



IFT CODEX ALIMENTARIUS NEWSLETTER – April 2022

CODEX Highlights:

- CODEX Activities Status Update
 - Summary report links on CODEX Committee activities on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU), the CODEX Alimentarius Commission (CAC) Annual Meeting and Food Hygiene (CCFH)
 - Upcoming CODEX activities of interest
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As a global organization committed to advancing the science of food and its application across the global food system, the Institute of Food Technologists (IFT) proactively serves as an objective voice in public dialogue on food and nutrition-related issues to advocate for science-based outcomes. IFT's engagement with CODEX Alimentarius in 2021 expanded in order to be an even more proactive voice in the global discussion within CODEX on global food standards, codes of practice, guidelines and other consumer health and international food trade issues.

IFT is committed to communicating to our members information about how the activities of CODEX Alimentarius may impact the global food industry. As a CODEX Observer organization, IFT participated on the CODEX Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU) as well as the CODEX Alimentarius Commission (CAC) annual meeting that were both held during November/December 2021. IFT also participated on the CODEX Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH) in February/March 2022.

CODEX Activities Status Update

The **CODEX Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU 42)**, led by Germany was held virtually November 19-25 and December 1, 2021. The session was attended by 99 Member countries and 35 Observer organizations. Key topics covered included:

- Discussion on the ***Proposed Draft Revised Standard for Follow-up Formula for Older Infants and Drink/Product for Young Children with Added Nutrients or Drink for Young Children.***
- Discussion on the ***Draft Scope, Description and Labelling for Drink/Product for Young Children with Added Nutrients or Drink for Young Children.***
- Discussion on the ***Draft Scope, Description and Labelling for Follow-up Formula for Older Infants***
- Review and discussion on the ***Essential Composition Requirements for Follow-up Formula for Older Infants and Drink/Product for Young Children with Added Nutrients or Drink for Young Children.***
- Draft Guideline for **Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Foods**

IFT contributed a Conference Room Document (CRD) to CCNFSDU in advance of the meeting regarding Codex language on the use of sweetness as standard. The CRD document from IFT can be found [here](#).

IFT also conducted an intervention during the CCNFSDU session regarding a European Union proposal to eliminate the use of flavorings in drinks for infants and young children as the proposal lacked scientific basis. The text of the intervention is [here](#). The outcome of the Codex discussion was that the use of specific flavorings was not allowed for infants 0-12 months, but for children 12-36 months, it was allowed for four flavorings (Natural Fruit Extracts, Vanilla Extract, Ethyl Vanillin, Vanillin).

- More details summarizing the meeting can be found by clicking [here](#).

The **CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION meeting (CAC 44)** was held virtually in November and early December 2021 in multiple sessions hosted by the FAO Codex Secretariat. Participation included 159 member states and 49 Observer organizations, including IFT. Key CAC 44 activities that were completed included:

- Reports from the various Codex committees and task forces were reviewed.
- Amendments to the Codex Procedural Manual were made, final adoption of over 900 new and revised Codex standards (including numerical standards), guidelines and codes of practice was completed.
- Five Codex texts adopted at Step 5 of the 8 Step Codex process
- Seven new work items and 3 priority lists for evaluation were approved
- The Codex Ad hoc Intergovernmental Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance (TFAMR) was dissolved after completing its work
- Elections were held for Codex key positions. Mr. Steve Wearne (United Kingdom) was elected as Chairperson, and as Vice-Chairpersons, Mr. Diego Varela (Chile), Mr. Allan Azegele (Kenya), and Mr. Raj Rajasekar (New Zealand). Elected as Members of the Executive Committee Elected on a geographic basis (CCEXEC): Africa: United Republic of Tanzania (re-elected); Asia: Japan (re-elected); Europe: Germany (re-elected); Latin America and the Caribbean: Uruguay (re-elected); Near East: Iran; North America: Canada; South-West Pacific: Vanuatu.
- The commission adopted measures to address the ongoing challenges caused by the pandemic to ensure that work could continue virtually in Codex committees in 2022 if physical meetings are not possible.
- The commission agreed to a process to review and consider how standards related to new food sources and production systems could be addressed within Codex.
- CAC 44 addressed an issue brought forward by the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Food (CCRVD) and addressed by the Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission regarding development of a draft Maximum Residue Limit (MRL) for the drug zilpaterol hydrochloride used with cattle. CCRVD was unable to achieve consensus on advancing the MRL to step 5 or retain it at step 4, despite there being no public health concerns regarding the proposed MRL as supported by the Joint Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA) assessment. Due to the virtual nature of the CAC 44 meeting, it was determined that a vote by the CAC 44 members was not an option. Therefore, the Codex Chair proposed that the next CCEXEC meeting (CCEXEC 82) address both the zilpaterol MRL along with the topic on the discussion on the Statement of Principle concerning the Role of Science in Codex decision making.
 - The full CAC 44 report can be obtained at this Codex Link: [Microsoft Word - REP21_CACe \(fao.org\)](#)

The **CODEX Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH)** led by the United States was held virtually February 28 – March 2022 and was attended by 95 countries and 47 observers. Key topics addressed during the session included:

- Discussion on a risk assessment on *Listeria monocytogenes* in food from farm to table to inform potential future revisions to the Codex Guidelines on the Application of General Principles of Food Hygiene to the Control of *Listeria monocytogenes* in Foods (CXG 61 – 2007)
- Review of Draft Guidance for the Management of Biological Foodborne Outbreaks
- Review of the Proposed Draft Decision Tree as part of the revision of the General Principles of Food Hygiene (CXC 1-1969)

- Review of the Proposed Draft Guidelines for the Control of Shiga Toxin-Producing *Escherichia coli* (STEC) in Raw Beef, Fresh Leafy Vegetables, Raw Milk and Raw Milk Cheeses, and Sprouts
- Review of the Proposed Draft Guidelines for the safe use and re-use of water in food production
 - Key conclusions made by CCFH 52 were:
- Agreement to complete the *Listeria monocytogenes* risk assessment
- After some editing, the Draft Guidance for the Management of Biological Foodborne Outbreaks was forwarded to CAC for adoption.
- After substantial edits, the Proposed Draft Decision Tree was recommended for adoption by CAC.
- The guidelines for the Control of Shiga-Toxin Producing E-Coli were discussed extensively and consensus was not reached, therefore, CCFH agreed to conduct an additional Electronic Working Group (EWG) in 2022 to seek to resolve issues with the text.
- The Proposed Draft Guidelines on re-use of water were discussed extensively and were returned to an EWG for further work.
 - A more detailed summary of the CCFH 52 activities from IFT can be found [here](#).
 - Additionally, the full report from the CCFH 52 session is available at this CODEX link: <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CCFH&session=52>

If you are interested in helping represent IFT on one of these CODEX Committees in 2022-2023 or have other considerations related to CODEX you would like to share, please contact Steve Havlik at SHavlik@ift.org .

Recent and upcoming CODEX Activities of Interest - (All being held virtually)

CODEX Committee	Meeting Dates	Key Topics Being Discussed
Codex Committee on Contaminants in Food (CCCF 15)	May 9 - 13, 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximum levels for cadmium in cocoa powder • Code of practice for the prevention and reduction of cadmium contamination in cocoa beans • Maximum levels for lead in certain food categories • Maximum levels for total aflatoxins in cereals and ready-to-eat peanuts
Codex Executive Committee (CCEXEC 82)	June 20 – 30, 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operationalizing of the Statement of Principle concerning the Role of Science in Codex decision making.
Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR 53)	July 4 – 8, 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBD

CODEX Information Web Links

General information about CODEX can be found at: [Home | CODEXALIMENTARIUS FAO-WHO](#)

CODEX Global Standards are available at: [Standards | CODEXALIMENTARIUS FAO-WHO](#)

CODEX Global Codes of Practice are available at: [Codes of Practice | CODEXALIMENTARIUS FAO-WHO](#)

CODEX Global Guidelines are available at: [Guidelines | CODEXALIMENTARIUS FAO-WHO](#)

CODEX On-line Databases are available at: [Codex online databases | CODEXALIMENTARIUS FAO-WHO](#)

CODEX List of Specifications for Food Additives is available at: [Food Additives DB \(GSFA Online\) | CODEXALIMENTARIUS FAO-WHO](#)

IFT CODEX Resources

[International Resources - IFT.org](#)