

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

E

Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, Italy - Tel: (+39) 06 57051 - E-mail: codex@fao.org - www.codexalimentarius.org

CL 2026/5-MAS
February 2026

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: **Review of sampling plans in CXS 234-1999**

DEADLINE: **28 FEBRUARY 2026**

BACKGROUND

1. For information, please refer to CX/MAS 26/45/10.¹

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

2. Codex Members and Observers are invited to submit comments on the Review of sampling plans in the *Recommended methods of analysis and sampling* (CXS 234-1999) in accordance with the guidance below.
3. The recommendations and discussion paper have been uploaded to the Codex Online Commenting System (OCS) at: <https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org/>, Members and Observers are particularly requested to provide comments on the document, with specific attention to the EWG's recommendations outlined in paragraphs 13 and 14 specifically focusing on:
 - a. Which is the preferred option: Options 1 and/or 4 (paragraph 13i); if option 4 is preferred, what kind of details should be included in CXS 234 database (or other repository);
 - b. The way forward (paragraph 13ii) and whether an EWG should be established to define the content and functionality of the database (see paragraph 14).
 - c. how CCMAS could assist with the process of developing sampling plans where they do not currently exist (paragraph 13iii).

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 Observer organizations are requested to provide proposed changes and relevant comments/justifications on a specific method/provision 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/circular-letters/en/>.
8. For questions on the OCS, please contact Codex-OCS@fao.org.

¹ Document available at: <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CCMAS&session=45>