



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



World Health  
Organization

**CODEX**  
**ALIMENTARIUS**  
INTERNATIONAL FOOD STANDARDS



Webinar series

🕒 **17 March 2021**

12:00 to 13:30 CET

🗨️ English, French and Spanish

# Joint FAO/WHO Committee on Food Additives (JECFA) work on cadmium in chocolates and cocoa-derived products

## Background

The Codex Committee on Contaminants in Food (CCCF) started new work on the establishment of maximum levels (MLs) for Cadmium in 2014. To date, MLs for cadmium in chocolates containing or declaring  $\geq 50\%$  to  $< 70\%$  total cocoa solids on a dry matter basis; and chocolates containing or declaring  $\geq 70\%$  total cocoa solids on a dry matter basis were adopted by the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC41, 2018) and published in the *General Standard for Contaminants in Food and Feed* (CXS 193-1995).

The upcoming session of CCCF will continue discussion on the ML of 0.3 mg/kg for chocolates containing or declaring  $< 30\%$  total cocoa solids on a dry matter basis which was adopted at Step 5 by CAC42 (2019), MLs for chocolates containing or declaring  $\geq 30\%$  to  $< 50\%$  total cocoa solids, and cocoa powder containing or declaring 100% total cocoa solids ready for consumption. These last MLs are currently under discussion in an Electronic Working Group (EWG) chaired by Ecuador and co-chaired by Ghana.

Previous evaluations by the Joint FAO/WHO Committee on Food Additives (JECFA73 (2010) and JECFA77 (2013)) have underpinned the work of CCCF to date. CCCF13 (2019) requested JECFA to issue a further call for data for use by the EWG. A preliminary analysis of the data was undertaken by the JECFA Secretariat and published as CX/CF 20/14/3-Add.1 available [here](#).

According to the JECFA Secretariat, new data submitted to the [GEMS/Food database](#) provided a more global dataset than the one used for the evaluation at JECFA77. JECFA91 (2021) therefore undertook a new exposure assessment.

The rationale for this new assessment and the results will be presented during this webinar. The summary and conclusions of JECFA91 are available on the [FAO](#) and [WHO](#) webpages.



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## Objective

This webinar is being organized to provide an overview of the JECFA evaluations on cadmium, in particular chocolates, and explain the reason for the JECFA91 dietary exposure and its outcomes.

This information aims to assist the discussions on cadmium in the upcoming CCCF and to inform comments on the MLs for cadmium in the remaining chocolate categories for consideration by the Committee under Agenda Items 5 and 6.

## Target Audience

Codex Members / Observers, especially those who have an interest in this item and will be participating in CCCF14.



## AGENDA

- 1 Opening**

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**Welcome and objectives**  
by Chairperson of the Committee on Contaminants in Foods:  
**Dr Sally Hoffer**
- 2 What's happening in Codex?** *Gracia Brisco, Codex Secretariat*
- 3 JECFA assessments in relation to Cadmium** *Markus Lipp, Vittorio Fattori (FAO, JECFA Secretariat) and Kim Petersen (WHO, JECFA Secretariat)*
- 4 Question and Answer session**
- 5 Reflections and way forward**
- 6 Closing of the webinar**

**REGISTRATION** please click [here](#)  
**CONTACTS FOR ENQUIRIES** [codex@fao.org](mailto:codex@fao.org)