Fishery Products) and 3 (Dairy Products) in the draft Guidelines for the Safe Use and Reuse of Water in Food. Individuals in the United States interested in working on the U.S. contributions to the EWG should contact Marie Maratos Bhat (marie.maratosbhat@usda.gov) by February 14, 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 Sante-Codex@ec.europa.eu by February 15, 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 representative to participate in the EWG.

Requests for Comments

Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF)

JECFA Priority List: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2022/84-CF) requesting

comments on the Priority list of contaminants for evaluation or re-evaluation by the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA). 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 Doreen Chen-Moulec (doreen.chenmoulec@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office by February 15, 2023. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by February 28, 2023.

Review of Standards: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2022/85-CF) requesting comments on the prioritization for re-evaluation of Codex standards and related texts 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>. 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 February 15, 2023. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by February 28, 2023.

Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA)

Specifications for Identity and Purity: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2023/5-FA) requesting comments on the proposed draft specifications for the identity and purity of food additives arising from the 92nd and 95th JECFA meetings respectively. 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 Doreen Chen-Moulec (doreen.chenmoulec@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office as soon as possible. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by February 15, 2023.

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

NRVs-R: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2022/74/OCS-NFSDU) requesting comments on comments on the General Principles for Establishing Nutrient Reference Value-Requirement (NRVs-R) for Persons Aged 6–36 Months. The CL is currently available in English 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 Marie Maratos Bhat (marie.maratosbhat@usda.gov) as soon as possible. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by February 10, 2023.

Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR)

CCPR/JMPR Enhancement: The Codex Secretariat has issued an extension for Circular Letter (CL 2022/75/PR (Rev 1)) requesting comments on comments on the need to enhance CCPR/JMPR and the associated opportunities and challenges. 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 Marie Maratos Bhat (marie.maratosbhat@usda.gov) as soon as possible. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by

the new deadline of February 20, 2023.

Other

FAO workshop on Whole Genome Sequencing for Food Safety Management: The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has issued a call for participation in a technical workshop on the use of Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS) for food safety management. The workshop will be held from April 18-20, 2023 in Rome, Italy. The workshop aims to discuss in detail the benefits and impact of WGS in food safety management and regulatory actions. Several case studies from countries where the technology is already in place will be introduced and participants will be able to consider practical and sustainable integration of WGS into their national regulatory frameworks. Government-sector professionals from low- and middle-income countries are invited to apply. For selection criteria, please review the [Call for Participation](#). The application deadline is Friday, February 17, 2023. Questions regarding the call can be sent to Maura Di Martino (Maura.dimartino@fao.org).

FAO/WHO Expert Meetings on Food Allergens: Four executive summaries and two full reports from the Expert Meetings on Food Allergens have been published and are available at the following links:

Executive Summaries:

- [Part 1: Review and validation of Codex priority allergen list through risk assessment](#) (2021)
- [Part 2: Review and establish threshold levels in foods of the priority allergens](#) (2021)
- [Part 2: Review and establish threshold levels in foods of the priority allergens. Virtual follow-up meeting on milk and sesame](#) (2022)
- [Part 3: Review and establish precautionary labelling in foods of the priority allergens](#) (2021)
- [Part 4: Review and establish exemptions for the food allergens](#) (2023)

Full reports:

- [Part 1: Review and validation of Codex Alimentarius priority allergen list through risk assessment](#) (2021)
- [Part 2: Review and establish threshold levels in foods for the priority allergens](#) (2022)