

# CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



World Health  
Organization

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CL 2020/24-CF

January 2020

**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 Priority list of contaminants and naturally occurring toxicants for evaluation by JECFA**

**DEADLINE** **28 January 2021**

**COMMENTS** Codex Secretariat  
Codex Alimentarius Commission  
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme  
E-mail: [codex@fao.org](mailto:codex@fao.org)

## BACKGROUND

1. The Priority List of Contaminants and Naturally Occurring Toxicants for Evaluation by the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA) has been endorsed by the 13th Session of the Committee on Contaminants in Foods (2019) as indicated in paragraph 168 and presented in Appendix X of REP19/CF (attached as Annex I for convenience)<sup>1</sup>. Submission of comments and/or information is requested as follows:
  - Comments on substances that are already included in the Priority List (information on data availability of those substances should also be submitted where applicable); and/or
  - Nomination of new substances for the Priority List (information on details of new substances, expected timeline for data availability should also be submitted).

For the second bullet point, respondents are requested to complete the form as contained in Annex II of this CL.

## REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

2. Codex members wishing to submit comments and/or information on the Priority List of Contaminants and Naturally Occurring Toxicants for Evaluation by JECFA either to (a) update the priority list as endorsed by CCCF13 or (b) propose new substances for inclusion in the priority list should do so in writing, **by e-mail** (word file to facilitate compilation of comments), to the above address, **before 31 March 2020**.
3. Codex members wishing to nominate new substances for inclusion in the priority list are kindly reminded to submit their proposals following the template provided in Annex II.

<sup>1</sup> CCCF documents (including reports, standards and related texts) are available on the Codex webpage at: <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/committees/committee-detail/en/?committee=CCCF>

**ANNEX I**  
**PRIORITY LIST OF CONTAMINANTS AND NATURALLY OCCURRING TOXICANTS**  
**FOR EVALUATION BY JECFA**

<b>Contaminants and Naturally Occurring Toxicants</b>	<b>Background and Question(s) to be Answered</b>	<b>Data Availability (When, What)</b>	<b>Proposed By</b>
Dioxins and dioxin-like PCBs	Full evaluation (toxicological assessment and exposure assessment) to update 2001 JECFA assessment and incorporate data on developmental effects from in utero exposures.	EFSA assessment available September 2018 Canada: occurrence data on foods of animal origin Brazil: occurrence data on milk, raw eggs, fish, and fat (poultry and mammals)	Canada
Arsenic (inorganic and organic)	Inorganic: 2011 JECFA evaluation based on cancer effects. This evaluation would focus on non-cancer effects (neurodevelopmental, immunological and cardiovascular) and could inform future risk management needs. NOTE: needs to be put in context to cancer risk assessment. Organic: (exploratory)	USA: occurrence data on rice cereals, and rice and non-rice products; 2016 risk assessment; 2016 draft action level for inorganic arsenic in rice cereal. USA: Studies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pilot neurodevelopmental study of inorganic arsenic impacts on rat behavior (2019); follow-up study expected in 2020</li> <li>• Toxicokinetic studies on metabolism and disposition of inorganic and organic arsenic and metabolites in mice (various life stages) (2018-19)</li> <li>• Developmental toxicity test in <i>C. elegans</i> on inorganic arsenic (2018) and ongoing study on organic arsenic.</li> <li>• Non-governmental report, Effects of Inorganic Arsenic in Infant Rice Cereal on Children's Neurodevelopment (2017)</li> </ul> Brazil: occurrence data on total arsenic in rice, poultry, pork, fish, and cattle meat, inorganic arsenic occurrence data in rice Japan and China: occurrence data on rice and rice products Australia/New Zealand: total diet study; inorganic arsenic occurrence data in rice India: occurrence data in rice Turkey: occurrence data in rice EU: inorganic arsenic occurrence data	USA
Scopoletin	Full evaluation (toxicological assessment and exposure assessment) in fermented noni juice	CCNASWP still working on standard for noni juice and data availability	CCNASWP

Contaminants and Naturally Occurring Toxicants	Background and Question(s) to be Answered	Data Availability (When, What)	Proposed By
Ergot alkaloids <sup>1</sup>	Full evaluation (toxicological assessment and exposure assessment)	EFSA (2012) report EU: occurrence data; assessment on exposures to ergot alkaloids (EFSA report published in May 2017) Canada: occurrence data (commodity specific and unprocessed cereal grains), and data on processing factors through production chain NZ: occurrence data on cereals (1 year of data) Japan: occurrence data in wheat, barley, and wheat products	EU; Canada
Trichothecenes (T2 and HT2)	Update of risk assessment, including exposure assessment (T2, HT2, DAS)	Brazil: occurrence data in cereals Canada: occurrence data (commodity specific and unprocessed cereal grains) EU: Report by EFSA on dietary exposure, including an HBGV; occurrence data. Japan: occurrence data in raw cereals	JECFA83 (2016), recommendation supported by CCCF11 (2017).

<sup>1</sup>Ergot is mentioned in quality chapter, suggestion for integration into GSCTFF.

**ANNEX II****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 prioritisation criteria<sup>2</sup>
  - 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 organisations.

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<sup>2</sup> Section 3, para.10 of the Risk Analysis Principles Applied by the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (See Procedural Manual of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, available online at: <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/procedures-strategies/procedural-manual/en/>).