

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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CL 2025/09-CF

April 2025

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 proposed maximum levels for lead in certain food categories:
Spices (dried bark) and dried culinary herbs**

DEADLINE: 20 May 2025

BACKGROUND

1. For background information, please refer to CX/CF 25/18/5, available on the CCCF18 webpage¹.

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

2. Codex members and observers are invited to provide comments on recommendations as per paragraph 39 of CX/CF 25/18/13, which are reproduced below for convenience:
3. Codex members and observers are invited to provide comments on the proposed MLs for lead for spices (dried bark) and dried culinary herbs as follows:

MLs for lead in dried bark and dried culinary herbs for comments at Step 6

- (i) Provide comments on whether the MLs for spices, dried bark, and dried culinary herbs as proposed by CCCF17 (2024) and adopted by CAC47 (2024) should be discontinued vis-à-vis the new MLs proposed by the Electronic Working Group (EWG) based on additional data and information submitted to the GEMS/Food database (see point 3 (ii)).

MLs for lead in dried bark and dried culinary herbs for comments at Step 3

- (ii) Provide comments on whether the new MLs for spices, dried bark, and dried culinary herbs as proposed by the EWG should be advanced in the Step Procedure for adoption by CAC48 (2025) or
 - (iii) If the new MLs are not supported, provide comments on whether higher or lower MLs would be more suitable (and achievable) based on the data and information provided in Appendix II of CX/CF 25/18/5 or any additional data and information available to your country or organization. If so, indicate the source of the data or information (using links is preferable). In both cases, indicate gains in public health protection vis-à-vis trade facilitation (i.e., rejection rates).
4. The MLs are uploaded to the Codex Online Commenting System (OCS)². Comments provided through the OCS should follow the guidance in paragraphs 6-10.
 5. Codex members and observers are encouraged to submit comments in reply to this CL³ to facilitate the discussion and decision-making at CCCF18 (2025).

¹ <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/pt/?meeting=CCCF&session=18>

² <https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org/>

³ <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters/en/>

<https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/committees/committee/related-circular-letters/en/?committee=CCCF>

GUIDANCE ON THE PROVISION OF COMMENTS

6. Comments should be submitted through the Codex Contact Points of Codex members and observers using the OCS.
7. 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.
8. 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)⁴.
9. Other OCS resources, including the user manual and short guide, can also be found on the Codex website⁵.
10. For questions on the OCS, please contact Codex-OCS@fao.org.

⁴ http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/codexalimentarius/doc/OCS/Codex_OCS_FAQs_2017-11-06.pdf

⁵ <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/ocs/en/>