



Codex News – December 28, 2023

Upcoming Committee Meetings

Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH)

The 54th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene 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 the 54th Session of CCFH 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.

Upcoming Public Meetings

Codex Committee on Fats and Oils (CCFO)

The U.S. Codex Office is sponsoring a public meeting on January 23, 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 28th Session of the Codex Committee on Fats and Oils (CCFO28), which will be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from February 19-23, 2024. The public meeting will take place via Video Teleconference only. Documents related to CCFO28 will be accessible via the internet at the following address: www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/jp/?meeting=CCFO&session=28. The U.S. Delegate to CCFO28 invites interested U.S. parties to submit their comments electronically to the following email address: girdhari.sharma@fda.hhs.gov or doreen.chenmoulec@usda.gov. Attendees may register to attend the public meeting at the following link: www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJltdOCTqzsjHRhu5Zl-hKwftuzVhRNchlo. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH)

The U.S. Codex Office is sponsoring a public meeting on February 5, 2024 from 2:00-4:00 pm EST. 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 Hygiene (CCFH54), which will be held in Nairobi, Kenya, from March 11-15, 2024. The public meeting will take place via Video Teleconference only. Documents related to CCFH54 will be accessible via the internet at the following address: www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CCFH&session=54. The U.S. Delegate to CCFH54 invites interested U.S. parties to submit their comments electronically to the following email address: benjamin.warren@fda.hhs.gov. Attendees may register to attend the public meeting at the following link: www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJltdOCTqzsjHRhu5Zl-hKwftuzVhRNchlo. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Requests for Comments

Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF)

Priority List: The Codex Secretariat has recently issued a Circular Letter (CL 2023/95-CF) requesting comments on the Priority list of contaminants for evaluation or re-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 Alexandra Ferraro (Alexandra.ferraro@usda.gov) by February 25, 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 10, 2024.

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

Emerging Issues: The Codex Secretariat has recently issued a Circular Letter (CL 2023/66/OCS) requesting comments on Appendix A and Proposals for New Work on Emerging Issues. 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 Heather Selig (heather.selig@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office by April 5, 2023. 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 April 19, 2024.

Codex Committee for Fats and Oils (CCFO)

Olive Oils and Olive Pomace Oils: The Codex Secretariat has recently issued a Circular Letter (CL 2023/61/OCS-FO) requesting comments on the proposed draft revision to the *Standard for Olive Oils and Olive Pomace Oils* (CXS 33-1981). 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 January 26, 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 February 9, 2024.

Acceptable Previous Cargoes: The Codex Secretariat has recently issued a Circular Letter (CL 2023/63/OCS-FO) requesting comments on the proposed revision to the list of acceptable previous cargoes – ([CXC 36-1987, Appendix 2](#)). 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 January 5, 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 January 19, 2024.

Electronic Working Groups (EWG)

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

Sanitary Requirements: CCFICS invites members and observers to join an EWG chaired by Brazil with the assistance of Australia, New Zealand, Spain, and the United States, working in English, to prepare an updated

discussion paper and project document on the standardization of sanitary requirements for further consideration at CCFICS27. Individuals in the United States interested in working on the U.S. contribution to the EWG should contact Heather Selig (heather.selig@usda.gov) by January 8, 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 Brazil at codexbrasil@inmetro.gov.br with a copy to Professor Vidal Melo at vidal.melo@usp.br by January 12, 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

Codex 2023 Magazine: The latest edition of the Codex Magazine may be found at the following link: <https://www.fao.org/3/cc8700en/cc8700en.pdf>

Food Additives: The summary report on the 97th Joint Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)/World Health Organization (WHO) Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA) meeting has been published and is available at the following links:

- FAO: <https://www.fao.org/3/cc8825en/cc8825en.pdf>
- WHO: [https://www.who.int/groups/joint-fao-who-expert-committee-on-food-additives-\(jecfa\)/publications/summary-reports](https://www.who.int/groups/joint-fao-who-expert-committee-on-food-additives-(jecfa)/publications/summary-reports)

Environmental Inhibitors: FAO has published the report: "Food safety implications from the use of environmental inhibitors in agrifood systems" and may be found at the following link: <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cc8647en>.

Food Sources and Production Systems: The summary conclusions of the Food Safety Foresight Technical Meeting on New Food Sources and Production Systems have been published and the summarization of the key conclusions of the meeting can be found at the following link: <https://www.fao.org/3/cc8832en/cc8832en.pdf>.

AMR: FAO has launched a new brochure "How can Codex standards help tackle foodborne antimicrobial resistance (AMR)?" to explain how Codex standards help tackle foodborne antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and may be found at the following link: <https://www.fao.org/3/cc8716en/cc8716en.pdf>.