

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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CL 2023/95-CF
December 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 the Priority list of contaminants for evaluation or re-evaluation by JECFA

DEADLINE: 10 March 2024

BACKGROUND

1. For background information, please refer to the discussion held, and decisions made on the priority list at the 16th Session of the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (2023)¹ available in the report of CCCF16 on the Codex webpage².

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

2. Codex members and observers are invited to provide comments on the priority list of contaminants for evaluation or re-evaluation by the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA) by completing the template attached to the Annex of this circular letter³. In particular, information on availability of relevant data/information necessary for JECFA for perform the requested evaluation/re-evaluation is highly desirable.
3. This CL should be considered together with CL 2023/83-CF on the review of Codex standards and related texts for contaminants, with regard to proposals for the revision of maximum levels (MLs) that may need re-evaluation by JECFA. Coordinated comments on the two CLs will assist CCCF17 (2024) to better assess its future work vis-à-vis ongoing work, follow-up to the outcomes of JECFA evaluations and ad hoc expert consultations and consequently to address new work more strategically on Codex standards and related texts for contaminants in food and feed.
4. Comments submitted in reply to this CL will be considered by the Working Group on Priorities which will meet prior to CCCF17 to prepare recommendations for the revision of the priority list for consideration by the plenary session.

GUIDANCE ON THE PROVISION OF COMMENTS

5. Comments should be submitted through the Codex Contact Points of Codex members and observers using the OCS.
6. Contact Points of Codex members and observers may log into the OCS and access the document open for comments by selecting "Enter" in the "My reviews" page, available after login to the system.
7. Other OCS resources, including [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#) as well as the user manual and short guide, can be found at the following link: <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters/en/>.
8. For questions on the OCS, please contact Codex-OCS@fao.org.

¹ REP23/CF16, paras. 114-133 & Appendix VII

² <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CCCF&session=16>

³ Codex webpage/Circular Letters:

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

Codex webpage/CCCF/Circular Letters:

<http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/committees/committee/related-circular-letters/en/?committee=CCCF>

ANNEX**NOMINATION OF CONTAMINANTS FOR EVALUATION OR RE-EVALUATION BY JECFA****1. Required information**

- 1.1 Proposal for inclusion submitted by:
- 1.2 Name of compound; chemical name(s):
- 1.3 Identification of (additional) data (toxicology, metabolism, occurrence, food consumption) which could be provided to JECFA:
- 1.4 List of countries where surveillance data are likely to be available, and if possible, name of contact person who could provide such data, including quality assurance information on the data:
- 1.5 Timeline for data availability:

2. Optional detailed information

- 2.1 Whether or not the occurrence of the compound in commodities will have potential to cause public health and/or trade problems;
- 2.2 Whether or not commodities containing the compound are in international trade and represent a significant portion of the diet; and
- 2.3 Commitment that a dossier (as complete as possible) will be available for evaluation by the JECFA.

2.4 Relevant justification and information on the following prioritization criteria⁴:

- 2.4.1 Consumer protection from the point of view of health, food safety, ensuring fair practices in the food trade;
 - 2.4.2 The needs and concerns of developing countries;
 - 2.4.3 The diversity of national legislations and any apparent impediments to international trade;
 - 2.4.4 Work already undertaken by other international organisations;
 - 2.4.5 The prospect of completing the work in a reasonable period of time;
 - 2.4.6 The impact on international trade (i.e. magnitude of the problem in international trade);
 - 2.4.7 Compliance with the Codex Alimentarius Commission's Strategic Plan¹ and its relevant plans of work;
 - 2.4.8 The quality, quantity, adequacy, and availability of data pertinent to performing a risk assessment, including data from developing countries;
 - 2.4.9 Compliance with CCCF's Terms of Reference¹;
 - 2.4.10 Compliance with JECFA's Terms of Reference²; and
- 2.5 Additional data/information to complement what is provided in this template: Note that this point does not replace the submission of the template through the OCS. This point is complementary to the data/information provided in points 1 – 2.4.

- 2.5.1 Provide relevant links through the OCS (most preferable option):

and/or

- 2.5.2 If the information is only available as single files, please send the files separately to the Chair of the Working Group on Priorities, United States of America (lauren.robin@fda.hhs.gov) with a copy to the US Codex Office (uscodex@usda.gov) and the Codex Secretariat (codex@fao.org), as the files cannot be submitted through the OCS (less preferable option).

¹ Section 3, paragraph 10 of the *Risk Analysis Principles Applied by the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods*. The Risk Analysis Principles, the *Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities*, and the Terms of Reference of CCCF are available in the Procedural Manual of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. The latest editions of the Procedural Manual and the Codex Strategic Plan are available online at: <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/publications/en/>

² Information on JECFA is available from the FAO and WHO websites as follows:
FAO: <https://www.fao.org/food/food-safety-quality/scientific-advice/en/>
WHO: <https://www.who.int/teams/nutrition-and-food-safety>