

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, Italy - Tel: (+39) 06 57051 - E-mail: codex@fao.org - www.codexalimentarius.org

CL 2021/89-CF
December 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

SUBJECT: Request for comments on the follow-up to the outcomes of JECFA evaluations and
FAO/WHO expert meetings

DEADLINE: 25 March 2022

BACKGROUND

1. For background information, please refer to the discussion held and decisions made at the 14th Session of the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (2021)¹ on the follow-up to the outcomes of JECFA evaluations and FAO/WHO expert meetings. Further information on the JECFA evaluations and FAO/WHO expert meetings that could inform comments in reply to this Circular Letter² can be found in working documents CX/CF 21/14/18 (paragraphs 9-20) and CX/CF 21/14/3 available on the CCCF14 webpage³.
2. Please check the FAO⁴ and WHO⁵ JECFA websites for availability of JECFA reports which may not have been available at the time of the distribution of this CL, e.g. ergot alkaloids (JECFA91, 2021).

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

3. Codex members and observers are invited to provide comments on possible follow-up actions to the outcomes of the JECFA evaluations and FAO/WHO expert consultations in particular those for which the full report is already available, such as ciguatera poisoning and tropane alkaloids. The list of JECFA and/or FAO/WHO expert meetings is provided in the Annex to this CL in order for Codex members and observers to prioritize work on these items.
4. When prioritizing work on these items, Codex members and observers are invited to consider the following CLs:
 - CL 2021/87-CF on the approach/methodology for the review of contaminant/staple food combinations for future work of CCCF (Forward work-plan for CCCF),
 - CL 2021/88-CF on the prioritization of contaminants for evaluation and/or re-evaluation by JECFA, and
 - CL 2021/90-CF on the on the review Codex standards for contaminants in food and feed.

Comments on the outcomes of JECFA evaluations and FAO/WHO expert meetings, that also consider the above CLs, will assist CCCF in better assessing its future work vis-à-vis ongoing work and to more strategically address on new work on Codex standards and related texts for contaminants in food and feed.

¹ REP21/CF, paras. 232-233 & 235

² Codex website/Circular Letters:

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

Codex website/CCCF/Circular Letters:

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

³ <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CCCF&session=14>

⁴ <http://www.fao.org/food-safety/resources/publications/en/>

⁵ <http://www.who.int/foodsafety/publications/jecfa/en/>

5. In addition, Codex members are invited to consider criteria provided in the *Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities* as well as the relevant sections of the *Risk Analysis Principles applied by CCCF* available in the Procedural Manual⁶, the relevant sections of the Preamble of the *General Standard for Contaminants in Food and Feed* (CXS 193-1995)⁷ and the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025⁶ when prioritizing items for future work of CCCF following the outcomes of the JECFA evaluations and FAO/WHO expert meetings as presented in the Annex.
6. Comments submitted will be considered by the Working Group on the Follow-up to JECFA evaluations that will meet prior to CCCF15 (2022) to prepare recommendations for consideration by CCCF15.

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. Other OCS resources, including [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#), the user manual and short guide, can be found at the following link: <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters/en/>.
10. For questions on the OCS, please contact Codex-OCS@fao.org.

⁶ The Risk Analysis Principles and the *Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities* are available in the Procedural Manual of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. The latest edition of the Procedural Manual and the Codex Strategic Plan are available online at the following address: <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/publications/en/>

⁷ Codex standards, including the GSCFF, are available on the Codex website/Codex texts: <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/home/en/> or the Codex website/related standards for contaminants: <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/committees/committee/related-standards/en/?committee=CCCF>

ANNEX
**LIST OF JECFA EVALUATIONS
AND
FAO/WHO EXPERT MEETINGS**

FOR INFORMATION

1. FAO/WHO EXPERT MEETINGS

- 1.1 Marine biotoxins – Ciguatoxins
(Ad Hoc FAO/WHO Expert Meeting on Ciguatera Fish Poisoning¹, 2018):
- 1.2 Tropane alkaloids
(Ad Hoc FAO/WHO Expert Meeting on (–)-hyoscyamine, (+)-hyoscyamine and (–)-scopolamine², 2020):

2. JECFA EVALUATIONS

- 2.1 Ergot alkaloids (JECFA91, 2021):
- 2.2 Pyrrolizidine alkaloids (JECFA80, 2015)
Note that the outcome of the JECFA80 evaluation on pyrrolizidine alkaloids (PAs) is being assessed by an Electronic Working Group established by CCCF14 and led by the European Union to look into the feasibility of possible follow-up actions for consideration by CCCF15 which could include the opportunity to revise the *Code of Practice for Weed Control to Prevent and Reduce Pyrrolizidine Alkaloid Contamination in Food and Feed* (CXC 74-2014) or to consider the feasibility of other risk management measures such as the establishment of maximum levels. Therefore PAs are being listed here for completeness only.

FOR ACTION

3. PRIORITIZATION LIST AND ACCOMPANYING RATIONALE:

- 3.1 Please prioritize the items included in points 1-2 of the Annex to CL 2021/89-CF for future work of CCCF and include the rationale for such prioritization based on the criteria provided in paragraphs 4-5 of CL 2021/89-CF.
- 3.2 Please indicate whether your country is willing to lead or co-lead some of the items identified as priority (if appropriate).

¹ <http://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/ca8817en/>

² <http://www.fao.org/3/cb1857en/CB1857EN.pdf>