

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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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 **15 January 2018**

COMMENTS Codex Secretariat
Codex Alimentarius Commission
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme
E-mail: 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 Committee on Contaminants in Foods as indicated in para 149 and presented in Appendix XII of REP17/CF (attached as Annex I for convenience)¹. 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 CCCF11 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 15 January 2018**.
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.

¹ 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**

Contaminants and Naturally Occurring Toxicants	Background and Question(s) to be Answered	Data Availability (When, What)	Proposed By
Dioxins ¹	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 end 2017/early 2018 Canada: occurrence data on foods of animal origin.	Canada
Inorganic Arsenic	2001 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.	US: occurrence data on rice cereals, and rice and non-rice products; 2016 risk assessment; 2016 draft action level for inorganic arsenic in rice cereal US: rodent behavioural study has been proposed Brazil: occurrence data in rice; poultry and pork total As Japan and China: occurrence data on rice and rice products (already submitted to GEMS/Food) NZ: total diet study; rice and products. India: occurrence data in rice	USA
Scopoletin	Full evaluation (toxicological assessment and exposure assessment) in fermented Noni juice	CCNASWP still working on standard for noni juice and data availability US: literature based quick review, limited data to derive HBGV	FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for North America and South-West Pacific (CCNASWP)
Ergot alkaloids ²	Full evaluation (toxicological assessment and exposure assessment)	EFSA (2012) report EU: occurrence data (collecting); assessment on exposures to ergot alkaloids (EFSA report May 2017) Canada: occurrence information (commodity-specific data, i.e., grading standards)	EU; Canada
Ciguatoxins ³	Full evaluation (toxicological assessment and exposure assessment), including geographic distribution and rate of illness; congeners; methods of detection	India (CRD37) EU: Eurocigua project, RASFF EFSA (2010) US: occurrence data (outbreak management) Australia: illness data	CCCF
Trichothecenes (T2 and HT2)	Update of risk assessment, including exposure assessment (T2, HT2, DAS)	<i>To be confirmed</i>	83 rd JECFA, recommendation supported by CCCF11.

¹Lower priority: JECFA evaluation to build on the ongoing work at national and regional re-assessment of dioxins.

²Ergot is mentioned in quality chapter, suggestion for integration into GSCTFF.

³Proposals from CCCF11 for new contaminants and naturally occurring toxicants for JECFA Priority List.

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 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 organisations.

² 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, 25th Edition, available online at: <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/procedures-strategies/procedural-manual/en/>).