

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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CL 2025/10-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 at Step 3 on the proposed Code of practice for the prevention and reduction of cadmium contamination in foods

DEADLINE: 20 May 2025

BACKGROUND

1. For background information, please refer to CX/CF 25/18/6, available on the CCCF18 webpage¹.

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

2. Codex members and observers are invited to provide comments on recommendations as per paragraph 16 of CX/CF 25/18/6, which are reproduced below for convenience:
3. Codex members and observers are invited to provide comments as follows:
 - (i) To provide comments on the overall structure and content of the code of practice (CoP), including additional data and information on risk management practices to prevent or reduce cadmium contamination in foods that can complement or enhance the current general provisions applicable to all foods.
 - (ii) To provide comments on the annexes for seaweed (Annex I) and rice (Annex II), to address the following:
 - (a) whether there is sufficient information to warrant their development;
 - (b) to provide additional information on cadmium mitigation measures in seaweed and rice, if available, to develop the annexes further; and
 - (c) to identify other commodities for which annexes would be appropriate (i.e., commodities that contribute significantly to exposure and for which there are detailed and specific mitigation measures not addressed in the general part of the CoP).
 - (iii) To provide comments on whether the *Code of practice for the prevention and reduction of cadmium contamination in cocoa beans* (CXC 81-2022) should be converted into an Annex so that the Code of practice for the reduction and prevention of cadmium contamination in foods remains the single Codex reference to contain cadmium contamination in foods. If so, whether it is timely to task the EWG with this work.
 - (iv) Indicate whether there is support for re-establishing the Electronic Working Group to further develop the CoP based on the guidance provided by CCCF, for consideration by CCCF in 2019.
- 3 In providing comments on general and specific risk management practices to prevent or reduce cadmium contamination in foods or specific foods (i.e., seaweed and rice), note that good practices for inclusion in Codex codes of practice should be readily available, applicable worldwide, and proven to be effective across different production scales, including small- and medium-sized businesses.
- 4 Codex members and observers are encouraged to submit comments in reply to this CL² in order to provide general and specific guidance to assist the EWG in further developing the CoP.
- 5 The CoP is uploaded to the Codex Online Commenting System (OCS)³. Comments provided through the OCS should follow the guidance in paragraphs 6-10.

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

² <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters/en/>

³ <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/committees/committee/related-circular-letters/en/?committee=CCCF>
<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org/>

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/>