

Notices

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food Safety and Inspection Service

[Docket No. FSIS-2015-0041]

Codex Alimentarius Commission: Meeting of the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling

AGENCY: Office of the Under Secretary for Food Safety, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Office of the Under Secretary for Food Safety, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (CFSAN) are sponsoring a public meeting on January 19, 2016. The objective of the public meeting is to provide information and receive public comments on agenda items and draft United States (U.S.) positions to be discussed at the 37th Session of the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS) of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex), taking place in Budapest, Hungary, February 21–25, 2016. The Deputy Under Secretary for Food Safety and the Food and Drug Administration recognize the importance of providing interested parties with the opportunity to obtain background information on the 37th Session of the CCMAS and to address items on the agenda.

DATES: The public meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 19, 2016, from 10:00–11:30 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The public meeting will take place at the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Jamie L. Whitten Building, Room 107–A, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250. Documents related to the 37th Session of CCMAS will be accessible via the Internet at the following address: [http://](http://www.codexalimentarius.org/meetings-reports/en/)

www.codexalimentarius.org/meetings-reports/en/.

Dr. Gregory O. Noonan, U.S. Delegate to the 37th Session of the CCMAS invites U.S. interested parties to submit their comments electronically to the following email address: Gregory.Noonan@fda.hhs.gov
Call-In-Number:

If you wish to participate in the public meeting for the 37th Session of CCMAS by conference call please use the call-in-number listed below:

Call-in-Number: 1-888-844-9904.

The participant code will be posted on the Web page below: <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsis/topics/international-affairs/us-codex-alimentarius/public-meetings>.

Registration:

Attendees may register to attend the public meeting by emailing Marie.Maratos@fsis.usda.gov by January 14, 2016. Early registration is encouraged because it will expedite entry into the building. The meeting will take place in a Federal building. Attendees should bring photo identification and plan for adequate time to pass through the security screening systems. Attendees who are not able to attend the meeting in person, but who wish to participate, may do so by phone.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

About the 37th Session Of CCMAS: Gregory O. Noonan, Ph.D., Research Chemist, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (CFSAN), Food and Drug Administration, Harvey W. Wiley Federal Building, 5100 Paint Branch Parkway, College Park, MD 20740, Phone: (240) 402-2250, Fax: (301) 436-2634, Email: Gregory.Noonan@fda.hhs.gov

About The Public Meeting: Marie Maratos, U.S. Codex Office, 1400 Independence Avenue, Room 4861, South Agriculture Building, Washington, DC 20250. Phone: (202) 205-7760, Fax: (202) 720-3157, Email: Marie.Maratos@fsis.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Codex was established in 1963 by two United Nations organizations, the Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Health Organization. Through adoption of food standards, codes of practice, and other guidelines developed by its committees, and by

promoting their adoption and implementation by governments, Codex seeks to protect the health of consumers and ensure that fair practices are used in trade.

The CCMAS is responsible for defining the criteria appropriate to Codex Methods of Analysis and Sampling; serving as a coordinating body for Codex with other international groups working in methods of analysis and sampling and quality assurance systems for laboratories; specifying, on the basis of final recommendations submitted to it by other bodies reference methods of analysis and sampling; considering, amending, and endorsing, appropriate to codex standards which are genuinely applicable to a number of foods; methods of analysis and sampling proposed by Codex (Commodity) Committees, (except that methods of analysis and sampling for residues of pesticides or veterinary drugs in food, the assessment of microbiological quality and safety in food, and the assessment of specifications for food additives, do not fall within the terms of reference of this Committee); elaborating sampling plans and procedures; considering specific sampling and analysis problems submitted to it by the Commission or any of its Committees; and defining procedures, protocols, guidelines, or related texts for the assessment of food laboratory proficiency, as well as quality assurance systems for laboratories.

The Committee is hosted by Hungary.

Issues To Be Discussed at the Public Meeting

The following items on the Agenda for the 37th Session of CCMAS will be discussed during the public meeting:

- Criteria for endorsement of biological methods to detect chemicals of concern
- Practical Examples (Information Document)
- Procedures for determining uncertainty of measurement results
- Development of procedures or guidelines for determining equivalency to Type I methods
- Criteria approach to determining the acceptability of methods which use a “sum of components” Review and update of methods in Codex Standard 234–1999 (Recommended Methods of Analysis and Sampling)
- Follow-up on methods of analysis and sampling plans

- Sampling in Codex standards
- Other Business and Future Work

Each issue listed will be fully described in documents distributed, or to be distributed, by the Secretariat prior to the Committee Meeting. Members of the public may access or request copies of these documents (see **ADDRESSES**).

Public Meeting

At the January 19, 2016 public meeting, draft U.S. positions on the agenda items will be described and discussed, and attendees will have the opportunity to pose questions and offer comments. Written comments may be offered at the meeting or sent to the U.S. Delegate for the 37th Session of CCMAS, Gregory Noonan (see **ADDRESSES**). Written comments should state that they relate to activities of the 37th Session of CCMAS.

Additional Public Notification

Public awareness of all segments of rulemaking and policy development is important. Consequently, FSIS will announce this **Federal Register** publication on-line through the FSIS Web page located at: <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/federal-register>.

FSIS also will make copies of this publication available through the FSIS Constituent Update, which is used to provide information regarding FSIS policies, procedures, regulations, **Federal Register** notices, FSIS public meetings, and other types of information that could affect or would be of interest to our constituents and stakeholders. The Update is available on the FSIS Web page. Through the Web page, FSIS is able to provide information to a much broader, more diverse audience. In addition, FSIS offers an email subscription service which provides automatic and customized access to selected food safety news and information. This service is available at: <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/subscribe>. Options range from recalls to export information, regulations, directives, and notices. Customers can add or delete subscriptions themselves, and have the option to password protect their accounts.

USDA Non-Discrimination Statement

No agency, officer, or employee of the USDA shall, on the grounds of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, or political beliefs, exclude from participation in, deny the benefits of, or subject to discrimination any person in the United

States under any program or activity conducted by the USDA.

How To File a Complaint of Discrimination

To file a complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, which may be accessed online at http://www.ocio.usda.gov/sites/default/files/docs/2012/Complain_combined_6_8_12.pdf, or write a letter signed by you or your authorized representative.

Send your completed complaint form or letter to USDA by mail, fax, or email:

Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250-9410, Fax: (202) 690-7442, Email: program.intake@usda.gov.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.), should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

Done at Washington, DC on December 9, 2015.

Mary Frances Lowe,

U.S. Manager for Codex Alimentarius.

[FR Doc. 2015-31458 Filed 12-14-15; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food Safety and Inspection Service

[Docket No. FSIS-2015-0040]

Codex Alimentarius Commission: Meeting of the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems

AGENCY: Office of the Under Secretary for Food Safety, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Office of the Under Secretary for Food Safety, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), is sponsoring a public meeting on January 14, 2016. The objective of the public meeting is to provide information and receive public comments on agenda items and draft United States (U.S.) positions to be discussed at the 22nd Session of the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS) of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex), taking place in Melbourne, Australia, February 6-12, 2016. The Under Secretary for Food Safety recognizes the importance of providing interested parties the opportunity to obtain

background information on the 22nd Session of the CCFICS and to address items on the agenda.

DATES: The public meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 14, 2016 from 2-4 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The public meeting will take place at the Jamie L. Whitten Building, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Room 107-A, Washington, DC 20250. Documents related to the 22nd Session of the CCFICS will be accessible via the Internet at the following address: <http://www.codexalimentarius.org/meetings-reports/en>.

Mary Stanley, U.S. Delegate to the 22nd Session of the CCFICS invites U.S. interested parties to submit their comments electronically to the following email address Mary.Stanley@fsis.usda.gov.

Call-In-Number:

If you wish to participate in the public meeting for the 22nd Session of the CCFICS by conference call, please use the call-in-number and participant code listed below.

Call-In-Number: 1-888-844-9904.

The participant code will be posted on the Web page below: <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsis/topics/international-affairs/us-codex-alimentarius/public-meetings>.

Registration:

Attendees may register to attend the public meeting by emailing Kenneth.Lowery@fsis.usda.gov by January 8, 2016. Early registration is encouraged because it will expedite entry into the building. The meeting will take place in a Federal building. Attendees should bring photo identification and plan for adequate time to pass through the security screening systems. Attendees who are not able to attend the meeting in person, but who wish to participate, may do so by phone.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

For Further Information About the 22nd Session Of CCFICS Contact: Mary Stanley, Director, Office of International Coordination, Food Safety and Inspection Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room 2925, South Agriculture Building, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250

Phone: (202) 720-0287, Fax: (202) 720-4929, Email: Mary.Stanley@fsis.usda.gov.

For Further Information About the Public Meeting Contact: Kenneth Lowery, U.S. Codex Office, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Room 4861, South Agriculture Building,