



Codex News – February 21, 2024

Upcoming Committee Meetings

Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH)

The 54th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH54) is scheduled to take place physically in Nairobi, Kenya from March 11-15, 2024. Physical Working Group meetings are scheduled in advance of plenary on March 10-11, 2024, and will be webcast in English, French, and Spanish. 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 CCFH54 are available at the following link: <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CCFH&session=54>. For additional information, please contact Marie Maratos Bhat (marie.maratosbhat@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office.

Codex Committee on Contaminants (CCCF)

The 17th Session of the Codex Committee on Contaminants (CCCF17) will meet in Panama City, Panama from April 15-19, 2024. The report adoption will take place on the last day of the session. The meeting will be webcasted in listening mode in English, French. The provisional agenda and other working documents related to the 17th Session of CCCF are available at the following link: <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/de/?meeting=CCCF&session=17>. For additional information, please contact Alexandra Ferraro (Alexandra.ferraro@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office.

Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA)

The 54th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA54) will meet in Chengdu, China from April 22-26, 2024. Physical Working Group (PWG) meetings are scheduled in advance of plenary on April 19-20, 2024, and will be webcast in English, French, Spanish, and Chinese. The meeting will be broadcast in English, French, Spanish, and Chinese for those unable to attend in person. The report adoption will take place in person on the last day of the session. The provisional agenda and other working documents related to CCFA54 are available at the following link: <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CCFA&session=54>. For additional information, please contact Doreen Chen-Moulec (doreen.chenmoulec@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office.

FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Europe (CCEURO)

The 33rd Session of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Europe (CCEURO33) will meet in Berlin, Germany from May 27-31, 2024. The report adoption will take place in person on the last day of the session. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in English, French, Spanish, and Russian. The provisional agenda and other working documents related to CCEURO33 are available at the following link: <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CCEURO&session=33>. For additional information, please contact Doreen Chen-Moulec (doreen.chenmoulec@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office.

Upcoming Public Meetings

Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF)

The U.S. Codex Office is sponsoring a public meeting on March 21, 2024. 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 17th Session of the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF17). CCCF17 will be held in Panama City, Panama from April 15-19, 2024. Documents related to CCCF17 will be accessible via the internet at the following address: <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/it/?meeting=CCCF&session=17>.

The U.S. Delegate to CCCF17 invites interested U.S. parties to submit their comments electronically to the following email address: quynh-anh.nguyen@fda.hhs.gov or Alexandra Ferraro (Alexandra.ferraro@usda.gov). Emailed comments should state in the title that they relate to activities CCCF17. Attendees may register to attend the public meeting here: <https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJl5dOmsrjgpGbnq89rYPIXUAWJawQCq39Y>. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA)

The U.S. Codex Office is sponsoring a public meeting on March 19, 2024. 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 54th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA54). CCFA54 will convene in Chengdu, China from April 22–26, 2024. The public meeting will take place in a hybrid format. The on-site location is Meeting Room 1A–001 and 1A–002 at the Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Harvey Wiley Federal Building, 5001 Campus Drive, College Park, MD 20740–3835. Documents related to CCFA54 will be accessible via the internet at the following address: <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/it/?meeting=CCFA&session=54>.

The U.S. Delegate to CCFA54 invites interested U.S. parties to submit their comments electronically to the following email address: Daniel.Folmer@fda.hhs.gov, Lashonda.Cureton@fda.hhs.gov, or doreen.chenmoulec@usda.gov. 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 here: <https://fda.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJlscuqvqTwIGKBCWt0kic2WOMeTXzyGcdo>. Attendees should register by March 14, 2024. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Upcoming Virtual Working Groups

Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH)

In preparation for the 54th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH54), a virtual Working Group (VWG) meeting to consider comments on the Proposed draft revision on the *Guidelines on the Application of General Principles of Food Hygiene to the Control of Pathogenic Vibrio Species in Seafood* will meet on February 26, 2024, from 9:00 am-12:00 pm EST (15.00-18.00 CET). The event will be held in English, French and Spanish. Please register in advance at the following link to participate in the VWG: <https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJltcu-vrD0rHslQlv2cktZlhT6uEMmBKcY>. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Requests for Comments

Codex Executive Committee (CCEXEC)

Strategic Plan: The Codex Secretariat has recently issued a Circular Letter (CL 2023/10-EXEC) requesting comments on the first draft of the Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031. The CL is currently available in English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Chinese, and Russian 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 the U.S. Codex Office (uscodex@usda.gov) by March 22, 2024. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their Codex Contact Point (CCP) using the Online Commenting System (OCS) (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by April 5, 2024.

Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF)

Maximum Lead: The Codex Secretariat has recently issued a Circular Letter (CL 2024/02-CF) requesting comments on maximum levels for lead in certain food categories. The CL is currently available in English, French, and Spanish at the following link: <https://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 Alexandra Ferraro (Alexandra.ferraro@usda.gov) by March 11, 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 March 25, 2024.

Ciguatera Poisoning: The Codex Secretariat has recently issued a Circular Letter (CL 2024/06-CF) requesting comments on the Code of practice for the prevention or reduction of ciguatera poisoning. The CL is currently available in English, French, and Spanish at the following link: <https://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 Alexandra Ferraro (Alexandra.ferraro@usda.gov) by March 10, 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 March 24, 2024.

Food and Feed Safety: The Codex Secretariat has recently issued a Circular Letter (CL 2024/07-CF) requesting information on foresight on emerging issues in food and feed safety relevant to contaminants. The CL is currently available in English, French, and Spanish at the following link: <https://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 Alexandra Ferraro (Alexandra.ferraro@usda.gov) by March 11, 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 March 25, 2024.

Cadmium in Foods: The Codex Secretariat has recently issued a Circular Letter (CL 2024/26-CF) requesting comments on the opportunity to develop a Code of practice for the prevention or reduction of cadmium contamination in foods. The CL is currently available in English at the following link: <https://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 Alexandra Ferraro (Alexandra.ferraro@usda.gov) by March 11, 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 March 25, 2024.

Cadmium and Lead in Quinoa: The Codex Secretariat has recently issued a Circular Letter (CL 2024/28-CF) requesting comments on the recommendations for the establishment of maximum levels for cadmium and lead in quinoa. The CL is currently available in English at the following link: <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters>.

[codexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters](https://www.codexalimentarius.org/resources/circular-letters). 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 March 11, 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 March 25, 2024.

Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA)

JECFA: The Codex Secretariat has recently issued a Circular Letter (CL 2024/19-FA) requesting comments on the proposed draft specifications for the identity and purity of food additives arising from the 96th and 97th Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (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/en/>. If you are interested in having your comments considered in the U.S. response, please send them to the Doreen Chen-Moulec (doreen.chenmoulec@usda.gov) by March 1, 2024. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by March 15, 2024.

INS: The Codex Secretariat has recently issued a Circular Letter (CL 2024/23-FA) requesting comments on the proposed changes to the *International Numbering System (INS) for Food Additives* (CXG 36-1989). 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 the Doreen Chen-Moulec (doreen.chenmoulec@usda.gov) by February 25, 2024. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by March 10, 2024.

Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH)

STEC – Fresh Leafy Vegetables: The Codex Secretariat has recently issued a Circular Letter (CL 2024/21-FH) requesting comments on the proposed draft Annex II on fresh leafy vegetables of the *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* (CXG 99-2023). 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 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>) prior to the deadline of February 26, 2024.

STEC – Sprouts: The Codex Secretariat has recently issued a Circular Letter (CL 2024/22-FH) requesting comments on the proposed draft Annex IV on Sprouts of the *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* (CXG 99-2023). 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 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>) prior to the deadline of February 26, 2024.

Codex Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL)

Alcohol Labelling: The Codex Secretariat has recently issued a Circular Letter (CL 2023/13-FL) requesting information on the labelling of alcoholic beverages. 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) of the U.S. Codex Office by March 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 March 31, 2024.

Emerging Issues and Future of Work: The Codex Secretariat has recently issued a Circular Letter (CL 2023/24-FL) requesting information on emerging issues and future work. 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) of the U.S. Codex Office by April 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 April 15, 2024.

CCFL Work Prioritization: The Codex Secretariat has recently issued a Circular Letter (CL 2023/29-FL) requesting comments on the revised draft approach and criteria for evaluation and prioritization of the work of CCFL. 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) of the U.S. Codex Office by April 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 April 15, 2024.

Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS)

Emerging Issues: The Codex Secretariat has recently issued a Circular Letter (CL 2024/08-MAS) requesting information relating to methods of analysis/examples of methods of analysis. The CL is currently available in English, French, and Spanish at the following link: <https://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 March 17, 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 March 31, 2024.

Other

GSFA Online: The Codex General Standard for Food Additives (GSFA) Online Database has been updated up to the 46th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (2023) and is available at the following links:

English: <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/codex-texts/dbs/gsfa/en/>

French: <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/codex-texts/dbs/gsfa/fr/>

Spanish: <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/codex-texts/dbs/gsfa/es/>

Chinese: <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/codex-texts/dbs/gsfa/zh/>

JECFA: The call for data has been published for the 101st JECFA meeting that will be dedicated to the evaluation of Dioxins and dioxin-like PCBs and Arsenic (inorganic and organic). The deadline for data submission is December 1, 2024. The call for data may be found at the following links:

- FAO: [Call for data for the 101st meeting of JECFA to be held from in October 2024 \(fao.org\)](#)
- WHO: [Food Contaminants: One hundred and first meeting - Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives \(JECFA\)](#)

FAO: FAO has published the first report, “Tackling antimicrobial resistance in food and agriculture,” on FAO’s contribution to the global response to Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) based on the FAO Action Plan on AMR 2021–2025. The report outlines a wide range of activities undertaken by FAO at global, regional, and country level. The report can be found at the following link: <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cc9185en>.