

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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

CL 2024/07-CF

January 2024

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 information on foresight on emergency issues in food and feed safety relevant to contaminants

DEADLINE: 25 March 2024

BACKGROUND

1. The 16th Session of the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF16, 2023) noted that during the side event on *Foresight on Emerging Issues in Food and Feed Safety*, the Codex Secretariat provided different options that could be used to bring emerging issues in food safety relevant to contaminants to the attention of CCCF including the possibility of having an agenda item where members could bring issues for discussion in addition to matters that could be brought by FAO and WHO under Agenda Item 3.
2. The Chairperson noted that a way to bring issues to the attention of CCCF could be by issuing a circular letter (CL) with selected topics for comments by Codex Members and Observers. The Committee agreed to bring emerging issues in food safety relevant to contaminants to the attention of CCCF by having an agenda item for this topic.¹
3. The 46th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC46, 2023), in considering how to address new food sources and production systems (NFPS) in Codex, highlighted the importance of addressing challenges posed by NFPS and the important role Codex could play in this; noted that the current working mechanisms were adequate to address any new work on NFPS that Members might propose; and encouraged Members to submit discussion papers or new work proposals, either to active Codex committees or to the Executive Committee (CCEXEC) through the Codex Secretariat.²
4. The particular item on foresight activities on emerging issues in food and feed safety relevant to contaminants provides an additional opportunity, besides those already provided through the exiting procedures and practices within CCCF, to bring such issues to the attention of CCCF in line with the conclusions of CAC46. In addition, it aims to foster exchange among Members and Observers on current or future activities within their countries or organizations on NFPS relevant to the work of CCCF.
5. The information provided by Members and Observers will supplement the information provided by FAO and WHO on their activities on foresight on food safety that is provided under Agenda Item 3 (CX/CF 24/17/3).

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

6. Codex members and observers are invited to submit information on their activities on NFPS related to emerging issues in food and feed safety relevant to contaminants.
7. Members and observers can provide links to relevant websites, documents to expand on the information provided in reply to the CL.

GUIDANCE ON THE PROVISION OF COMMENTS

8. Comments should be submitted through the Codex Contact Points of Codex members and observers using the OCS.
9. 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.
10. Contact Points of Codex members and observers' organizations are requested to provide proposed changes and relevant comments/justifications on a specific paragraph (under the categories: editorial, substantive, technical and translation) 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)³.
11. Other OCS resources, including the user manual and short guide, can also be found on the Codex website⁴.
12. For questions on the OCS, please contact Codex-OCS@fao.org.

¹ REP23/CF16, paras 135-138

² REP23/CAC46, para 206

³ http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/codexalimentarius/doc/OCS/Codex_OCS_FAQs_2017-11-06.pdf

⁴ <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/ocs/en/>