



**Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations**



**World Health
Organization**

Request for data on natural occurrence of nitrates and nitrites

Issued 12 November 2018

Background

At the 50th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA50) the Committee discussed the paper on the use of nitrates (INS 251, 252) and nitrites (INS 249, 250) CX/FA 18/50/9. The Committee expressed broad support for establishing an Electronic Working Group (EWG) to collect data with a view to enable CCFA to take a decision at its next session, considered the draft EWG terms of reference (ToRs) and discussed other issues relevant to the data-gathering process (REP18/FA, paras. 94-102).

The aim of the EWG is to develop an inventory of data available on nitrates and nitrites in food, including collecting information on natural occurrence data on nitrates and nitrites.

This call for data is to address the topic of collecting information on natural occurrence data on nitrates and nitrites within the mandate of the EWG.

We kindly invite all interested Codex members and observers to submit monitoring data on natural occurrence of nitrates and nitrites in food, including drinking water. Natural occurrence is understood to be the presence of nitrate and nitrite in food not related to the use of nitrate and/or nitrite as food additives.

We are requesting submission of new monitoring data covering approximately the last 10 years, and asking that data be submitted by **15 January 2019**, to allow time for data analysis.

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

15 January 2019

This deadline applies to all data to be submitted.

Data that would be relevant to submit

Codex countries and observers are invited to submit monitoring data on natural occurrence of nitrate and nitrites in food, including drinking water, to the GEMS/Food database preferably for the past 10 years. Natural occurrence is understood to be the presence of nitrate and nitrite in food not related to the use of nitrate and/or nitrite as food additives.

WHO will be compiling data for the EWG. **All new data must be uploaded in the GEMS database, which is now 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 (vergerp@who.int) at WHO and please cc Kim Petersen at (kpetersen@who.int); Jiri Sochor at Jiri.Sochor@ec.europa.eu and Kees Planken at k.planken@minvws.nl.

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, including canned, preserved, salted, etc?
- Provide information on "State of Food Analyzed," e.g. cooked or raw, concentrate or ready to drink.