

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD ADDITIVES

Invitation to participate in the electronic Working Group (EWG) on the Alignment of the Food Additive Provisions of the Commodity Standards and Relevant Provisions of the General Standard for Food Additives (GSFA)

Dear Colleagues:

Re. Kick-off message for an Electronic Working Group on Alignment

The 49th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA) that was held in Macao SAR, China from 17-22 March 2017, agreed to establish an EWG chaired by Australia and co-chaired by the United States of America (USA), and working in English only, to (REP 17/FA, para. 55(ii)):

- a) Finalise alignment work for the remaining the standards for fish and fish products: *Standards for Canned Shrimps or Prawns* (CODEX STAN 37-1991), *Canned Tuna and Bonito* (CODEX STAN 70-1981), *Canned Crab Meat* (CODEX STAN 90-1981), *Canned Sardines and Sardine-Type Products* (CODEX STAN 94-1981), *Salted Fish and Dried Salted Fish of the Gadidae Family of Fishes* (CODEX STAN 167-1989), *Crackers from Marine and Freshwater Fish, Crustaceans and Molluscan Shellfish* (CODEX STAN 222-2001), *Salted Atlantic Herring and Salted Sprat* (CODEX STAN 244-2004), *Sturgeon Caviar* (CODEX STAN 291-2010) and *Fish Sauce* (CODEX STAN 302-2011) (the work should focus only on adopted provisions in the GSFA and will also include draft and proposed draft provisions that are not in the mandate of the EWG on GSFA);
- b) Consider a revised approach to listing corresponding commodity standards in Table 3 of the GSFA (para. 54);
- c) Finalise the alignment of the *Standard for Certain Canned Fruits* (CODEX STAN 319-2015) (annexes on canned pears and canned pineapples) (para. 49); and
- d) Finalise guidance for commodity committees on the alignment of food additive provisions of commodity standards with the GSFA (para. 53).

Australia and the USA therefore request Codex Members and Observers interested in participating in this EWG to provide their contact information, including name(s), affiliation, and e-mail address to Mr. Steve Crossley (steve.crossley@foodstandards.gov.au) and Dr. Paul Honigfort (ccfa@fda.hhs.gov) **by 21 July 2017**.

It is envisaged that the first draft of the Alignment work for EWG comments will be circulated at the end of July. A second draft will be circulated if time permits noting that the report of the EWG should be made available to the Codex Secretariat at least three months before CCFA50 (REP 17/FA, para. 56).

Based on the comments received from Members of the EWG, Australia and the USA will then prepare the final documents to be circulated by the Codex Secretariat as the basis for discussions at the 50th session of the CCFA to be held in China in March 2018.

We look forward to working with Codex Members and Observers on this important project.

Kind regards

Steve Crossley
Leader of the Australian Delegation to CCFA

Paul Honigfort, Ph.D.
U.S.A. Alternate Delegate to CCFA