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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food Safety and Inspection Service

[Docket No. FSIS-2017-0004]

Codex Alimentarius Commission: Meeting of the Codex
Committee on Contaminants in Food

AGENCY: Office of Food Safety, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Office of Food Safety, U.S. Department of
Agriculture (USDA), and the Food and Drug Administration
(FDA), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, are
sponsoring a public meeting on March 2, 2017. 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 11th Session of the Codex Committee on Contaminants in
Food (CCCF) of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex),
taking place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil April 3-7, 2017. The
Office of Food Safety and the FDA recognize the importance
of providing interested parties the opportunity to obtain
background information on the 11th Session of the CCCF and
to address items on the agenda.

DATES: The public meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 2, 2017, from 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The public meeting will take place at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Harvey W. Wiley Federal Building, Room 1A-001, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, 5001 Campus Drive, College Park, MD 20740.

Documents related to the 11th Session of the CCCF will be accessible via the Internet at the following address:

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

Dr. Lauren Posnick Robin, U.S. Delegate to the 11th Session of the CCCF, invites interested U.S. parties to submit their comments electronically to the following e-mail address: henry.kim@fda.hhs.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

REGISTRATION:

Attendees may register electronically at the same e-mail address provided above by February 24, 2017. The meeting will be held in a Federal building. Early registration is encouraged as it will expedite entry into the building and its parking area. Attendees should bring photo identification and plan for adequate time to pass

through security screening systems. If you require parking, please include the vehicle make and tag number when you register. Person who are not able to attend the meeting in person, but wish to participate, may do so by phone.

CALL-IN-NUMBER:

If you wish to participate in the public meeting for the 11th Session of the CCCF by conference call, please use the call-in-number and the participant code below.

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

Participant Code: 5126092

FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE 11TH SESSION OF THE CCCF

CONTACT: Henry Kim, Ph.D., Office of Food Safety, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, U.S. Food and Drug Administration, HFS-317, 5001 Campus Drive, College Park, MD 20740, Telephone: (240) 402-2023, E-mail:

henry.kim@fda.hhs.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE PUBLIC MEETING CONTACT:

Henry Kim, Ph.D., Office of Food Safety, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, U.S. Food and Drug Administration, HFS-317, 5001 Campus Drive, College Park,

MD 20740, Telephone: (301)436-2023, E-mail:

henry.kim@fda.hhs.gov.

Background

The 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 the food trade.

The CCCF is responsible for:

- (a) Establishing or endorsing permitted maximum levels, and where necessary revising existing guideline levels for contaminants and naturally occurring toxicants in food and feed;
- (b) Preparing priority lists of contaminants and naturally occurring toxicants for risk assessment by the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA);

- (c) Considering and elaborating methods of analysis and sampling for the determination of contaminants and naturally occurring toxicants in food and feed;
- (d) Considering and elaborating standards or codes of practice for related subjects; and
- (e) Considering other matters assigned to it by the Codex Alimentarius Commission in relation to contaminants and naturally occurring toxicants in food and feed.

The Committee is chaired by the Netherlands.

Issues to be discussed at the Public Meeting

The following items on the Agenda for the 11th Session of the CCCF will be discussed during the public meeting:

- Matters referred to the CCCF by the Codex Alimentarius Commission and/or its subsidiary bodies;
- Matters of interest arising from other international organizations;
- Proposed draft annex on ergot and ergot alkaloids in cereal grains (Annex to the Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Mycotoxin Contamination in Cereals);

- Proposed draft revision of maximum levels for lead in selected fruits and vegetables (fresh and processed) in the General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed;
- Proposed draft Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Arsenic Contamination in Rice;
- Proposed draft maximum levels for cadmium in chocolate and cocoa-derived products;
- Proposed draft Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Mycotoxin Contamination in Spices;
- Proposed draft maximum level for total aflatoxins in ready to eat peanuts;
- Discussion paper on maximum levels for methylmercury in tuna and other fish;
- Discussion paper on development of maximum levels for mycotoxin contamination in spices;
- Discussion paper on possible inclusion of non-dioxin like PCBs in the Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Dioxin and Dioxin-like PCB Contamination in Food and Feed; and

- Priority list of contaminants and naturally occurring toxicants proposed for evaluation by JECFA.

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

Public Meeting

At the March 2, 2017 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 emailed to Dr. Henry Kim (see ADDRESSES). Written comments should state that they relate to activities of the 11th Session of the CCCF.

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 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/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.

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

Mail:

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

Fax: (202) 690-7442

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: February 15, 2017.

Paulo Almeida,

Acting U.S. Manager for Codex Alimentarius

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