



Codex News – August 7, 2024

Upcoming Committee Meetings

Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products (CCFFP)

The 36th Session of the CCFFP will meet by correspondence from October 7-11, 2024. The report adoption will take place virtually on Zoom on October 17, 2024, at 11:00 am CET (5:00 EDT). The meeting will be conducted in English, French, and Spanish. The provisional agenda and other working documents related to CCFFP36 are available at the following link: <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CCFFP&session=36>. For additional information, please contact Marie Maratos Bhat (marie.maratosbhat@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office.

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

The 27th Session of the CCRVDF will meet in Omaha, Nebraska of the United States from October 21-25, 2024. The meeting will be conducted and broadcasted in English, French, and Spanish. The provisional agenda and other working documents related to CCRVDF27 are available at the following link: <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CCRVDF&session=27>. For additional information, please contact Kenneth Lowery (ken.lowery@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office.

Upcoming Public Meetings

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

The U.S. Codex Office is sponsoring a public meeting on August 21, 2024, from 1:00-4:00 pm EDT to provide information and receive public comments on agenda items and draft U.S. positions to be discussed at the 27th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS27), which will convene in Cairns, Australia, from September 16-20, 2024. The public meeting will take place via Video Teleconference only. Documents related to CCFICS27 will be accessible at the following address: www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CCFICS&session=27.

- Dr. Michelle Catlin, U.S. Delegate to the 27th Session of the CCFICS, invites interested U.S. parties to submit their comments electronically to the following email address: michelle.catlin@usda.gov. Emailed comments should state in the subject line that they relate to activities of the 27th Session of the CCFICS.
- Registration: Attendees may register to attend the public meeting here: www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJltc-6rpzluGPEVvN9FhCzAF2fXU6TBzKA. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

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. EDT to provide information and receive public comments on agenda items and draft U.S. positions to be discussed at

the 44th Session of the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (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 CCNFSDU44 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)

CCMAS: The Codex Secretariat has recently issued a Circular Letter (CL-2024/76-CAC) requesting comments on the methods of analysis, performance criteria, and annex on nitrogen conversion factors (NCF) submitted by the 43rd Session of the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling 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 23, 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.

CCCF: The Codex Secretariat has recently issued a Circular Letter (CL-2024/77-CAC) requesting comments on the draft standards and related texts submitted by the 17th Session of the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods 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 Alexandra Ferraro (Alexandra.ferraro@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office by September 23, 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.

CCPR: The Codex Secretariat has recently issued a Circular Letter (CL-2024/78-CAC) requesting comments on the draft standards and related texts submitted by the 55th Session of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues 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 23, 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 Fish and Fishery Products (CCFP)

Sardines: The Codex Secretariat has recently issued a Circular Letter (CL-2024/69-FFP) requesting comments on the proposed amendment of the *Standard for Canned Sardines and Sardine-Type Products* (CXS 94-1981). The CL is currently available in English at the following link: <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codex-alimentarius/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 23, 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 8, 2024.

Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH)

New Work: The Codex Secretariat has recently issued a Circular Letter (CL 2024/64-FH) requesting proposals for new work and/or revision of existing standards. 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 Marie Maratos Bhat (marie.maratosbhat@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office by August 19, 2025. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP also to Marie Maratos Bhat of the CCFH Secretariat (Marie.maratosbhat@usda.gov) with a copy to the Codex Secretariat (Codex@fao.org) by September 1, 2025.

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

Equivalence: The Codex Secretariat has recently issued a Circular Letter (CL 2024/70-FICS) requesting comments on the proposed draft consolidated Codex guidelines related to equivalence. The CL is currently available in English, French, and Spanish at the following link: <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codex-alimentarius/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 August 9, 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 23, 2024.

Food Fraud: The Codex Secretariat has recently issued a Circular Letter (CL 2024/71-FICS) requesting comments on the draft Guidelines on the Prevention and Control of Food Fraud. 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 August 20, 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 3, 2024.

Traceability: The Codex Secretariat has recently issued a Circular Letter (CL 2024/72-FICS) requesting comments on the Draft revision and updating of the *Principles for Traceability/Product Tracing as a Tool Within a Food Inspection and Certification System* (CXG 60-2006). 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 August 20, 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 3, 2024.

Codex Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL)

E-Commerce: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2024/54-FL) requesting comments on the proposed draft Guidelines on the Provision of Food Information for Prepackaged Foods Offered via E-Commerce. The CL is currently available in English 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 Alexandra Ferraro (Alexandra.ferraro@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office by September 25, 2024. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by October 9, 2024.

Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (CCFFV)

New Work Proposals: The Codex Secretariat has recently issued a Circular Letter (CL 2024/75-FFV) requesting proposals on new work for the Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables. 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 October 18, 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 November 1, 2024.

Codex Committee on General Principles (CCGP)

Section 2 of the Codex Procedural Manual: This is a reminder that the Codex Secretariat 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 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 August 16, 2024.

Language Inconsistencies and Superseded Content in the Codex Procedural Manual: This is a reminder that the Codex Secretariat 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 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 August 16, 2024.

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

NRVs-R: The Codex Secretariat has recently issued a Circular Letter (CL 2024/51-NSFDU) requesting comments on the draft General principles for the establishment of Nutrient Reference Values - Requirements (NRVs-R) for persons aged 6-36 months. 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 by September 3, 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 September 15, 2025.

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

JECFA98 MRLs: The Codex Secretariat has recently issued a Circular Letter (CL 2024/65-RVDF) requesting comments on the maximum residue limits (MRLs) of veterinary drugs in foods arising from the safety assessment of the 98th Meeting of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA98, 2024). 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 Kenneth Lowery (ken.lowery@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 September 30, 2024.

Priority List: The Codex Secretariat has recently issued a Circular Letter (CL 2024/66-RVDF) requesting comments on the priority list of veterinary drugs for evaluation by JECFA. 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 Kenneth Lowery (ken.lowery@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 September 30, 2024.

MRL extrapolation: The Codex Secretariat has recently issued a Circular Letter (CL 2024/67-RVDF) requesting comments on extrapolation of maximum residue limits for veterinary drugs in foods. The CL is currently available in English 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 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 September 30, 2024.

Electronic Working Groups (EWG)

Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH)

General Principles Alignment: CCFH invites members and observers to join an EWG chaired by China and co-chaired by the United Kingdom and the European Union, working in English, on the alignment of Codex texts with the revised *General Principles of Food Hygiene* (CXC 1-1969)). Individuals in the United States interested in working on the U.S. contribution to the EWG should contact Marie Maratos Bhat (marie.maratosbhat@usda.gov) by August 16, 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 dinghao@cfsa.net.cn with a copy to kris.de-smet@ec.europa.eu, narriman.looch@food.gov.uk, and monica.mann@food.gov.uk by August 20, 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)

Coriander: CCSCH invites members and observers to join an EWG chaired by India and co-chaired by Iran, working in English to work on the proposed Draft Standard for Coriander. 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 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 codex-india@nic.in with copy to ranjith.a@nic.in 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.

FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Europe (CCEURO)

Dietary Guidelines: CCEURO invites members and observers to join an EWG chaired by Germany and co-chaired by Kazakhstan, Türkiye, and Spain, working in English, Russian, and Spanish, to work on the following terms of reference:

- a) Scope the needs and experiences of the Members in the European region regarding the development of dietary guidelines, and inclusion of sustainability considerations therein.
- b) Review existing international tools; and
- c) Propose follow-up actions for considerations by CCEURO34, including the possible development of guidance to assist Members from the region in the development of dietary guidelines including sustainability considerations and a food systems approach.

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 23, 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 cceuro@bmel.bund.de by September 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

- **AMR Webinars:** FAO is organizing a series of bimonthly webinars (that are planned for the 2nd Thursday and 4th Tuesday of each month), on specific scientific and technical topics related to antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and its containment. Additional information may be found at the following link: <https://www.fao.org/antimicrobial-resistance/news-and-events/events/en/>.
- **Environmental Inhibitors:** The summary report of the recent webinar on *Food safety implications from the use of environmental inhibitors in agrifood systems* was published. Additional information on this may be found at the following link: <https://www.fao.org/food-safety/news/news-details/en/c/1698034/>. The link to the summary report may be found at the following link: <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/f140db7d-27fd-4dd3-aa33-abf5fce5a4b/content>
- **Bivalve mollusks:** The FAO and the United Kingdom Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS), in its role as FAO Centre for Bivalve Sanitation, have developed a course series to support the implementation of bivalve mollusk sanitation systems. The focus of the series is the primary production of bivalve mollusks for consumption as live or raw bivalves and, in particular, how to manage microbiological hazards at this stage. The course is available in English,

French and Spanish at the following link:

<https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?lang=en&id=481>.

FAO/WHO

- **Codex E-Learning Courses:** The FAO Agrifood Systems and Food Safety Division (FAO-ESF), in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the FAO eLearning Academy, has published a four-part series of certified e-learning courses on Codex-- Introduction to Codex; Engaging in Codex; Science and risk analysis in Codex; and Codex collaboration at regional level. These courses are available in English, French, and Spanish, and are offered free of charge as a global public good through the following link at: [FAO elearning Academy](#).
- **Fish Consumption:** The FAO/WHO Background Report on the risks and benefits of fish consumption recently published. This document aims to provide scientific evidence to update the 2010 Report of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Consultation on the Risks and Benefits of Fish Consumption. The report is available at the following link: <https://doi.org/10.4060/cd1548en>.

JECFA

- **JECFA99:** The summary report on the 99th Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA) was recently published. The purpose of the meeting was to evaluate the safety of certain food additives and flavorings. The summary report may be accessed at the following link: <https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/8ac2857a-3217-4171-b302-d4c2734b306d>.
- **Call for Data:** The 17th Session of the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF17) agreed to request the JECFA Secretariat to issue a call for data on total aflatoxins in cereals and cereal-based products, including for infants and young children, and total aflatoxins in ready-to eat peanuts. The call for data deadline is October 31, 2024, and has been published at the following links:
 - “Total aflatoxins in cereals & cereal-based products: maize grain; flour, meal, semolina & flakes derived from maize; husked & polished rice; sorghum grain destined for further processing; & cereal-based foods for infants & young children”
 - FAO : <https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/CD1818EN>
 - WHO : [Request for data on total aflatoxins in cereals and cereal-based products \(who.int\)](#)
 - “Total aflatoxins in Ready-to-Eat Peanuts”
 - FAO: <https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/88edf68a-3336-46f4-b5d0-3ad6f6182900>
 - WHO : [Request for data on total aflatoxins in Ready-to-Eat Peanuts \(who.int\)](#)