



CL 2024/29-FL
February 2024

TO: Codex Contact Points
Interested International Organizations

FROM: Secretariat, Codex Alimentarius Commission
FAO, Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, Italy

SUBJECT: **REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON THE REVISED DRAFT APPROACH AND
CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION AND PRIORITIZATION OF THE WORK OF CCFL**

DEADLINE: **15 April 2024**

BACKGROUND

1. For the background information, please refer to [CX/FL 23/47/14](#) and [REP23/FL](#) (paras 180 – 184).
2. As requested by CCFL47, the Canadian Secretariat has revised the approach and criteria for evaluation and prioritization of the work of CCFL taking into account the comments made at CCFL47 including the request from CCEXEC to consider the reduction of sodium intake when prioritizing and undertaking work (see Appendix I to this CL).

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

3. Codex members and observers are invited to submit comments on:
 - a. the revised draft approach and criteria for evaluation and prioritization of the work of CCFL which is uploaded to the Codex Online Commenting System (OCS): <https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org/>, as per the guidance below.
 - b. whether the revised guideline is ready for use on a trial basis.

GUIDANCE ON THE PROVISION OF COMMENTS

4. Comments should be submitted through the Codex Contact Points of Codex Members and Observers using the OCS.
5. Contact Points of Codex Members and Observers may login to the OCS and access the document open for comments by selecting “Enter” in the “My reviews” page, available after login to the system.
6. Contact Points of Codex Members and Observers are requested to provide proposed changes and relevant comments/justifications on a specific paragraph and/or at the document level (general comments or summary comments). Additional guidance on the OCS comment categories and types can be found in the OCS [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#)
7. Other OCS resources, including the user manual and short guide, can be found at the following link: <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/ocs/en/>.
8. For questions on the OCS, please contact Codex-OCS@fao.org.

APPENDIX I**APPROACH AND CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION AND PRIORITIZATION OF THE WORK OF CCFL**

(Amended by the CCFL Canadian Secretariat based on comments received during CCFL47)

(Amendments are identified in **underline and bold** or ~~strike through~~)

(for comment through OCS)

Purpose:

1. The following guidelines are established to assist the CCFL to identify, prioritize and efficiently carry out its work, as needed, when there are multiple new work proposals to consider.

Scope:

2. These guidelines apply to new work proposed to the CCFL and lay down criteria and a process for evaluating the priority of new work proposals, including the revision of current texts.
3. The prioritization approach has been developed in addition to the criteria for new work as outlined in the *Procedural Manual*. Additional criteria relevant to the work of the CCFL and the rating scheme have been developed, taking into account the mandate of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, the priorities outlined in the Codex Strategic Plan, and the general principles of food labelling included in the *General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods* (CXS 1-1985) (GSLPF).

Additional criteria for evaluating and prioritizing new work

4. The following are the additional criteria against which the new work to be undertaken in CCFL may be assessed, **including both positive and negative impacts:**

| Criterion | Further information | Rating |
|---|--|------------------------------|
| Relevance to CCFL mandate | Does the proposed new work fit within the terms of reference of CCFL? | Yes/No/Partially |
| <u>(If applicable) Contributes to achieving internationally adopted global goals related to food safety, health or nutrition</u> | <u>Identify the organization and goal¹ and describe how the proposed new work can address the goal, within the mandate of CCFL</u> | <u>Not applicable</u> |
| Impact on consumer health | Potential of new work to prevent, reduce or resolve a consumer health risk | High Medium Low |
| Addresses false, misleading or deceptive labelling practices | Potential of the new work to prevent, reduce or resolve false, misleading or deceptive labelling practices | High Medium Low |
| Impact on consumer's ability to make an informed choice | Potential of the proposed new work to assist the consumer in making an informed choice | High Medium Low |
| Impact on trade practice | Positive -Impact on international trade | High Medium Low |

Process for evaluating new work

5. As with normal Codex procedures, new work proposals should be presented to CCFL in the format of a project document addressing the criteria given under the "*Criteria for establishment of work priorities*" for general subjects in the *Procedural Manual*. Additionally, the proposal should preferably also include a

¹ For example: **WHA66.10: World Health Organization - Global action plan for the prevention and control of Noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) 2013–2020 – Reduction of global population's intake of salt by 30% by 2025**

self-assessment, including supporting rationale and references, that takes into account the additional criteria outlined in this document. **If applicable, the new work proposal should also describe how it contributes to achieving internationally adopted global goals of the FAO or WHO related to food safety, health or nutrition.**

6. New work proposals should also indicate whether the work, if approved to commence, would likely lead to preparation of a new Codex text or revision of an existing Codex text.
7. **Based on the amount of work on the Committee's agenda and the number of new work proposals, the Committee may decide** ~~It may be appropriate for CCFL to establish an *ad hoc* working group, particularly in cases where multiple proposals are under consideration, that could be tasked to evaluate and prioritize new work proposals. The *ad hoc* working group could take place during CCFL as an in-session working group,~~ **open to all interested Members and Observers**, and tasked to make recommendations to CCFL.
8. **As required**, CCFL **has the responsibility to** ~~may~~ prioritize new work proposals and revision, taking into account the self-assessment in the new work proposals and/or recommendations of the *ad hoc* working.
9. The Committee may reassess the priority of each item if new information becomes available relating to an item. Such information may be submitted for consideration and the priority for the new work proposal reconsidered.
10. Ideally, the criteria should be applied in a stepwise manner, in the order set out in the criteria above. If the Committee decides that a proposed work does not fall under the terms of reference of CCFL, then the remaining criteria do not need to be assessed.
11. The proposed work should be assessed against the criteria as per the ratings given for each criterion. New work proposals will ultimately be prioritized as per the overall rating received through this prioritization process. Additional criteria, such as feasibility of the proposed new work, may be necessary and developed later for application while considering two or more items of similar priority.
12. The CCFL will maintain the inventory of future work and emerging issues discussion paper that will include all potential work items relevant to CCFL. The inventory paper will be kept current at every session with a different Codex member taking on responsibility each time.