



IFT CODEX ALIMENTARIUS NEWSLETTER – Summer 2022

CODEX Highlights:

- CODEX Activities Status Update
- Summary report links on CODEX Committee activities on Contaminants in Food (CCCF) and Pesticide Residues (CCPR) and IFT comments submitted on the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Diets (CCNFSDU).
- Upcoming CODEX activities of interest
- CODEX information web links

As a global organization committed to advancing the science of food and its application across the global food system, the Institute of Food Technologists (IFT) proactively serves as an objective voice in public dialogue on food and nutrition-related issues to advocate for science-based outcomes. IFT's engagement with CODEX Alimentarius in 2022 has increased to include member involvement in over 20 Codex Working Groups, enabling a stronger voice in the global discussion within CODEX on global food standards, codes of practice, guidelines and other consumer health and international food trade issues.

IFT is committed to communicating to our members information about how the activities of CODEX Alimentarius may impact the global food industry and provide opportunities for interested and experienced IFT members to engage in CODEX.

CODEX Activities Status Update

The **CODEX Committee on Contaminants in Food (CCCF)** was held virtually in May, 2022, hosted by Netherlands. CCCF is responsible for setting limits on toxic element contaminant levels in food products traded globally under Codex. IFT submitted comments to the proposed standards on the subject of cadmium in cocoa powder and aflatoxins in cereals and cereal based products. These comments can be found at the link [here](#) and [here](#). IFT monitored progress on additional agenda items, including lead content in various foods (eggs, cereals, herbs & spices, sugars), aflatoxins in ready-to-eat (RTE) peanuts, aflatoxins and ochratoxin A in herbs and spices, codes of practice for mycotoxins in cassava, methods of analysis for contaminants and priority lists for future risk assessments. IFT did not see a need to comment on the scientific basis used on these CCCF agenda topics.

Regarding the maximum level (ML) for cadmium in cocoa powder (100% total cocoa solids on dry matter basis), CCCF aligned to a final level of 2 mg/kg for the ML after debating ranges as high as 3 mg/kg or as low as 0.6 mg/kg. The US Codex Office favored 1.5 mg/kg. IFT clarified during the meeting that chocolate categories include fat (cocoa butter) and non-fat solids, whereas cocoa powder is primarily non-fat solids and where cadmium is found and that therefore comparison of cocoa powder with chocolate is not appropriate and that achievability of a standard should be based on the non-fat cocoa solids.

On maximum levels of aflatoxins in cereals and cereal-based products, CCCF aligned to the following:

Maize grain for further processing 15 µg/kg; maize flour and semolina derived from maize for human consumption of 10 µg/kg; husked rice 20 µg/kg; polished rice 5 µg/kg; sorghum grain for further processing at 10 µg/kg; cereal-based foods for infants and young children of 5 µg/kg with an exception of 10 µg/kg for food aid.

The CCCF debate on aflatoxins in RTE-peanuts did not reach consensus on a proposed ML of 10 µg/kg and re-established an electronic working group (EWG) for further review.

A complete IFT summary of the CCCF proceedings is available for review at a link [here](#). The full Codex report on the 2022 CCCF meeting is available [here](#).

The Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR) was held virtually in July, 2022, hosted by China. CCPR is responsible for establishing global standards for pesticide residues in agriculture and food products. IFT submitted comments for the meeting on the topic of Management of Unsupported Compounds without Public Health Concern Scheduled for Periodic Review (item 11 on the CCPR meeting agenda). A link to the IFT comments is available [here](#). IFT reviewed the proposals across the other agenda topics that included Revisions to Classifications of Food and Feed Pesticide Residue Maximum Residue Limits (MRL's), Coordination of work between CCPR and the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Food (CCRVDF), Engagement of the UN expert body, the Joint WHO/FAO Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPR) in Parallel Reviews of New Compounds, Establishment of Schedules and Priority Lists for Pesticide Evaluations by JMPR, Monitoring of Purity and Stability of Certified Pesticide Reference Materials, and Mitigation of Trade Impacts Associated with the Use of Environmental Inhibitors in Agriculture related to climate change and greenhouse gases.

Some key decisions made during the meeting included:

- Amendments to the CCPR Classification of Food and Feed for dried citrus fruit pulps and oils and soya flour.
- Development of a table of representative commodities and processed foods of animal origin
- A harmonized definition of edible animal offal
- Continuation of an Electronic Working Group (EWG) on resolving differences regarding the need to provide data for previously approved compounds without public health concern and their being scheduled for periodic review
- Established an EWG to amend the CCPR national registration of PR compounds
- Determined that environmental inhibitors used in agriculture for reduction of greenhouse gas production or leaching of nitrate into waters would be addressed on a case-by-case basis using established Risk Analysis principles used by CCPR and CCRVDF. The definition of environmental inhibitors and how to manage them appears to cut across a number of Codex Committees and CCPR will be informing the Codex Executive Committee (CCEXEC) about concerns related to how to address them.

A summary report on CCPR 53 by the IFT team is available to review [here](#). The full-length Codex CCPR report can be found at the link [here](#).

The Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU) issued a Circular Letter (CL2022/57/OCS-NFSDU) on the topic of Draft Guidelines for Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Foods (RUTF). The IFT CCNFSDU Team decided to comment on the Circular Letter (CL) in order to contribute to better enabling decision making for the CCNFSDU meeting in 2023. The IFT CCNFSDU comments and the requested input are available to review [here](#). The text of the CCNFSDU circular letter document can be found at the link [here](#).

Codex Regional Committee for Africa

An IFT Codex team member also participated for the first time on an FAO-Codex Regional Team for Africa (CCAFRICA). A link to the results of the CCAFRICA meeting can be found [here](#).

IFT is planning to initiate a Codex team in 2023 to observe the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS). If you have an interest in joining this team, or otherwise are interested in helping represent IFT on one of the other CODEX Committees in 2023 or have other considerations related to CODEX you would like to share, please contact Steve Havlik at SHavlik@ift.org.

Upcoming CODEX Activities of Interest - (All being held virtually)

| CODEX Committee | Meeting Dates | Some Key Topics Being Discussed |
|--|--|--|
| Codex Executive Committee (CCEXEC 83) | November 14-18, 2022 (Rome, Italy) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report on the application of the Statements of Principle concerning the role of Science in Codex • Report on new food sources and production systems in Codex • Sub-committee on the Future of Codex – Interim report |
| Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC 45) | November 21-25, 2022 (Rome, Italy) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCEXEC Chair Report • Committee Reports from CCFH, CCCF, CCPR, CCRVDF (potential vote on the veterinary drug zilpaterol) • Codex 2020-2025 Strategic Plan Implementation Report • Participation of the European Union as adviser to the Member for Europe in the Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission |
| Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH) | November 29 – December 2, (San Diego, USA) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed draft Guidelines for the control of Shiga toxin-producing Escherichia coli (STEC) in raw beef, fresh leafy vegetables, raw milk and raw milk cheeses, and sprouts • Proposed draft Guidelines for the safe use and re-use of water in food production • Discussion paper on revision of the Guidelines on the Application of General Principles of Food Hygiene to the Control of Pathogenic Vibrio Species in Seafood • Discussion paper on revision of the Guidelines on the Application of General Principles of Food Hygiene to the Control of Viruses in Food |

CODEX Information Web Links

General information about CODEX can be found at: [Home | CODEXALIMENTARIUS FAO-WHO](#)

CODEX Global Standards are available at: [Standards | CODEXALIMENTARIUS FAO-WHO](#)

CODEX Global Codes of Practice are available at: [Codes of Practice | CODEXALIMENTARIUS FAO-WHO](#)

CODEX Global Guidelines are available at: [Guidelines | CODEXALIMENTARIUS FAO-WHO](#)

CODEX On-line Databases are available at: [Codex online databases | CODEXALIMENTARIUS FAO-WHO](#)

CODEX List of Specifications for Food Additives is available at: www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/sh-proxy/en/?Ink=1&url=https%253A%252F%252Fworkspace.fao.org%252Fsites%252Fcodex%252FStandards%252FCXA%2B6-2019%252FCXM_006efs.pdf

IFT CODEX Resources

[International Resources - IFT.org](#)