

codex alimentarius commission

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FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



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CX 4/35.2

CL 2009/34-CF
November 2009

TO: Codex Contact Points
Interested International Organisations

FROM: Secretary
Codex Alimentarius Commission, Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, Italy

SUBJECT: **Request for Comments to the Priority List of Contaminants and Naturally Occurring Toxicants for Evaluation by JECFA**

DEADLINE: **31 January 2010**

COMMENTS: **To:** Secretary
Codex Alimentarius Commission
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00153 Rome, Italy
Fax: +39 06 57054593
E-mail: codex@fao.org

Copies to: Netherlands Codex Contact Point
Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and
Food Quality
P.O. Box 20401
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1. This Circular Letter is to request for submission of comments and/or information below on the priority list of contaminants and naturally occurring toxicants for evaluation by Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA), which was endorsed by the Third Session of the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF) (See ALINORM 09/32/41 para.120 and Appendix XI, available at ftp://ftp.fao.org/codex/alinorm09/al32_41e.pdf):

- Comments on substances that are already included in the above priority list (information on data availability of those substances should also be submitted where applicable); and/or
- Nomination of new substances for the above priority list (information on details of new substances, expected timeline for data availability should also be submitted).

2. For the second bullet point above, it is requested to fill in the form as presented in the ANNEX to this Circular Letter.

3. Comments and information received will be considered by an in-session physical working group that will be convened during the Fourth Session of the Committee¹, in order to review the priority list (See ALINORM 09/32/41 para. 120).

4. Governments and international organizations wishing to provide comments and information on the above priority list should do so in writing, preferably by e-mail, to the above addresses **by 31 January 2010**.

¹ The Fourth Session of the Committee is scheduled on 26 – 30 April 2010, in Turkey.

ANNEX

**Nomination of new substances for the Priority List of Contaminants and
Naturally Occurring Toxicants for evaluation by JECFA**

1. Basic information

- 1) Proposal for inclusion submitted by:
- 2) Name of compound; chemical name(s):
- 3) Identification of (additional) data (toxicology, metabolism, occurrence, food consumption) which could be provided to JECFA:
- 4) List of countries where surveillance data are likely to be available, and if possible list of contact person who could provide such data, including quality assurance information on the data.
- 5) Timeline for data availability:

2. Detail information

- 1) Whether or not the occurrence of the compound in commodities will have potential to cause public health and/or trade problems;
- 2) Whether or not commodities containing the compound are in international trade and represent a significant portion of the diet; and,
- 3) Commitment that a dossier (as complete as possible) will be available for evaluation by the JECFA.
- 4) Relevant justification and information on the following prioritization criteria²
 - Consumer protection from the point of view of health and prevention of unfair trade practices;
 - Compliance with CCCF's Terms of Reference;
 - Compliance with JECFA's Terms of Reference;
 - Compliance with the Codex Alimentarius Commission's Strategic Plan, its relevant plans of work and Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities;
 - The quality, quantity, adequacy, and availability of data pertinent to performing a risk assessment, including data from developing countries;
 - The prospect of completing the work in a reasonable period of time;
 - The diversity of national legislation and any apparent impediments to international trade;
 - The impact on international trade (i.e., magnitude of the problem in international trade);
 - The needs and concerns of developing countries; and,
 - Work already undertaken by other international organizations.

² Section 3, para.20 of the Risk Analysis Principles Applied by the Codex Committee on Food Additives and the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (See Procedural Manual of the Codex Alimentarius Commission).