

# CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



World Health  
Organization

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CL 2023/76/OCS-CAC

August 2023

**TO:** Codex Contact Points  
Contact Points of international organizations having observer status with Codex

**FROM:** Secretariat, Codex Alimentarius Commission,  
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme

**SUBJECT:** Request for comments on maximum levels for contaminants in foods at Steps 8 and 5/8

**DEADLINE:** 15 October 2023

## BACKGROUND

1. See REP23/CF16<sup>1</sup>, paragraphs 28(i-ii), 69(i) and Appendices II and V.

## REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

2. Codex members and observers are invited to submit comments on MLs for contaminants in foods as follows:
  1. Lead in soft brown, raw, and non-centrifugal sugars, and in ready-to-eat meals for infants and young children
  2. Ochratoxin A in chili pepper, paprika and nutmeg
  3. Total aflatoxins in chili pepper and nutmeg
3. All the above-mentioned are uploaded to the Codex Online Commenting System (OCS): <https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org/>, as per the guidance below.
4. Comments should address **whether the MLs are ready for adoption or not**. If not, provide the rationale and proposals to facilitate adoption.
5. Comments should be provided in conformity with the *Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Standards and Related Texts* (Part 3 – *Uniform Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Standards and Related Texts*, Procedural Manual of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.
6. Codex members and observers are encouraged to submit comments in reply to this CL<sup>2</sup> in order to facilitate decision-making at the 46<sup>th</sup> Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

## GUIDANCE ON THE PROVISION OF COMMENTS

7. Comments should be submitted through the Codex Contact Points of Codex members and observers using the OCS.
8. Contact Points of Codex members and observers may login to the OCS and access the document open for comments by selecting “Enter” in the “My reviews” page, available after login to the system.
9. Contact Points of Codex members and observer organizations are requested to provide general comments at the document level. Additional guidance on the OCS comment categories and types can be found in the OCS Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)<sup>3</sup>.
10. Other OCS resources, including the user manual and short guide, can also be found on the Codex website<sup>4</sup>.
11. For questions on the OCS, please contact [Codex-OCS@fao.org](mailto:Codex-OCS@fao.org).

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/committees/committee/related-meetings/en/?committee=CCCF>  
<https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CCCF&session=16>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters/en/>

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/codexalimentarius/doc/OCS/Codex\\_OCS\\_FAQs\\_2017-11-06.pdf](http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/codexalimentarius/doc/OCS/Codex_OCS_FAQs_2017-11-06.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/ocs/en/>