



Codex News- March 10, 2020

### **Postponement of Upcoming Sessions**

#### ***Codex Committee on General Principles (CCGP)***

The 32<sup>nd</sup> Session of the CCGP, originally scheduled for March 23-27, 2020, in Bordeaux, France, has been postponed due to ongoing concerns related to the outbreak of the Coronavirus (COVID-19). Information regarding new dates and the venue will be published as soon as they have been agreed. Please contact Kristen Hendricks ([Kristen.hendricks@usda.gov](mailto:Kristen.hendricks@usda.gov)) of the U.S. Codex Office or the CCGP host secretariat ([SGAE-CODEX-FR@sgae.gouv.fr](mailto:SGAE-CODEX-FR@sgae.gouv.fr)) with any questions or concerns.

### **Public Meetings**

#### ***Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF)***

The U.S. Codex Program is sponsoring a public meeting on March 23, 2020, 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 the 14<sup>th</sup> Session of the CCCF, in Utrecht, the Netherlands, April 20-24, 2020. The public meeting will take place in Meeting Room 1A-001 at the Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (CFSAN), U.S. Food and Drug Administration, 5001 Campus Drive, HFS-009, College Park, MD 20740-3835. Documents related to the 14<sup>th</sup> Session of the CCCF will be accessible via the internet at the following address:

<http://www.codexalimentarius.org/meetings-reports/en>.

- Dr. Lauren Posnick Robin, U.S. Delegate to the 14<sup>th</sup> Session of the CCCF, invites U.S. interested parties to submit their comments electronically to the following email address: [henry.kim@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:henry.kim@fda.hhs.gov).
- Please register to attend by emailing Henry Kim ([henry.kim@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:henry.kim@fda.hhs.gov)) by March 16, 2020. Early registration is encouraged because it will expedite entry into the building, for which attendees should bring photo identification and plan for adequate time to pass through federal building security screening systems.
- If you wish to participate in the public meeting by conference call, please register in advance by emailing [henry.kim@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:henry.kim@fda.hhs.gov). To call in, you may use the call-in-number: 1-877-465-7975 and participant code 909 104 288. You may also join by Webex, using the link that could be provided following registration with meeting number/access code: 909 104 288; and meeting password: mFuGm4Uv.

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

The U.S. Codex Office is sponsoring a public meeting on March 25, 2020, 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 the 25<sup>th</sup> Session of the CCFICS, in Hobart, Tasmania, Australia, April 27-May 1, 2020. The public meeting will take place in the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), South Building, Room 104-A, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250. Documents related to the 25<sup>th</sup> Session of the CCFICS will be accessible via the internet at the following address: <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CCFICS&session=25>.

- Mary Stanley, U.S. Delegate to the 25<sup>th</sup> Session of the CCFICS, invites U.S. interested parties to submit their comments electronically to the following email address: [mary.stanley@usda.gov](mailto:mary.stanley@usda.gov).
- Please register to attend the public meeting in person by emailing Kristen Hendricks ([kristen.hendricks@usda.gov](mailto:kristen.hendricks@usda.gov)) by March 18, 2020. Early registration is encouraged because it will expedite entry into the building, for which attendees should bring photo identification and plan for adequate time to pass through the security screening systems.
- If you wish to participate in the public meeting by conference call, please register in advance by emailing [kristen.hendricks@usda.gov](mailto:kristen.hendricks@usda.gov) in order to receive the call-in number and participant code.

***Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS)***

The U.S. Codex Program is sponsoring a public meeting on April 16, 2020, from 1:00-2:30 p.m. EST to provide information and receive public comments on agenda items and draft U.S. positions to be discussed at the 40<sup>th</sup> Session of CCMAS, in Budapest, Hungary, May 11-15, 2020. The public meeting will take place at the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), South Building, Room 1442-S, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250. Documents related to the 40<sup>th</sup> Session of the CCMAS will be accessible via the internet at the following address: <http://www.codexalimentarius.org/meetings-reports/en>.

- Gregory O. Noonan, Ph.D., U.S. Delegate to the 40<sup>th</sup> Session of the CCMAS, invites U.S. interested parties to submit their comments electronically to the following email address: [gregory.noonan@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:gregory.noonan@fda.hhs.gov).
- Please register to attend by emailing Doreen Chen-Moulec ([doreen.chenmoulec@usda.gov](mailto:doreen.chenmoulec@usda.gov)) by April 14, 2020. Early registration is encouraged because it will expedite entry into the building, for which attendees should bring photo identification and plan for adequate time to pass through federal building security screening systems.
- Attendees who are not able to attend in person, but who wish to participate, may do so by phone/conference call; please use the call-in number: 1-888-844-9904, participant code: 5126092.

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

The U.S. Codex Office is sponsoring a public meeting on April 30, 2020, from 1:00-3:00 p.m. EST to provide information and receive public comments on agenda items and draft U.S. positions to be discussed at the 25<sup>th</sup> Session of CCRVDF, in San Diego, California, May 25-29, 2020. The public meeting will take place in the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Whitten Building, Room 107-A, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250. Documents related to the 25<sup>th</sup> Session of the CCRVDF will be accessible via the internet at the following address: <http://www.codexalimentarius.org/meetings-reports/en>.

- Ms. Brandi Robinson, U.S. Delegate to the 25<sup>th</sup> Session of the CCRVDF, invites U.S. interested parties to submit their comments electronically to the following email address: [Brandi.Robinson@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:Brandi.Robinson@fda.hhs.gov).

- Please register to attend the public meeting by emailing Ken Lowery ([ken.lowery@usda.gov](mailto:ken.lowery@usda.gov)) by April 24, 2020. Early registration is encouraged it will expedite entry into the building, for which attendees should bring photo identification and plan for adequate time to pass through the security screening systems.
- Attendees who are not able to attend in person, but who wish to participate, may do so by phone/conference call; please use the call-in number: 1-888-844-9904, participant code: 5126092.

### **Electronic Working Groups (EWG)**

**Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (CCFFV)** invites members and observers to join an EWG chaired by Mexico, working in English and Spanish, on the Proposed Draft Standard for Berry Fruits. Individuals in the U.S. interested in working on U.S. contributions to the EWG should contact Doreen Chen-Moulec ([Doreen.chenmoulec@usda.gov](mailto:Doreen.chenmoulec@usda.gov)) by March 17, 2020. 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 [codexmex@economia.gob.mx](mailto:codexmex@economia.gob.mx) with a copy to: [economyta@hotmail.com](mailto:economyta@hotmail.com), [tania.fosado@economia.gob.mx](mailto:tania.fosado@economia.gob.mx), and [cesar.orozco@economia.gob.mx](mailto:cesar.orozco@economia.gob.mx) by March 19, 2020. 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.

**Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance (TFAMR)** invites members and observers to join an EWG chaired by the United States and co-chaired by Chile, China, Kenya and the United Kingdom, working in English and Spanish, to address the outstanding issues in square brackets in the Proposed draft revision of the Code of Practice to Minimize and Contain Foodborne Antimicrobial Resistance (CXC 61-2005). The specific items for consideration are the following, with the understanding that agreed to text should not be re-opened to the extent possible:

- Section 3 – consideration of inclusion of a definition for “therapeutic use;”
- Section 4 – consideration of inclusion of Principle 6 regarding use of medically important antimicrobials for therapeutic purposes; and
- Section 5 – consideration of use of the term “therapeutic” in the last bullet of paragraph 54 if a definition is not included in CXC 61-2005.

Individuals in the U.S. interested in working on U.S. contributions to the EWG should contact Marie Maratos ([marie.maratos@usda.gov](mailto:marie.maratos@usda.gov)) by March 18, 2020. 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 [Bettye.walters@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:Bettye.walters@fda.hhs.gov) and [marie.maratos@usda.gov](mailto:marie.maratos@usda.gov) by March 20, 2020. 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.

## Requests for Comments

### **Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF)**

**Cadmium in Chocolates:** The Codex Secretariat issued a Circular Letter (CL 2020/19-OCS-CF) requesting on the proposed draft maximum levels for cadmium in chocolates and cocoa-derived products. For background information, please refer to document CX/CF 20/14/6. In submitting comments, please take into account the conclusions presented in paragraphs 4-9 of CX/CF 20/14/6, the data analysis presented in Appendix II of the said working document and the background information presented in CL 2019/81-CF. In addition, please consider the proportionality approach when setting MLs for the different categories, the MLs previously adopted at CAC41 (2018) and the discussion held on the proposed ML for chocolates containing or declaring <30% total cocoa solids on a dry matter basis at CCCF13 and CAC42 in 2019 (for consideration under Agenda Item 5). The CL is available in English at the following link: [www.fao.org/fao-whocodexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters/en](http://www.fao.org/fao-whocodexalimentarius/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](mailto:Doreen.chenmoulec@usda.gov)) by March 20, 2020. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by March 31, 2020.

**Cadmium in Cocoa Beans:** The Codex Secretariat issued a Circular Letter (CL 2020/20-OCS-CF) requesting comments at Step 3 on the Proposed Draft Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Cadmium Contamination in Cocoa Beans. The CL is available in English at the following link: [www.fao.org/fao-whocodexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters/en](http://www.fao.org/fao-whocodexalimentarius/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](mailto:Doreen.chenmoulec@usda.gov)) by March 10, 2020. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP to the Codex Secretariat ([codex@fao.org](mailto:codex@fao.org)) by March 31, 2020.

**Maximum Levels of Lead:** The Codex Secretariat issued a Circular Letter (CL 2020/21-OCS-CF) requesting comments on the proposed draft maximum levels for lead in selected commodities. For background information, please refer to document CX/CF 20/14/8. The CL is available in English at the following link: [www.fao.org/fao-whocodexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters/en](http://www.fao.org/fao-whocodexalimentarius/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](mailto:Doreen.chenmoulec@usda.gov)) by March 20, 2020. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by March 31, 2020.

**Lead Contamination:** The Codex Secretariat issued a Circular Letter (CL 2020/22-OCS-CF) requesting comments at Step 3 on the proposed draft revision of the Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Lead Contamination in Foods (CXC 56-2004). The CL is available in English, French and Spanish at the following link: [www.fao.org/fao-whocodexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters/en](http://www.fao.org/fao-whocodexalimentarius/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](mailto:Doreen.chenmoulec@usda.gov)) by March 10, 2020. Comments by other observers and

countries should be submitted via their CCP to the Codex Secretariat ([codex@fao.org](mailto:codex@fao.org)) by March 31, 2020.

**Aflatoxins in Cereals:** The Codex Secretariat issued a Circular Letter (CL 2020/23-OCS-CF) requesting comments on the proposed draft maximum levels for total aflatoxins in certain cereals and cereal-based products including foods for infants and young children (including questions on sampling plans, performance criteria and analytical methods). For background information, please refer to document CX/CF 20/14/10 and in particular the information provided in paragraph 6 and Appendix II. The CL is available in English at the following link: [www.fao.org/fao-whocodexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters/en](http://www.fao.org/fao-whocodexalimentarius/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](mailto:Doreen.chenmoulec@usda.gov)) by March 20, 2020. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by March 31, 2020.

#### ***Codex Committee on Fats and Oils (CCFO)***

**Request for Data and Information on Sunflowerseed Oil:** The Codex Secretariat issued a reminder for Circular Letter (CL 2019/53-FO) requesting data and information on refractive index, saponification value, iodine values, and relative density for sunflower seed oil. The CL is available in English, French and Spanish at the following link: [www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters/en](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](mailto:Kristen.hendricks@usda.gov)) by March 20, 2020. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP to [codex@fao.org](mailto:codex@fao.org) with copies to [codex@magyp.gov.ar](mailto:codex@magyp.gov.ar), [mlarre@magyp.gob.ar](mailto:mlarre@magyp.gob.ar), [codexbrasil@inmetro.gov.br](mailto:codexbrasil@inmetro.gov.br), and [ana.peretti@anvisa.gov.br](mailto:ana.peretti@anvisa.gov.br) by March 27, 2020.

**New Work and/or Amendments to Existing Codex Standards:** The Codex Secretariat issued a reminder for Circular Letter (CL 2019/54/FO) requesting proposals for new work and/or amendments to existing Codex Standards. The CL is available in English, French and Spanish at the following link: [www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters/en](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](mailto:Kristen.hendricks@usda.gov)) by May 19, 2020. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP to [codex@fao.org](mailto:codex@fao.org) with a copy to [ccfo\\_malaysia@moh.gov.my](mailto:ccfo_malaysia@moh.gov.my) by May 29, 2020.

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

**Electronic Certificates:** The Codex Secretariat issued a Circular Letter (CL 2020/01/OCS-FICS) requesting comments at Step 3 on the Proposed Draft Guidance on Paperless use of Electronic Certificates (Revision of the Guidelines for Design, Production, Issuance and Use of Generic Official Certificates – CXG 38-2001). The CL is available in English, French and Spanish at the following link: [www.fao.org/fao-whocodexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters/en](http://www.fao.org/fao-whocodexalimentarius/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](mailto:kristen.hendricks@usda.gov)) by March 10, 2020. Comments by other

observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS ([ocs.codexalimentarius.org](https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org)) by March 31, 2020.

**Equivalence:** The Codex Secretariat issued a Circular Letter (CL 2020/03/OCS-FICS) requesting comments at Step 3 on the Proposed Draft Consolidated Codex Guidelines related to Equivalence. The CL is available in English, French and Spanish at the following link: [www.fao.org/fao-whocodexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters/en](http://www.fao.org/fao-whocodexalimentarius/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](mailto:kristen.hendricks@usda.gov)) by March 6, 2020. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS ([ocs.codexalimentarius.org](https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org)) by March 27, 2020.

**Voluntary Third-Party Assurance (vTPA) programmes:** The Codex Secretariat issued a Circular Letter (CL 2020/26/OCS-FICS) requesting comments on the Draft Principles and Guidelines for the Assessment and Use of voluntary Third-Party Assurance (vTPA) programmes (Updated Text). The CL is available in English at the following link: [www.fao.org/fao-whocodexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters/en](http://www.fao.org/fao-whocodexalimentarius/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](mailto:kristen.hendricks@usda.gov)) by March 13, 2020. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS ([ocs.codexalimentarius.org](https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org)) by April 3, 2020.

### Other

**Call for data and experts:** The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (RAP) is looking to identify experts to contribute to the regional risk assessment in the area of foodborne Group B *Streptococcus agalactiae* (GBS) CC283. In addition, FAORAP is requesting governments, industry, academia, consumer groups, laboratories, and any other interested organizations and individuals to submit any available data and information on attribution, characterization and monitoring of foodborne Group B *Streptococcus agalactiae* (GBS) CC283. Any data relevant to the strain would be valuable because of the emerging nature of the topic, however, the data for risk assessment, including the data for dose-response and exposure assessment would be of particular value.

The full call with the background and details and criteria for expert selection as well as data requirement is available online: <http://www.fao.org/3/ca7759en/ca7759en.pdf>, where the application submission instructions are detailed. The selected experts will be invited to the regional risk assessment expert meeting tentatively scheduled from June 29- July 3, 2020 in Singapore. Should you have any questions, please contact Masami Takeuchi, Food Safety Officer, FAORAP at [Masami.Takeuchi@fao.org](mailto:Masami.Takeuchi@fao.org). Please note this is a regional FAO activity and the initiative has been conducted in collaboration with the FAO JEMRA officers and FAO fisheries/aquaculture officers.