



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

Lead in food commodities

Request for data on lead in food for infants and young children; spices and aromatic herbs; eggs; sugars and confectionary (excluding cocoa) and quinoa

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Background

The 13th Session of the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF13), held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, from April 29—May 3, 2019, agreed to establish an Electronic Working Group (EWG) led by Brazil to advise on the need and feasibility to establish a maximum levels (MLs) for lead in food for infants and young children (except those for which an ML has been established in the *Codex General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed* (CXS 193-1995); spices and aromatic herbs; eggs; sugars and confectionary (excluding cocoa) for consideration by CCCF14 in 2020.

CCCF13 also agreed that the JECFA Secretariat, with the assistance of the Codex Secretariat, should develop a discussion paper on heavy metals in quinoa for consideration by CCCF14. This discussion paper should include occurrence data of cadmium and lead in quinoa (see call for data on cadmium).

We are requesting submission of data on lead in the following food commodities:

- Food for infants and young children (except those for which an ML has been established in the GSCTFF)
- Spices and aromatic herbs
- Eggs
- Sugars and confectionary, excluding cocoa
- Quinoa

We are requesting submission of new data covering approximately the last 10 years.

Data should be submitted by **October 31, 2019**, to allow time for data analysis and drafting of the paper by the EWG.

The call for data can also be viewed online at <http://www.who.int/foodsafety/en/> or <http://www.fao.org/food/food-safety-quality/scientific-advice/calls-data-experts/en/>.

Date for submission

The submission of data is requested before

31 October 2019

This deadline applies to all data to be submitted.

WHO will be compiling data for the EWG.

All new data must be uploaded in the GEMS database, which is easily accessible on the web.

To access the GEMS database, go to http://www.who.int/foodsafety/areas_work/chemical-risks/gems-food/en/. Please read the “GEMS/Food Database Manual” before attempting to submit data to GEMS. To submit data, you will need an account, and instructions on creating an account are found on page 2 of the manual. For technical questions about submitting data to GEMS, please contact Philippe Verger at WHO (vergerp@who.int).

Note that data already submitted to the GEMS Food Database do not need to be re-submitted.

When submitting data to the GEMS/Food database for this work, please:

- Provide complete information on the LOQ and LOD of analytical methods.
- Provide information in the “Local Food Identifier” or “Notes” fields of the database to allow more specific identification of samples, e.g., Is a food fresh or processed (e.g. fermented, dried / dehydrated, chips, boiled, flour, etc.)?
- Provide information on “State of Food Analysed” e.g., cooked or raw.