

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD ADDITIVES (CCFA)

Invitation to participate in the electronic Working Group (EWG) on the International Numbering System (INS)

Dear Colleagues:

The 49th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA) held in Macao SAR, China, 20 - 24 March 2017 agreed to establish an electronic Working Group , chaired by Iran and co-chaired by Belgium, open to all members and observers and working in English only, to consider(REP17/FA para. 117):

- a) Replies to the Circular Letter on addition and changes to INS;
- b) Addition of sequestrant function to malic acid DL- (INS 296) (REP17/FA para. 14(iv));
- c) The issue of naming of steviol glycosides and INS number (REP17/FA para. 25).

It was noted that the report of the EWG should be made available to the Codex Secretariat at least three months before CCFA50 and that the EWG would not consider replies to the CL provided after the deadline. (REP17/FA para. 118). CL 2017/46-FA contains a deadline of 15 September 2017.

Iran, as chair and Belgium as co- chair of the EWG, invites members and observers interested in participating in the EWG to provide their contact information, including name(s), e-mail address, to the coordinator, Banafsheh Nasiri (email: bn31518@yahoo.com) and Dr. Christine Vinkx (email: Christine.vinkx@health.belgium.be) by **30 June 2017**.

Once the contact list has been established, a further e-mail will be circulated containing details of the issues to be dealt with.

As part of a pilot programme, the EWG will be run using an online platform. With this system we hope to achieve a better flow of information, greater security and increased transparency. The bulletin board will require you to login. You will be provided with the link once participant credentials have been verified.

The proposed Working Schedule for the EWG is as follows:

Date	Activities
28 July 2017	Circulation of first draft for EWG member comments (points b and c of the terms of reference)
18 August 2017	Deadline for submission of comments
29 September 2017	Circulation of second draft for EWG member comments (including point a of the terms of reference)
30 October 2017	Deadline for submission of comments
30 November 2017	Submission of the final EWG report to the Codex Secretariat

Based on the comments received from members of the EWG, Iran and Belgium will then prepare the final document(s) to be circulated by the Codex Secretariat as basis for discussions at the 50th Session of the CCFA to be held in 26-30 March 2018 in China.

We look forward to very productive cooperation and your kind comments.

With Friendly Regards,

Banafsheh Nasiri

Dr. Christine Vinkx