



Codex News – June 26, 2024

Upcoming Committee Meetings

Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CCEXEC)

The 86th Session of the CCEXEC will meet in Rome, Italy from July 1-5, 2024. The meeting will be broadcast in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, and Spanish. The report adoption will take place on the last day of the session. The provisional agenda and other working documents related to CCEXEC86 are available at the following link: <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CCEXEC&session=86>. For additional information, please contact the U.S. Codex Office (uscodex@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office.

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

The 27th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification System (CCFICS27) will meet in Cairns, Australia from September 16-20, 2024. The meeting will be broadcast in English, French, and Spanish. The report adoption will take place on the last day of the session. The provisional agenda and other working documents related to CCFICS27 are available at the following link: <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/jp/?meeting=CCFICS&session=27>. For additional information, please contact Kristen Hendricks (Kristen.hendricks@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office.

Codex Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL)

The 48th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL48) will meet in Quebec City, Canada from October 27-November 1, 2024. The meeting will be broadcast in English, French, and Spanish. The report adoption will take place on the last day of the session. The provisional agenda and other working documents related to CCFL48 are available at the following link: <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CCFL&session=48>. For additional information, please contact Alexandra Ferraro (Alexandra.ferraro@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office.

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

The 44th Session of the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU44) will meet in Dresden, Germany from October 2-6, 2024. The meeting will be broadcast in English, French, and Spanish. The report adoption will take place on the last day of the session. The provisional agenda and other working documents related to CCNFSDU44 are available at the following link: <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/jp/?meeting=CCNFSDU&session=44>. For additional information, please contact Alexandra Ferraro (Alexandra.ferraro@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office.

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 September 3, 2024, from 1:00-4:00 p.m. EST to provide information and receive public comments on agenda items and draft U.S. positions to be discussed at CCNFSDU44, which will convene in Dresden, Germany, from October 2-6, 2024. The public meeting will take place via Video Teleconference only. Documents related to the 44th 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=44>

- Dr. Douglas Balentine, U.S. Delegate to the 44th Session of the CCNFSDU, invites interested U.S. parties to submit their comments electronically to the following email address: douglas.balentine@fda.hhs.gov.
- *Registration:* Attendees may register to attend the public meeting here: <https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJltceuoqz4oHyMYdr-E7FAIhAe9uJbwt7w>. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Requests for Comments

Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC)

CCFO: The Codex Secretariat has recently issued a Circular Letter (CL-2024/35-CAC) requesting comments on the draft amendments/revisions to the Standards and Code of Practice for Fats and Oils for adoption by the 47th Session of the Commission. 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 September 13, 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>) prior to the deadline of October 1, 2024.

CCFA: The Codex Secretariat has recently issued a Circular Letter (CL-2024/62-CAC) requesting comments on the draft standards and related texts submitted by 54th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives for adoption by the 47th Session of the Commission. 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 September 13, 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 October 1, 2024.

CCFH: The Codex Secretariat has recently issued a Circular Letter (CL-2024/63-CAC) requesting comments on the draft standards and related texts submitted by 54th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene for adoption by the 47th Session of the Commission. 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 Marie Maratos Bhat (marie.maratosbhat@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office by September 13, 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 October 1, 2024.

Codex Committee on Fats and Oils (CCFO)

Olive Oil: The Codex Secretariat has recently issued a Circular Letter (CL 2024/36-FO) requesting submission of scientific data and information on olive oil. 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 Doreen Chen-Moulec (Doreen.chenmoulec@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office by September 16, 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 September 30, 2024.

Rice Bran Oil: The Codex Secretariat has recently issued a Circular Letter (CL 2024/38-FO) requesting information on the method for the determination of gamma oryzanol in rice bran oil in the *Standard for Named Vegetable Oils* (CXS 210-1999). 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 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 June 30, 2025.

New Work/Amendments to CCFO Standards: The Codex Secretariat has recently issued a Circular Letter (CL 2024/39-FO) requesting proposals for new work and or amendments to existing Codex Standards on Fats and Oils. 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 February 14, 2025. 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 28, 2025.

Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA)

INS: The Codex Secretariat has recently issued a Circular Letter (CL 2024/57-FA) requesting proposals for the change and/or addition to Section 3 of the *Class Names and International Numbering System for Food Additives* (CXG 36-1989). 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 Kristen Hendricks (Kristen.hendricks@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office by September 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 September 15, 2024.

GSFA: The Codex Secretariat has recently issued a Circular Letter (CL 2024/58-FA) requesting proposals for new and/or revision of food additive provisions of the *General Standard for Food Additives* (GSFA) (CXS 192-1995). 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 Kristen Hendricks (Kristen.hendricks@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office by January 1, 2025. 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 15, 2025.

JECFA: The Codex Secretariat has recently issued a Circular Letter (CL 2024/59-FA) requesting information and comments on the priority list of substances proposed for evaluation by the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA). 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 Kristen Hendricks (Kristen.hendricks@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office by January 1, 2025. 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 15, 2025.

FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean (CCLAC)

Lulo of Castilla: The Codex Secretariat has recently issued a Circular Letter (CL 2024/61-LAC) requesting comments on the Regional Standard for Lulo of Castilla. The CL is currently available in English 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 Kenneth Lowery (ken.lowery@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office by June 28, 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 July 7, 2024.

Electronic Working Groups (EWG)

Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF)

Aflatoxin B1: CCCF invites members and observers to join an EWG chaired by Canada and co-chaired by Saudi Arabia, working in English, to revise the discussion paper and present a project document for new work on the revision of the *Code of practice for the reduction of aflatoxin B1 in raw materials and supplemental feeding stuffs for milk-producing animals* (CXC 45-1997). Individuals in the United States interested in working on the U.S. contribution to the EWG should contact Alexandra Ferraro (Alexandra.ferraro@usda.gov) by June 27, 2024. 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_Canada@hc-sc.gc.ca with a copy to elizabeth.elliott@hc-sc.gc.ca by June 30, 2024. Please note that when there is more than one expert, each country or observer organization shall designate one as the official representative to participate in the EWG.

Aflatoxin in Peanuts: CCCF invites members and observers to join an EWG chaired by Brazil and co-chaired by India, working in English, to prepare a revised *Code of Practice for the prevention and reduction of Aflatoxin contamination in Peanuts* (CXC 55-2004). Individuals in the United States interested in working on the U.S. contribution to the EWG should contact Alexandra Ferraro (Alexandra.ferraro@usda.gov) by June 27, 2024. 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 codexbrasil@inmetro.gov.br with a copy to ligia.schreiner@anvisa.gov.br and larissa.porto@anvisa.gov.br by June 30, 2024. Please note that when there is more than one expert, each country or observer organization shall designate one as the official representative to participate in the EWG.

Cadmium Contamination: CCCF invites members and observers to join an EWG chaired by the United States, working in English, to develop a Code of Practice for the prevention and reduction of cadmium contamination in foods as well as to determine the need for annexes with commodity specific recommendations. Individuals in the United States interested in working on the U.S. contribution to the EWG should contact Alexandra Ferraro (Alexandra.ferraro@usda.gov) by June 28, 2024. 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 uscodex@usda.gov with a copy to Lauren.Robin@fda.hhs.gov and Eileen.Abt@fda.hhs.gov by June 30, 2024. Please note that when there is more than one expert, each country

or observer organization shall designate one as the official representative to participate in the EWG.

Mycotoxins: CCCF invites members and observers to join an EWG chaired by India, working in English, to consider outstanding issues in the Sampling plans of selected spices. Individuals in the United States interested in working on the U.S. contribution to the EWG should contact Alexandra Ferraro (Alexandra.ferraro@usda.gov) by July 10, 2024. 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-india@nic.in with a copy to sp-spices@fssai.gov.in and ccsch.bisht@gmail.com by July 15, 2024. Please note that when there is more than one expert, each country or observer organization shall designate one as the official representative to participate in the EWG.

Codex Committee on Fats and Oils (CCFO)

Microbial Omega-3 Oils: CCFO invites members and observers to join an EWG chaired by the United States and co-chaired by China, working in English, to prepare the proposed draft standard for Microbial Omega-3 Oils. Individuals in the United States interested in working on the U.S. contribution to the EWG should contact Doreen Chen-Moulec (Doreen.chenmoulec@usda.gov) by July 26, 2024. 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 any of the following email addresses by August 2, 2024: uscodex@usda.gov, Girdhari.sharma@fda.hhs.gov, zhangyan@lswz.gov.cn, and codexchinamoa@126.com. Please note that when there is more than one expert, each country or observer organization shall designate one as the official representative to participate in the EWG.

Olive Oil: CCFO invites members and observers to join an EWG chaired by Italy and co-chaired by Australia, Canada, Saudi Arabia, and the United States, working in English, to collect global scientific data and information for olive oil. Individuals in the United States interested in working on the U.S. contribution to the EWG should contact Doreen Chen-Moulec (Doreen.chenmoulec@usda.gov) by September 5, 2024. 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 piue2.codex@masaf.gov.it and francesca.ponti@masaf.gov.it by September 13, 2024. Please note that when there is more than one expert, each country or observer organization shall designate one as the official representative to participate in the EWG.

Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS)

Nitrates and Nitrites: CCMAS invites members and observers to join an EWG chaired by the United States and co-chaired by Australia, working in English, with the following Terms of Reference (TOR):

- a) to establish numeric performance criteria for the determination of nitrate and nitrite ions in the food matrices listed in CX/FA 21/52/7 Appendix 5, Annex 2 including adopted MLs in the GSFA and the lowest proposed residual levels;
- b) to review the methods in CX/FA 21/52/7 Appendix 5, Annex 1 and determine if these methods meet the numeric performance criteria established for the matrices in CX/FA 21/52/7 Appendix 5, Annex 2 for both adopted MLs in the GSFA and lowest proposed residual levels;
- c) to discuss if the methods determine both nitrate and nitrite ions and if so, whether the methods detect each ion separately or only in combination; and d) to discuss if the different determination schemes (i.e. separate or combined) could have an impact on the precision and accuracy of the methods.

Individuals in the United States interested in working on the U.S. contribution to the EWG should contact Doreen Chen-Moulec (doreen.chenmoulec@usda.gov) by July 25, 2024. 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 uscodex@usda.gov with a copy to Patrick.Gray@fda.hhs.gov by July 31, 2024. Please note that when there is more than one expert, each country or observer organization shall designate one as the official representative to participate in the EWG.

Precautionary Allergen Labelling: CCMAS invites members and observers to join an EWG chaired by the United States and co-chaired by the United Kingdom, working in English, with the following TOR:

- a) to request Members to submit validation data of the methods listed in Appendix I of CX/MAS 24/43/9;
- b) to evaluate the submitted validation studies through published method validation guidelines from AOAC and CEN performance requirements; and
- c) to submit a list of methods that meet either one or both of the AOAC validation guidelines and CEN performance requirements

Individuals in the United States interested in working on the U.S. contribution to the EWG should contact Doreen Chen-Moulec (doreen.chenmoulec@usda.gov) by July 25, 2024. 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 uscodex@usda.gov with a copy to Patrick.Gray@fda.hhs.gov by July 31, 2024. Please note that when there is more than one expert, each country or observer organization shall designate one as the official representative to participate in the EWG.

Fruit Juices Workable Package: CCMAS invites members and observers to join an EWG chaired by Germany, working in English, to review the methods specified in the *Recommended Methods of Analysis and Sampling* (CXS 234-1999) for the fruit juices workable package. Individuals in the United States interested in working on the U.S. contribution to the EWG should contact Doreen Chen-Moulec (doreen.chenmoulec@usda.gov) by June 25, 2024. 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 Stephan.walch@cvuaka.bwl.de by July 1, 2024. Please note that when there is more than one expert, each country or observer organization shall designate one as the official representative to participate in the EWG.

Guidelines on Sampling: CCMAS invites members and observers to join an EWG chaired by New Zealand and co-chaired by Germany, working in English, to continue working on the information document and develop a discussion paper on the review of all sampling plans in the *Recommended Methods of Analysis and Sampling* (CXS 234-1999) to determine the format and information that should be included. Individuals in the United States interested in working on the U.S. contribution to the EWG should contact Doreen Chen-Moulec (doreen.chenmoulec@usda.gov) by August 25, 2024. 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 CodexNZ@mpi.govt.nz by August 31, 2024. Please note that when there is more than one expert, each country or observer organization shall designate one as the official representative to participate in the EWG.

Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH)

Vanilla: CCSCH invites members and observers to join an EWG chaired by the United States and co-chaired by India, Madagascar, and Mexico, working in English, to continue the development of the proposed draft standard for Vanilla. Individuals in the United States interested in working on the U.S. contribution to the

EWG should contact Kristen Hendricks (Kristen.hendricks@usda.gov) by August 25, 2024. 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 dorian.lafond@usda.gov and uscodex@usda.gov by August 30, 2024. Please note that when there is more than one expert, each country or observer organization shall designate one as the official representative to participate in the EWG.

Other

FAO: FAO, in collaboration with the World Food Programme (WFP), UNICEF and Médecins Sans Frontières, has released a report titled *Food safety in the context of limited food availability – Risk assessment of 3-MCPD and fatty acid esters in nutrient supplements and therapeutic food*. The report can be accessed at the following link: <https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/ad1f1a10-b715-4c8c-95be-ac1a8d94ef19>.

JECFA:

- The report of the 96th JECFA meeting recently published. The 96th meeting evaluated the safety of aspartame and two groups of flavoring agents, , revised the specifications for three food additives and eight flavoring agents. The report can be accessed at the following link: <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240092549>
- The report on the 98th JECFA meeting also recently published. The 98th meeting evaluated the safety of three veterinary drugs Clopidol, Fumagillin dicyclohexylamine, and Imidacloprid. The report can be found at the following link: <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240095533>

World Food Safety Day:

- June 7, 2024 marked World Food Safety Day (WFSD) and in recognition of the WFSD theme this year, “Food Safety: Prepare for the Unexpected,” the Codex Secretariat, in collaboration with the CCP of Honduras, has published a case study that recounts how an outbreak of *Salmonella Braenderup* unfolded. The story can be accessed at the following link: [Download the story](#).
- In celebration of WFSD, the U.S. Codex Office published the following documents on its partnerships and collaboration with the African Union – Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) to highlight how these partnerships are improving food safety worldwide. More information may be found at the following links:
 - <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/us-codex-office-role-strengthening-food-safety-africa.pdf>
 - <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/enhancing-food-safety-latin-america-caribbean.pdf>
- Other WFSD materials can be accessed at the following link: [World Food Safety Day website](#).