



Food and Agriculture  
Organization  
of the United Nations



World Health  
Organization

## JOINT FAO/WHO EXPERT COMMITTEE ON FOOD ADDITIVES (JECFA)

### Lead in food commodities

### REQUEST FOR DATA ON LEAD IN BERRIES AND OTHER SMALL FRUITS; BRASSICA VEGETABLES; FRUITING VEGETABLES, CUCURBITS; FRUITING VEGETABLES, OTHER THAN CUCURBITS; AND LEGUME VEGETABLES.

Issued 26 June 2014

#### Background

The 8th Session of the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF), held in The Hague, The Netherlands, from March 31 - April 4, 2014, agreed to re-establish an Electronic Working Group (EWG) led by the United States of America to continue with the review of maximum levels (MLs) for lead in berries and other small fruits; brassica vegetables; fruiting vegetables, cucurbits; fruiting vegetables, other than cucurbits; and legume vegetables.

The EWG kindly invites all interested Codex members and observers to submit data on lead levels in berries and other small fruits; brassica vegetables; fruiting vegetables, cucurbits; fruiting vegetables, other than cucurbits; and legume vegetables. We are requesting submission of new data covering approximately the last 10 years, and asking that data be submitted by **15 September 2014**, to allow time for data analysis and drafting and review of the paper.

#### Date for submission

The submission of data is requested before

**15 September 2014.**

This deadline applies to all data to be submitted.

#### Data that would be relevant to submit

Codex countries and observers are invited to submit data on lead levels in berries and other small fruits; brassica vegetables; fruiting vegetables, cucurbits; fruiting vegetables, other than cucurbits; and legume vegetables to the GEMS/Food database preferably for the past 10 years.

WHO will be compiling data for the EWG. All new data must be submitted through the GEMS data-base, which is now easily accessible on the web. To access the GEMS database, go to <http://www.who.int/foodsafety/chem/gems/en/index.html>. 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 at WHO ([vergerp@who.int](mailto:vergerp@who.int)) and cc Lauren Robin at [lauren.robin@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:lauren.robin@fda.hhs.gov).

**Note that data that were submitted previously for the CCCF lead working group do not need to be resubmitted. Data that were submitted to JECFA for the 2010 lead risk assessment also do not need to be resubmitted.**

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.