

Done in Washington, DC, this 24th day of May 2007.

Kevin Shea,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food Safety and Inspection Service

[Docket No. FSIS-2007-0017]

Codex Alimentarius Commission: Meeting of the Codex Alimentarius Commission

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), is sponsoring a public meeting on June 5, 2007. The objective of the public meeting is to provide information and receive public comments on agenda items and draft United States positions that will be discussed at the Thirtieth Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC), which will be held in Rome, Italy, July 2-7, 2007. The Under Secretary for Food Safety recognizes the importance of providing interested parties the opportunity to obtain background information on the 30th Session of CAC and to address items on the agenda.

DATES: The public meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 5, 2007, 1-4 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The public meeting will be held in Room 107-A, Jamie L. Whitten Building, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250. Documents related to the 30th Session of CAC will be accessible via the World Wide Web at the following address: <http://www.codexalimentarius.net/current.asp>.

The U.S. Manager for Codex, F. Edward Scarbrough, Ph.D., U.S. Codex Office, Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA, invites U.S. interested parties to submit their comments electronically to the following e-mail address uscodex@fsis.usda.gov.

For Further Information About the 30th Session of the CAC Contact: F. Edward Scarbrough, Ph.D., U.S. Manager for Codex, Telephone: (202) 720-2057, Fax: (202) 720-3157; e-mail: ed.scarbrough@fsis.usda.gov.

For Further Information about the Public Meeting Contact: Jasmine Matthews, Program Analyst, U.S. Codex Office, Telephone: (202) 205-7760, Fax:

(202) 720-3157, e-mail: jasmine.matthews@fsis.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex) was established in 1963 by two United Nations organizations, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO). 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 Codex Alimentarius Commission is responsible for making proposals to the Directors-General of FAO and WHO on all matters pertaining to the implementation of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme, the purpose of which is:

(a) Protecting the health of the consumers and ensuring fair practices in the food trade;

(b) promoting coordination of all food standards work undertaken by international governmental and non-governmental organizations;

(c) determining priorities and initiating and guiding the preparation of draft standards through and with the aid of appropriate organizations;

(d) finalizing standards elaborated under (c) above and publishing them in a Codex Alimentarius either as regional or world wide standards, and

(e) Amending published standards, after appropriate survey in the light of developments.

Issues To Be Discussed at the Public Meeting

The following items on the Agenda for the 30th Session of the CAC will be discussed during the public meeting:

- Report by the Chairperson on the 59th Session of the Executive Committee
- Reports of FAO/WHO Regional Coordinating Committees
- Amendments to the Procedural Manual
- Amendments to the Rules of Procedure
- Other amendments to the Procedural Manual
- Draft Standards and Related Texts at Step 8 of the Procedure (including those submitted at Step 5 with a recommendation to omit Steps 6 and 7 and those submitted at Step 5 of the Accelerated Procedure)
- Proposed Draft Standards and Related Texts at Step 5

- Revocation of existing Codex Standards and Related Texts
 - Proposals for the Elaboration of new Standards and Related Texts and for the Discontinuation of Work
 - Financial and Budgetary Matters—Proposed Budget 2008/2009
 - Proposed Schedule of Codex Meetings 2007-2009
 - Strategic Planning of the Codex Alimentarius Commission
 - Implementation of the Joint FAO/WHO Evaluation of the Codex Alimentarius and other FAO and WHO Work on Food Standards
 - General Implementation Status
 - Review of Codex Committee Structure and Mandates of Codex Committees and Task Forces
 - Matters arising from the Reports of Codex Committees and Task Forces
 - Relations between the Codex Alimentarius Commission and other International Organizations
 - FAO/WHO Project and Trust Fund for Enhanced Participation in Codex
 - Other Matters arising from FAO and WHO
 - Appointment of Regional Coordinators
 - Election of Chairperson, Vice-Chairpersons and other Members of the Executive Committee
 - Designation of Countries responsible for Appointing the Chairpersons of Codex Committees and Task Forces
- Each issue listed will be fully described in documents distributed, or to be distributed, by the Secretariat prior to the Meeting. Members of the public may access or request copies of these documents (see For Further Information About The 30th Session of the CAC Contact).

Public Meeting

At the June 5, 2007 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. Manager for Codex, F. Edward Scarbrough (see **ADDRESSES**). Written comments should state that they relate to activities of the 30th Session of the CAC.

Additional Public Notification

Public awareness of all segments of rulemaking and policy development is important. Consequently, in an effort to ensure that minorities, women, and persons with disabilities are aware of this notice, FSIS will announce it online through the FSIS Web page located at http://www.fsis.usda.gov/regulations/2007_Notices_Index/. FSIS also will

make copies of this **Federal Register** publication available through the FSIS Constituent Update, which is used to provide information regarding FSIS policies, procedures, regulations, **Federal Register** notices, FSIS public meetings, recalls, and other types of information that could affect or would be of interest to constituents and stakeholders. The update is communicated via Listserv, a free electronic mail subscription service for industry, trade and farm groups, consumer interest groups, allied health professionals, and other individuals who have asked to be included. The update is available on the FSIS Web page. Through the Listserv and Web page, FSIS is able to provide information to a much broader and more diverse audience. In addition, FSIS offers an e-mail 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/news_and_events/email_subscription/. Options range from recalls to export information to regulations, directives and notices.

Customers can add or delete subscriptions themselves and have the option to password protect their account.

Done at Washington, DC on May 24, 2007.

F. Edward Scarbrough,
U.S. Manager for Codex.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food Safety and Inspection Service

[Docket No. FSIS-2007-0019]

National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods

AGENCY: Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice announces that the National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods (NACMCF) will hold public meetings of the full Committee and subcommittees on June 4-8, 2007. The Committee will discuss: (1) Determination of Cooking Parameters for Safe Seafood for Consumers, (2) Assessment of the Food Safety Importance of *Mycobacterium avium* subspecies *paratuberculosis*, (3) Determination of the Most Appropriate Technologies for the Food Safety and Inspection Service to Adopt in Performing Routine and Baseline

Microbiological Analyses, and (4) Parameters for Inoculated Pack Challenge Study Protocols.

DATES: The full Committee will hold open meetings on Monday, June 4, 2007, 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., and Friday, June 8, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Subcommittee on Determination of Cooking Parameters for Safe Seafood for Consumers will hold an open meeting on Tuesday, June 5, 2007, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Subcommittee on Determination of the Most Appropriate Technologies for the Food Safety and Inspection Service to Adopt in Performing Routine and Baseline Microbiological Analyses will hold open meetings on Tuesday and Wednesday, June 5-6, 2007, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Subcommittee on Assessment of the Food Safety Importance of *Mycobacterium avium* subspecies *paratuberculosis* will hold open meetings on Wednesday and Thursday, June 6-7, 2007, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The June 5-7, 2007, subcommittee meetings will be held at the Aerospace Building, 901 "D" St., SW., Rooms 369-371, Washington, DC 20024. The June 4 and June 8, 2007, full Committee meetings will be held in the conference room at the south end of the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) cafeteria located in the South Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250. All documents related to the full Committee meetings will be available for public inspection in the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) Docket Room, 300 12th Street, SW., Room 102, Cotton Annex Building, Washington, DC 20250, between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, as soon as they become available. The NACMCF documents will also be available on the Internet at http://www.fsis.usda.gov/regulations/2007_Notices_Index/.

FSIS will finalize an agenda on or before the meeting dates and post it on the FSIS Internet Web page at http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News/Meetings_&_Events/. Please note that the meeting agenda is subject to change due to the time required for Committee discussions, thus, sessions could start or end earlier or later than anticipated. Please plan accordingly if you would like to attend a particular session or participate in a public comment period.

Also, the official transcripts of the June 4 and 8, 2007, full Committee meetings, when they become available, will be kept in the FSIS Docket Room at the above address and will also be posted on http://www.fsis.usda.gov/About/NACMCF_Meetings/.

The mailing address for the contact person below, Karen Thomas-Sharp is: Food Safety and Inspection Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Office of Public Health Science, Aerospace Center, Room 333, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-3700.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Persons interested in making a presentation, submitting technical papers, or providing comments at the June 4 and/or June 8, plenary sessions should contact Karen Thomas-Sharp, phone (202) 690-6620, Fax (202) 690-6334, e-mail address: karen.thomas-sharp@fsis.usda.gov, or at the mailing address above. Persons requiring a sign language interpreter or other special accommodations should notify Mrs. Thomas-Sharp by May 29, 2007.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The NACMCF was established in 1988, in response to a recommendation of the National Academy of Sciences for an interagency approach to microbiological criteria for foods, and in response to a recommendation of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations, as expressed in the Rural Development, Agriculture, and Related Agencies Appropriation Bill for fiscal year 1988. The Charter for the NACMCF is available for viewing on the FSIS Internet Web page at http://www.fsis.usda.gov/About/NACMCF_Charter/.

The NACMCF provides scientific advice and recommendations to the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Health and Human Services on public health issues relative to the safety and wholesomeness of the U.S. food supply, including development of microbiological criteria and review and evaluation of epidemiological and risk assessment data and methodologies for assessing microbiological hazards in foods. The Committee also provides advice to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Departments of Commerce and Defense.

Dr. Curt Mann, Deputy Under Secretary for Food Safety, USDA, is the Committee Chair; Dr. Robert E. Brackett, Director of the Food and Drug Administration's Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (CFSAN), is the Vice-Chair; and Gerri Ransom, FSIS, is the Executive Secretariat.

At the subcommittee meetings the week of June 5-7, 2007, the groups will discuss: