



Codex News- March 26, 2019

A reminder that the U.S. Codex Program's website is now located at www.usda.gov/codex. The U.S. Codex Office transitioned all materials to this new site address. The former site will only have a few specific redirects. Please make sure to go to www.usda.gov/codex for the most up-to-date information.

Public Meetings

Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF)

The U.S. Codex Program is sponsoring a public meeting on April 1, 2019, 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 13th Session of the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, April 29-May 3, 2019. The public meeting will take place in Meeting Room 1A003 at the Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, U.S. Food and Drug Administration, 5001 Campus Drive, College Park, MD, 20740-3835. Documents related to the 13th Session of the CCCF will be accessible via the internet at the following address: www.codexalimentarius.org/meetings-reports/en.

- Dr. Lauren Posnick Robin, U.S. Delegate to the 13th Session of the CCCF invites interested U.S. parties to submit their comments electronically to the following email address: henry.kim@fda.hhs.gov.
- Please register to attend by emailing Henry Kim (henry.kim@fda.hhs.gov) by March 25, 2019. 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: 1-877-465-7975, participant code 906 083 160. You may also join by WebEx, using the link: fda1.webex.com/fda1/j.php?MTID=mf6edcb5be95e05520d460b404c5322bc; meeting number/access code: 906 083 160; and meeting password: rTEQAMG4.

Codex Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL)

The U.S. Codex Program is sponsoring a public meeting on April 9, 2019, from 1:00-5:00 p.m. EST to provide information and receive public comments on agenda items and draft U.S. positions to be discussed at the 45th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, in Ottawa, Canada, on May 13-17, 2019. The public meeting will take place in Meeting Room 107A of the Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Ave SW, Washington, DC 20250. Documents related to the 45th Session of the CCFL will be accessible via the internet at the following address: www.codexalimentarius.org/meetings-reports/en.

- Douglas Balentine, U.S. Delegate to the 45th Session of the CCFL, invites U.S. interested parties to submit their comments electronically to the following email address: douglas.balentine@fda.hhs.gov.
- Please register to attend by emailing uscodex@osec.usda.gov by April 3, 2019. 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: 888-844-9904 and participant code 5126092.

Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS)

The U.S. Codex Program is sponsoring a public meeting on May 6, 2019, from 2:00-4:00 p.m. EST to provide information and receive public comments on agenda items and draft U.S. positions to be discussed at the 40th Session of the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, in Budapest, Hungary, May 27-31, 2019. The public meeting will take place in the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), South Building, Room 1452B, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250. Documents related to the 40th Session of the CCMAS will be accessible via the internet at the following address: www.codexalimentarius.org/meetings-reports/en.

- Dr. Gregory O. Noonan, U.S. Delegate to the 40th Session of the CCMAS, invites U.S. interested parties to submit their comments electronically to the following email address: gregory.noonan@fda.hhs.gov.
- Please register to attend by emailing Doreen Chen-Moulec (doreen.chenmoulec@osec.usda.gov) by April 4, 2019. 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 512 6092.

Electronic Working Groups (EWG)

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

Paperless Use of Electronic Certificates: CCFICS invites members and observers to join an EWG, chaired by the Netherlands and co-chaired by Australia, working in English, to continue drafting proposed draft guidance on paperless use of electronic certificates for circulation for comments at Step 3 and consideration at the 25th Session of the CCFICS.

Individuals interested in working on the U.S. contributions to the EWG should contact Ken Lowery (ken.lowery@osec.usda.gov) by April 9, 2019. Other observers and countries should send their full contact details including participant's name, official title or position, organization or country, and email address via their Codex Contact Point (CCP) to info@codexalimentarius.nl with a copy to codex.contact@agriculture.gov.au by April 12, 2019. As this EWG will operate on the Codex Online Forum, please note that when there is more than one expert, each country or observer organization shall designate one as their official representative to participate.

Requests for Comments

Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC)

Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025: The Codex Secretariat issued a Circular Letter (CL 2019/21/OCS-CAC) requesting comments on revised draft Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025. The CL is available in English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Chinese, and Russian at the following link: 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 Mary Frances Lowe (maryfrances.lowe@osec.usda.gov) by April 23, 2019. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted through their CCP using the Online Commenting System (OCS) (ocs.codexalimentarius.org) by April 30, 2019.

Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF)

Priority List of Contaminants and Naturally Occurring Toxicants: The Codex Secretariat issued a Circular Letter (CL 2019/11-CF) requesting comments on the *Priority List of Contaminants and Naturally Occurring Toxicants for Evaluation by the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA)*. The CL is available in English, Spanish, and French at the following link: 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@osec.usda.gov) by March 27, 2019. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted through their CCP by email to codex@fao.org by March 31, 2019.

Risk Analysis of Contaminants in Food where there is No Regulatory Level or Risk

Management Framework: The Codex Secretariat issued a Circular Letter (CL 2019/10-CF) requesting comments at Step 6 on the proposed draft *Guidelines for Risk Analysis of Contaminants in Food where there is no Regulatory Level of Risk Management Established*. The CL is available in English at the following link: 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@osec.usda.gov) by April 5, 2019. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted through their CCP by email to info@codexalimentarius.nl with a copy to codex@fao.org by April 10, 2019.

Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH)

Histamine Control Guidance: The Codex Secretariat issued a Circular Letter (CL 2018/92/OCS-FH) requesting comments on the alignment of the *Code of Practice for Fish and Fishery Products* with the Histamine Control Guide. The CL is available in English at the following link: 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 (marie.maratos@osec.usda.gov) by May 27, 2019. Comments by other observers and countries

should be submitted through their CCP using the OCS (ocs.codexalimentarius.org) by May 31, 2019.

Food Allergen Management: The Codex Secretariat issued a Circular Letter (CL 2018/93/OCS-FH) requesting comments at Step 5 on the proposed draft *Code of Practice on Food Allergen Management for Food Business Operators*. The CL is available in English at the following link: 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 (marie.maratos@osec.usda.gov) by May 27, 2019. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted through their CCP using the OCS (ocs.codexalimentarius.org) by May 31, 2019.

Codex Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL)

Labelling of Non-Retail Containers: The Codex Secretariat issued a Circular Letter (CL 2019/13/OCS-FL) requesting comments at Step 3 on the proposed draft *Guidance for the Labelling of Non-Retail Containers of Foods*. The CL is available in English at the following link: 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 Mary Frances Lowe (maryfrances.lowe@osec.usda.gov) by March 27, 2019. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted through their CCP using the OCS (ocs.codexalimentarius.org) by March 31, 2019.

Front-of-Pack Nutrition Labelling: The Codex Secretariat issued a Circular Letter (CL 2019/14/OCS-FL) requesting comments at Step 3 on the proposed draft *Guidelines on Front-of-Pack Nutrition Labelling*. The CL is available in English at the following link: 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 Mary Frances Lowe (maryfrances.lowe@osec.usda.gov) by March 27, 2019. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted through their CCP using the OCS (ocs.codexalimentarius.org) by March 31, 2019.

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

Voluntary Third-Party Assurance (vTPA) Programmes: The Codex Secretariat issued a Circular Letter (CL 2018/96/OCS-CCFICS) requesting comments at Step 5 on the *Draft Principles and Guidelines for the Assessment and Use of Voluntary Third-Party Assurance (vTPA) Programmes*. The CL is available in English at the following link: 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 Ken Lowery (ken.lowery@osec.usda.gov) by May 27, 2019. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted through their CCP using the OCS (ocs.codexalimentarius.org) by May 31, 2019.

Codex Committee on Fats and Oils (CCFO)

Standard for Olive Oils and Olive Pomace Oils: The Codex Secretariat issued a Circular Letter (CL 2019/28/OCS-FO) requesting comments on the new methods of analysis for endorsement by the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS) on the proposed revision to the *Standard for Olive Oils and Olive Pomace Oils*, Section 8: The Methods of Analysis and Sampling. The CL is available in English at the following link: 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 (marie.maratos@osec.usda.gov) by April 15, 2019. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (ocs.codexalimentarius.org) by April 19, 2019.

Standard for Named Vegetable Oils: The Codex Secretariat issued a Circular Letter (CL 2019/29/OCS-FO) requesting comments on the proposed amendments to the *Standard for Named Vegetable Oils* for adoption by the 42nd Session of the CAC. The CL is available in English at the following link: 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 (marie.maratos@osec.usda.gov) by May 27, 2019. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (ocs.codexalimentarius.org) by May 31, 2019.

Standard for Named Vegetable Oils—Addition of Palm Oil with Higher Oleic Acid: The Codex Secretariat issued a Circular Letter (CL 2019/30/OCS-FO) requesting comments at Step 8 on the proposed revision to the *Standard for Named Vegetable Oil—Addition of Palm Oil with Higher Oleic Acid*. The CL is available in English at the following link: 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 (marie.maratos@osec.usda.gov) by May 27, 2019. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (ocs.codexalimentarius.org) by May 31, 2019.

Standard for Named Vegetable Oils—Replacement of Acid Value for Virgin Palm Oils and Inclusion of Free Fatty Acids for Crude Palm Kernel Oils: The Codex Secretariat issued a Circular Letter (CL 2019/31/OCS-FO) requesting comments at Step 5/8 on the proposed revision to the *Standard for Named Vegetable Oils—Replacement of Acid Value with Free Fatty Acids for Virgin Palm Oil and Inclusion of Free Fatty Acids for Crude Palm Kernel Oils*. The CL is available in English at the following link: 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 (marie.maratos@osec.usda.gov) by May 27, 2019. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (ocs.codexalimentarius.org) by May 31, 2019.

Standard for Named Vegetable Oils—Inclusion of Almond, Hazelnut, Pistachio, Flaxseed, and Walnut Oils: The Codex Secretariat issued a Circular Letter (CL 2019/32/OCS-FO) requesting

commends at Step 5/8 on the proposed revision to the Standard for Named Vegetable Oils– Inclusion of Almond oil, Hazelnut oil, Pistachio oil, Flaxseed oil, and Walnut oil. The CL is available in English at the following link: 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 (marie.maratos@osec.usda.gov) by May 27, 2019. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (ocs.codexalimentarius.org) by May 31, 2019.

Food Additives Provision in Standards for Fats and Oils: The Codex Secretariat issued a Circular Letter (CL 2019/33/OCS-FO) requesting comments on the proposed amendments to the food additives provisions in the *Standards for Fats and Oils* for adoption by the 42nd Session of the CAC. The CL is available in English at the following link: 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 (marie.maratos@osec.usda.gov) by May 27, 2019. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (ocs.codexalimentarius.org) by May 31, 2019.

Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS)

Guidelines on Measurement Uncertainty: The Codex Secretariat issued a Circular Letter (CL 2019/16-MAS) requesting comments at Step 3 on the revision of the *Guidelines on Measurement Uncertainty*. The CL is available in English at the following link: 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@osec.usda.gov) by April 26, 2019. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP using to hu-codexcp@nebih.gov.hu with a copy to codex@fao.org by April 30, 2019.

Recommended Methods of Analysis and Sampling: The Codex Secretariat issued a Circular Letter (CL 2019/16-MAS) requesting comments at Step 3 on the revision of the *Recommended Methods of Analysis and Sampling*: preamble and structure. . The CL is available in English at the following link: 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@osec.usda.gov) by April 26, 2019. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP using to hu-codexcp@nebih.gov.hu with a copy to codex@fao.org by April 30, 2019.

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

Follow-up Formula: The Codex Secretariat issued a Circular Letter (CL 2018/94/OCS-FH) requesting comments on the alignment at Step 5 on the Review of the *Standard for Follow-up Formula*: proposed draft scope, description, and labelling for follow-up formula for older

infants. The CL is available in English, Spanish, and French at the following link: 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@osec.usda.gov) by May 27, 2019. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted through their CCP using the Online Commenting System (ocs.codexalimentarius.org) by May 31, 2019.

Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH)

Saffron: The Codex Secretariat issued a Circular Letter (CL 2019/27/OCS-SCH) requesting comments at Step 5 on proposed draft *Standard for Saffron*. The CL is available in English at the following link: 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 (marie.maratos@osec.usda.gov) by May 27, 2019. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (ocs.codexalimentarius.org) by May 31, 2019.

Dried Floral Parts—Dried Cloves: The Codex Secretariat issued a Circular Letter (CL 2019/26/OCS-SCH) requesting comments at Step 5 on proposed draft *Standard for Dried Floral Parts—Dried Cloves*. The CL is available in English at the following link: 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 (marie.maratos@osec.usda.gov) by May 27, 2019. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (ocs.codexalimentarius.org) by May 31, 2019.

Dried Leaves—Dried Basil: The Codex Secretariat issued a Circular Letter (CL 2019/25/OCS-SCH) requesting comments at Step 5 on proposed draft *Standard for Dried Leaves—Dried Basil*. The CL is available in English at the following link: 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 (marie.maratos@osec.usda.gov) by May 27, 2019. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (ocs.codexalimentarius.org) by May 31, 2019.

Dried Roots, Rhizomes, and Bulbs—Dried or Dehydrated Ginger: The Codex Secretariat issued a Circular Letter (CL 2019/24/OCS-SCH) requesting comments at Step 5 on proposed draft *Standard for Dried Roots, Rhizomes, and Bulbs—Dried or Dehydrated Ginger*. The CL is available in English at the following link: 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 (marie.maratos@osec.usda.gov) by May 27, 2019. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (ocs.codexalimentarius.org) by May 31, 2019.

Dried Oregano: The Codex Secretariat issued a Circular Letter (CL 2019/23/OCS-SCH) requesting comments at Step 5 on proposed draft *Standard for Dried Oregano*. The CL is available in English at the following link: 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 (marie.maratos@osec.usda.gov) by May 27, 2019. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (ocs.codexalimentarius.org) by May 31, 2019.

Dried or Dehydrated Garlic: The Codex Secretariat issued a Circular Letter (CL 2019/22/OCS-SCH) requesting comments at Step 5/8 on proposed draft *Standard for Dried or Dehydrated Garlic*. The CL is available in English at the following link: 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 (marie.maratos@osec.usda.gov) by May 27, 2019. Comments by other observers and countries should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (ocs.codexalimentarius.org) by May 31, 2019.

Calls for Data

Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA): The 88th Meeting of the JECFA on Veterinary Drugs invites Codex members and observers to submit data for the meeting that will be held in Rome, Italy, October 22-31, 2019. The call for data is posted on the FAO website at: www.fao.org/food/food-safety-quality/scientific-advice/calls-data-experts/en and the WHO website at: www.who.int/foodsafety/call-data/en. The deadline for data submission is April 15, 2019.