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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food Safety and Inspection Service

[Docket No. FSIS-2014-0043]

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 February 5, 2015. The objective of the public meeting is to provide information and receive public comments on agenda items and draft United States (U.S.) positions that will be discussed at the 36th Session of the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS) of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex), taking place in Budapest, Hungary, February 23-27, 2015. The Deputy Under Secretary for Food Safety and the Food and Drug Administration recognize the importance of providing interested parties the opportunity to obtain background information on the 36th Session of CCMAS and to address items on the agenda.

DATES: The public meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 5, 2015 from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 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 36th Session of CCMAS will be accessible via the World Wide Web at the following address:

<http://www.codexalimentarius.org/meetings-reports/en/>

Dr. Gregory O. Noonan, U.S. Delegate to the 36th Session of CCMAS, and the FDA, 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 36th 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>

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE 36th Session of CCMAS CONTACT:

Gregory O. Noonan, PhD, 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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE PUBLIC MEETING CONTACT: Marie

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

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 the basis of final recommendations submitted to it by other bodies; considering, amending, and endorsing, 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. The Committee is charged with elaborating sampling plans and procedures; considering specific sampling and analysis problems submitted to it by the Commission or any of its Committees; defining procedures, protocols, guidelines, or related texts for the assessment of food laboratory proficiency; and developing 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 36th Session of CCMAS will be discussed during the public meeting:

- Methods of Analysis and Sampling in Codex Standards at different steps

- Proposed Draft Principles for the Use of Sampling and Testing in International Food Trade-Explanatory notes and practical examples
- Discussion paper on development of procedures/guidelines for determining equivalency to type I methods
- Discussion paper on criteria approach for methods which use a sum of components
- Review and update of methods in Codex Stan 234-1999 (Recommended Methods of Analysis and Sampling)
- Follow-up methods of analysis and sampling plans
- 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 February 5, 2015 public meeting, draft U.S. positions on the agenda items will be described, 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 36th Session of CCMAS, Gregory

Noonan (see ADDRESSES). Written comments should state that they relate to activities of the 36th Session of CCMAS.

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 on-line through the FSIS Web page located at

<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsis/topics/regulations/federal-register/federal-register-notice>.

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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/wps/portal/fsis/topics/international-affairs/us-codex-alimentarius/committees-and-task-forces/ mailing-list/CT_Index.

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.

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U.S. Department of Agriculture
Director, Office of Adjudication
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250-9410

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(202) 690-7442

E-mail

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 15, 2014.

Mary Frances Lowe,

U.S. Manager for Codex Alimentarius.

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