

# CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



World Health  
Organization

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CL 2024/28-CF  
February 2024

**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 recommendations for the establishment of maximum levels for cadmium and lead in quinoa

**DEADLINE:** 25 March 2024

## BACKGROUND

1. For background information, please refer to document CX/CF 24/17/13<sup>1</sup>.

## REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

2. Codex members and observers are invited to submit comments on the recommendations as described in paragraph 29 of CX/CF 24/17/13 which are described below for convenience:
  - 2.1 to consider whether there is enough evidence indicating there is no need to establish MLs for lead and cadmium in quinoa; or
  - 2.2 to consider whether there is enough evidence to establish MLs for lead and cadmium in quinoa, and if so, to either:
    - 2.2.1 extend the MLs for cadmium and lead in cereal grains to quinoa; or
    - 2.2.2 establish separate MLs for cadmium and lead in quinoa, and if in the affirmative, which MLs proposed by the JECFA Secretariat would be most appropriate as follows:
      1. Proposed MLs for cadmium: 0.1 or 0.2 mg/kg with rejection rates of approximately 5% and 0.2% respectively.
      2. Proposed MLs for lead: 0.1 or 0.2 mg/kg with rejection rates of approximately 4% and 0.4% respectively.
      3. Other alternative MLs that protect consumer's health and ensure fair practices in international trade based on the data/information presented in CX/CF 24/17/13 or additional data/information (in this case please provide reference to such data/information) or
  - 2.3 to consider whether further investigation of the evidence for (2.2.1) the extension of the current MLs for cadmium and lead in cereal grains to include quinoa or (2.2.2) the establishment of separate MLs for cadmium and lead in quinoa is required or
  - 2.4 to propose any other approach not considered under points 2.1 – 2.3 if available.
3. Codex members and observers are encouraged to submit comments in reply to this CL<sup>2</sup> in order to aid discussion and decision making at CCCF17.

## GUIDANCE ON THE PROVISION OF COMMENTS

4. Comments should be submitted through the Codex Contact Points of Codex members and observers using the OCS.
5. 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.
6. Contact Points of Codex members and observers' organizations are requested to provide proposed changes and relevant comments/justifications on a specific paragraph (under the categories: editorial, substantive, technical and translation) and/or at the document level (general comments or summary comments). Additional guidance on the OCS comment categories and types can be found in the OCS Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)<sup>3</sup>.
7. Other OCS resources, including the user manual and short guide, can also be found on the Codex website<sup>4</sup>.
8. 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/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CCCF&session=17>

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

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

<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/>