



Codex News – December 11, 2024

Upcoming Committee Meetings

Coordinating Committee for Africa (CCAFRICA)

The 25th Session of CCAFRICA (CCAFRICA25) is scheduled to take place in Kampala, Uganda from January 27-31, 2025. The provisional agenda and other working documents related to CCAFRICA25 will be provided as they become available at the following link: <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CCAFRICA&session=25>. For additional information, please contact Ken Lowery (Ken.lowery@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office.

Coordinating Committee for North America and the South West Pacific (CCNASWP)

The 17th Session of CCNASWP (CCNASWP17) is scheduled to take place in Nadi, Fiji from February 3-7, 2025. The provisional agenda and other working documents related to CCNASWP17 will be provided as they become available at the following link: <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CCNASWP&session=17>. For additional information, please contact Marie Maratos Bhat (marie.maratosbhat@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office.

Electronic Working Groups (EWG)

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

Revision to Exchange of Information Text—Establishment Listings: CCFICS invites members and observers to join an EWG chaired by Norway and co-chaired by Australia, India, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, and Spain, working in English, on revising the *Principles and Guidelines for exchange of information between importing and exporting countries to support the trade in food (CXG 89 -2016)*. The EWG will develop principles and guidelines to harmonize the use, development and implementation of establishment listings. 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 January 10, 2025. Other countries and observers should send their full contact details, including participant's name, official title or position, country or organization, and email address via their Codex Contact Point (CCP) to Codexewg@mattilsynet.no by January 15, 2025. As the EWG will operate on the EWG Forum, 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.

Revision to Traceability Text: CCFICS invites members and observers to join an EWG chaired by the United States and co-chaired by Australia, Ecuador, Honduras, and the United Kingdom, working in English and Spanish, on revising the *Principles and guidelines on traceability/product tracing as a tool within a Food Inspection and Certification System (CXG 60-2006)*. 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 January 10, 2025. Other countries and observers should send their full contact details, including participant's name, official title or position, country or organization, and email address via their CCP to uscodex@usda.gov by

January 15, 2025. As the EWG will operate on the EWG Forum, 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.

Consolidation of Guidance on Equivalence: CCFICS invites members and observers to join an EWG chaired by New Zealand and co-chaired by Kenya, working in English, on progressing the consolidation of all CCFICS guidance on equivalence. 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 January 13, 2025. Other countries and observers should send their full contact details, including participant's name, official title or position, country or organization, and email address via their CCP to CodexNZ@mpi.govt.nz by January 17, 2025. As the EWG will operate on the EWG Forum, 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

Codex Magazine: The eighth edition of the Codex magazine entitled "*Codex: Protecting health, facilitating trade – Looking to the Future*" was recently published. The magazine features a round-up of committee happenings and voices from Member Countries and Observers. The magazine may be accessed at the following link: <https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/cd3387en>.

EWG Handbook: The Codex Secretariat recently published the *Electronic Working Group Handbook* which is designed for Codex EWG participants to enhance their engagement in Codex committees or lead committee-level efforts. It offers clear, practical guidance with tips and advice for establishing, managing, participating in, and reporting on EWGs. The handbook can be found at the following link: <https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/cd3481en>.

Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA)

- **JECFA97:** The JECFA monograph from the 97th meeting, which evaluated the safety of titanium dioxide, including revising its specifications, and evaluated the safety of three groups of flavoring agents recently published. The publication can be found at the following link: <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240098886>.
- **JECFA98:** The JECFA Monograph for the 98th JECFA, which met in Rome, Italy, from February 20–29, 2024, and evaluated three veterinary drugs, has just been published and is available at the following link: <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240095533>.
- **JECFA99:** The JECFA monograph from the 99th meeting, which evaluated the safety of the food additives butterfly pea flower extract, natamycin A, nisin, and polyglycerol esters of fatty acids and four processing aids recently published. The Committee also revised the specifications for ten flavoring agents. The publication can be found at the following link: <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240100978>.
- **JECFA101 Call for Data:** The call for data for the JECFA 101st meeting that will be dedicated to the evaluation of veterinary drugs has been published by FAO and WHO at the below links respectively. Deadline for data submission is January 15, 2025:
 - FAO information can be found at the following link: <https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/cd3050en>
 - WHO information can be found at the following link: [https://www.who.int/news-room/articles-detail/veterinary-drug-residues-in-food-one-hundred-and-first-meeting-joint-fao-who-expert-committee-on-food-additives-\(jecfa\)/](https://www.who.int/news-room/articles-detail/veterinary-drug-residues-in-food-one-hundred-and-first-meeting-joint-fao-who-expert-committee-on-food-additives-(jecfa)/)

Joint Expert Meeting on Microbiological Risk Assessment (JEMRA)

- JEMRA recently convened a meeting to review recent scientific developments, data, and evidence associated with foodborne viruses. The report of the *Microbiological Risk Assessment of Viruses in Foods: Part I: Food Attribution, Analytical Methods and Indicators: Meeting Report* may be found at the following link: <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240101074>.

FAO

- **Review on the Safety of Alternative Food Packaging:** An article co-authored by experts from FAO and Danone recently published in the journal of *Comprehensive Reviews in Food Science and Food Safety*. The article examines the potential risks and opportunities associated with recycled and bio-based materials used in food packaging, reusable and hybrid packaging, and innovations such as nanotechnologies and active and intelligent packaging. The review may be accessed at the following link: <https://doi.org/10.1111/1541-4337.70059>.
- **Review of Derivation Methods for DIRVs:** The FAO published the report to provide scientific advice to the Codex Committee on Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU) on the details of dietary intake reference values (DIRVs) for protein and 24 micronutrients for older infants (6–12 months) and young children (12–36 months). The scientific advice includes an assessment of the salient similarities and differences of methods used to derive the DIRVs. The report may be accessed at the following link: <https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/cb9380en>.
- **Protein Quality Assessment in FUF-YC:** The FAO published the report to provide practical guidelines and assistance to members of the Codex Alimentarius Commission on how to determine protein quality in follow-up formula for young children (FUF-YC) using the protein digestibility-corrected amino acid score (PDCAAS) method. The report supplements guidance provided in a previous 2018 FAO Report on protein quality assessment in follow-up formula for young children and ready to use therapeutic foods. The report may be accessed at the following link: <https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/cb9177en>.

FAO/WHO

- **Guidance on Aerial Management of Pesticides:** The FAO/WHO has released an updated publication on the *International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management: Guidance for aerial application of pesticides*. This present version covers new developments in aerial application of pesticides since 2001. The publication may be accessed at the following link: <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240076785>.

WHO

- **Call for Experts:** The WHO is seeking experts to serve as members of the WHO-UNICEF Technical Expert Advisory group on Nutrition Monitoring (TEAM). Application details may be found at the following link: [https://www.who.int/news-room/articles-detail/call-for-experts-who-unicef-technical-expert-advisory-group-on-nutrition-monitoring-\(team\)](https://www.who.int/news-room/articles-detail/call-for-experts-who-unicef-technical-expert-advisory-group-on-nutrition-monitoring-(team)). If you have any questions about this call for experts, please write to nfs@who.int well before the deadline for consideration of January 10, 2025.