



Codex News – June 12, 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 will be made 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.

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.

Codex Committee on Fats and Oils (CCFO)

Olive Oil: The Codex Secretariat has recently issued a Circular Letter (CL 2024/36-FO) requesting information for the 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.

CCFO Standards: The Codex Secretariat has recently issued a Circular Letter (CL 2024/38-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.

Rice Bran Oil: The Codex Secretariat has recently issued a Circular Letter (CL 2024/39-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 by June 15, 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 June 30, 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 new and/or revision of food additive provisions of the GSFA. 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.

Codex Committee on General Principles (CCGP)

Section 2 of the Codex Procedural Manual: The Codex Secretariat has recently issued a Circular Letter (CL 2024/25-GP) requesting comments on the proposed changes to Section 2 Elaboration of Codex Standards and related texts, Procedures for the elaboration of Codex Standards and related texts, Part 7 Guide to the Procedure for modification (corrections, amendments, and new editions) of Codex standards and related texts. 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) of the U.S. Codex Office by August 2, 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 August 16, 2024.

Language Inconsistencies and Superseded Content in the Codex Procedural Manual: The Codex Secretariat has recently issued a Circular Letter (CL 2024/27-GP) requesting proposals from Members and Observers on inconsistencies in language, and superseded content of the *Codex Procedural Manual*, apart from Section 3. 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) of the U.S. Codex Office by August 2, 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 August 16, 2024.

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

New Work and Emerging Issues: The Codex Secretariat has recently issued a Circular Letter (CL 2024/52-NFSDU) requesting proposals for new work and emerging issues. 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 Alexandra Ferraro (Alexandra.ferraro@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office as soon as possible. Responses to the CL by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be sent via email to the CCNFSDU Host Secretariat (CCNFSDU@bvl.bund.de) with a copy to the Codex Secretariat (codex@fao.org) prior to the deadline of July 31, 2024.

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 submitted at CCCF17 (2024) 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 on Aflatoxin in Peanuts for comments and consideration by CCCF18 (2025). 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 the development of 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 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 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.

Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA)

Alignment: CCFA invites members and observers to join an EWG chaired by the Canada and co-chaired by the United States and Japan, working in English, to work on the following:

- i. align the CCASIA regional standards: CXS 298R-2009; CXS 301R-2011; CXS 322R-2015; CXS 354R-2023; CXS 355R-2023;
- ii. align the CCNE regional standards: CXS 257R-2007; CXS 258R-2007; CXS 259R-2007; CXS 341R-2020;
- iii. align the following CCSCCH standards: CXS 342-2021; CXS 343-2021; CXS 344-2021; CXS 345-2021; CXS 347-2019; CXS 351-2022; CXS 352-2022; CXS 353-2022;
- iv. verify and update the provisions for colours in the GSFA FC 02.1.2 reflecting that colours were not permitted in vegetable oils covered by CXS 19-1981 prior to the alignment of the standard with the GSFA;
- v. introduce the limited use of methacrylate copolymer, basic (BMC) (INS 1205) in fortified rice, by:
 - a. introducing a food additive section in the Standard for Rice (CXS 198- 1995), including an appropriate reference to certain carriers in FC 06.1 of the GSFA; and
 - b. making consequential changes to the food additive provisions of FC 06.1, as necessary;
- vi. and update the list of Table 3 additives that should be migrated from Tables 1 and 2 of the GSFA, following the Table 3 Notes approach.

Individuals in the United States interested in working on the U.S. contribution to the EWG should contact Kristen Hendricks (Kristen.hendricks@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 CCP to codex_canada@hc-sc.gc.ca as soon as possible. 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.

GSFA: CCFA invites members and observers to join an EWG chaired by the United States, working in English, to work on the following:

- i. Replies from CCFO28 on the technological justification for the use of paprika extract (INS 160c (ii) in FC 02.2.2 of the GSFA;
- ii. Revocation of the adopted provision for annatto extracts, bixin based (INS 160b(i)) in FC 01.2.1;
- iii. The adopted provision for aspartame (INS 951) in FC 07.1 for comment on the actual use level and application of the alternative
- iv. The draft, and proposed draft provisions, respectively, for colours in FCs 01.0 through to 08.0 and their subcategories as well as adopted provisions for colours with Note 161 in FCs 01.0 through to 08.0 and their subcategories with the exception of colours addressed in bullet points i and ii

- above; and
- v. Provisions entered at Step 2 of the GSFA contained in CRD02 Annex 5

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 June 18, 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 ccfa@cfsan.fda.gov by June 21, 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:

- 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 terms of reference:

- 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)

Sweet Marjoram: CCSCH invites members and observers to join an EWG chaired by Egypt, working in English, to develop an initial draft for a Standard on Sweet Marjoram. Individuals in the United States interested in working on the U.S. contribution to the EWG should contact Kristen Hendricks (Kristen.hendricks@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 CCP to Egy.codexpoint@gmail.com and hananfouad86@hotmail.com as soon as possible. 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.

Cinnamon: CCSCH invites members and observers to join an EWG chaired by Brazil and co-chaired by Indonesia, Iran, and Mexico, working in English, to develop an initial draft for a Standard on Cinnamon under 4 the group standard "Dried bark." Individuals in the United States interested in working on the U.S. contribution to the EWG should contact Kristen Hendricks (Kristen.hendricks@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 CCP to codexbrasil@inmetro.gov.br and luciana.pimenta@agro.gov.br as soon as possible. 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.

Large Cardamom: CCSCH invites members and observers to join an EWG chaired by Bhutan and co-chaired by Nepal and India, working in English, to develop an initial draft for a Standard on Large Cardamom. 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 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 bhutancodex@gmail.com with a copy to kinleyr@bfda.gov.bt and dselden@bfda.gov.bt by June 28, 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 [here](#).

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](#)