



**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  
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla  
00153 Rome, Italy

**SUBJECT:** Request for Comments: Expanded Mandates for Electronic Working Groups established by CCFA51

**DEADLINE:** 15 July 2020

**COMMENTS:** **To:** Secretariat  
Codex Alimentarius Commission  
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme  
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla  
00153 Rome, Italy  
E-mail: [codex@fao.org](mailto:codex@fao.org)

**Copies to:** Secretariat  
Codex Committee on Food Additives  
China National Center for Food Safety Risk Assessment (CFSA),  
Building 2, No. 37 Guangqu Road,  
Chaoyang District, Beijing 100022,  
China, E-mail: [ccfa@cfsa.net.cn](mailto:ccfa@cfsa.net.cn)

## BACKGROUND

1. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the rescheduling of sessions of Codex Committees from 2020 to 2021, all the Codex committees are encouraged to explore different ways of maintaining the momentum of the Codex standard setting work and to minimize the impact of the pandemic on Codex work.
2. CCFA52 has been rescheduled to take place from 8 to 12 March 2021.
3. In order to consider how to make the most effective use of the time prior to the next physical session, an informal virtual meeting was convened on 20 May 2020. It was chaired by the CCFA Chairperson and with the participation of the EWG/PWG chairs on alignment, GSFA, INS and priority list respectively, the host Secretariat and the Codex Secretariat. It was suggested that:
  - (i) the EWGs continue their work as necessary under the terms of reference established by CCFA51; and
  - (ii) Three new Circular Letters be distributed for collection of additional proposals:
    - a. proposals for new and/or revision of food additive provisions of the GSFA;
    - b. proposals for change and/or addition to Section 3 of the *Class Names and International Numbering System for Food Additives* (CXG 36-1989); and
    - c. information and comments on the priority list of substances proposed for evaluation by JECFA.
4. With reference to the discussion on "One CCFA approach" and decisions on the working management of CCFA<sup>1</sup>, additional terms of reference to the following EWGs established by CCFA51 were proposed:
  - (i) EWG on alignment chaired by Australia and co-chaired by the United States of America and Japan, and working in English only, to additionally consider:

<sup>1</sup> REP18/FA, para 171

- a. the alignment of the following commodity Standards as listed in the forward workplan: with the assistance of IDF, to complete the milk and milk product commodity standards, being: CXS 207-1999, CXS 243-2003, CXS 253-2006, CXS 262-2006, CXS 281-1971, CXS 282-1971, CXS 288-1976, CXS 290-1995 and CXS 331-2017; and
  - b. the matter referred by CCEURO relating to alignment.
- (ii) EWG on INS chaired by Belgium and co-chaired by Iran, and working in English only, to additionally consider:
- a. CX/FA 20/52/11 Add.1 (replies to CL 2019/117-FA); and
  - b. replies to a new CL “requests for addition and changes to the INS”; and preparing a proposal for circulation for comments at Step 3.
- (iii) EWG on GSFA chaired by the United States of America, and working in English only, to additionally consider:
- a. Continuation of work on sweeteners: Circulate for comment all remaining provisions for sweeteners in the step process and adopted provisions without alternative notes to Note 161 in food categories not currently under consideration by the Note 161 EWG; and
  - b. Continuation of work on colours: Circulate for comment provisions for colours in Food Categories 01.0 – 03.0 and subcategories, including all provisions currently in the step process and those adopted with Note 161. Provisions on colours and sweeteners (without note 161) in the step process and adopted provisions with Note 161.

5. For all the EWGs continuing their work, invitations to participate in the relevant EWGs will be sent out and all Codex Members and Observers can register if they have not already done so.

#### **REQUEST FOR COMMENTS**

6. Codex members and observers are invited to note the recommendations on the expanded mandates for EWGs as elaborated in para 4 and provide comments if they have any objections with respect to these recommendations.

7. The decisions will be made using a non-objection process i.e. if no objections from members are received, the EWGs with expanded mandates will proceed with their work accordingly.