

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

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Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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CL 2021/82-FA
November 2021

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 general information on the availability of data related to nitrates and nitrites

DEADLINE: 15 September 2022

COMMENTS: **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

Copies to: Secretariat
Codex Alimentarius Commission
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards
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BACKGROUND

1. CCFA51¹ considered the discussion paper on the use of nitrates (INS 251, 252) and nitrites (INS 249, 250) prepared by the electronic working group (EWG).
2. CCFA51 recognized that the previous call for data of the EWG had a rather narrow scope; and that limited data was made available; and that there was a need to provide a more comprehensive picture to inform CCFA to take a decision.
3. CCFA51 agreed to issue a Circular Letter (CL) to collect general information on the availability of: (i) occurrence data and / or dietary exposure to nitrates and nitrites; and (ii) surveys of natural occurrence and/or contamination levels of nitrates and nitrites in food and levels of nitrates and nitrites occurring from use as additives.
4. Based on the request of CCFA51, CL 2019/49-FA was distributed to collect the aforementioned information. CCFA52² considered the comments in response to CL 2019/49-FA (i.e. CX/FA 21/52/10) and agreed to request the Codex Secretariat to distribute a CL (same as CL 2019/49-FA) to further collect general information on data related to nitrates and nitrites.

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

5. Codex Members and Observers are invited to provide general information as described in para. 3. However, please note that Members and Observers should take care when submitting such information for this purpose to ensure that it is presented in the form of a general descriptive summary and not an extensive repository of data.
6. Based on the information provided in response to this CL, CCFA53 will consider whether the advice from JECFA could be sought. (see REP21/FA, para.179)

¹ REP19/FA paras. 99-104

² REP21/FA para. 108