

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD ADDITIVES (CCFA)

Invitation to participate in the electronic Working Group (EWG) on the General Standard for Food Additives (GSFA) to the 57th CCFA

Dear Colleagues,

The 56th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA) that was held from 13 to 17 April 2026, agreed to establish an EWG on the GSFA, led by the United States of America (USA), and working in English only, to consider (REP 26/FA para. 121):

- i. Draft and proposed draft provisions for NITRATES (INS 251, 252) and NITRITES (INS 249, 250) as well as adopted provisions for NITRATES (INS 251, 252) and NITRITES (INS 249, 250) taking into consideration guidance from CCMAS regarding ingoing use and residue levels;
- ii. Provisions for ascorbyl palmitate (INS 304), ascorbyl stearate (INS 305), glycolipids (INS 246), and low acyl clarified gellan gum (INS 418(ii)) in Table 3 of the GSFA at Step 3 and consequential changes to Tables 1 and 2 provisions in the GSFA for ascorbyl esters;
- iii. Consequential effects to the GSFA for adding the functional class of “colour” to microcrystalline cellulose (INS 460(i)) and the ramifications of its expanded use in products across the GSFA;
- iv. Matters referred from CCFO29 pertaining to the development of a new GSFA food sub-category to FC 02.1 for microbial omega-3 oils;
- v. Consider the appropriate FC (existing sub-category of FC 05.1 or new sub-category of FC 05.1) for cocoa butter conforming to CXS 86-1981;
- vi. The use of Note 127 reading “On the served to the consumer basis” in FCs 14.1.2, 14.1.3 and 14.1.4 and their sub-categories;
- vii. All remaining draft and proposed draft provisions for colours and sweeteners in all FCs of the GSFA as well as adopted provisions for colours and sweeteners with Note 161 in all FCs of the GSFA;
- viii. All remaining draft and proposed draft provisions in Table 1 and 2 of the GSFA in FCs 01.0 through 16.0, with the exception of propylene glycol (INS 1520) in FCs 14.1.4.1, 14.1.4.2. and 14.1.4.3, lauric arginate ethyl ester (INS 243) in FC 02.2.2, ADIPATES in all FCs, and those food additives covered by other topics (items (i)-(vii) and (ix)); and
- ix. Consideration of provisions entered at Step 2 of the GSFA contained in CRD02 Annex 5.

Therefore, the USA requests Codex Members and Observers interested in participating in this EWG to provide their contact information, including name(s), affiliation, and e-mail address to Dr. Daniel E. Folmer (ccfa@cfsan.fda.gov) by **19 June 2026**.

The Codex EWG platform

Link: <http://forum.codex-alimentarius.net/index.php>

Usergroup name: **CCFA56 EWG GSFA (2026)**

The platform will require members to login. New participants to the platform should first register. ([online guide](#), [video tutorial](#))

Those participants who have previously registered on the platform can request to join the usergroup directly. The EWG chair will give participants access to the group online once they

have verified their credentials so please ensure that you follow the procedure for applications and email the chair through your CCP even if you are already registered on the platform.

Proposed Working Schedule for the EWG:

- 26 June 2026: Circulation of background information and request for EWG member comments.
- 31 July 2026: Deadline for submission of comments.
- 21 August 2026: Circulation of first draft consensus recommendations to the EWG members.
- 25 September 2026: Deadline for submission of comments on first draft consensus recommendations.
- 30 October 2026: Circulation of second draft consensus recommendations to the EWG members. (Optional)
- 27 November 2026: Deadline for submission of comments on second draft consensus recommendations. (Optional)
- 15 January 2027: Submission of final report of the EWG to the Codex Secretariat.

Full and constructive participation by Codex Members will enable the EWG to have a robust discussion and will lead to constructive recommendations on this issue for consideration by the 57th CCFA. We look forward to working with Codex Members on this important project.

Sincerely,

Daniel E. Folmer, Ph.D.

U.S.A. Delegate to CCFA