



This document is scheduled to be published in the Federal Register on 12/15/2015 and available online at <http://federalregister.gov/a/2015-31458>, and on FDsys.gov

Billing Code 3410-DM-P

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://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 e-mail 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 e-mailing 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, 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,
E-mail: 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, E-mail: 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 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

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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

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 9, 2015.

Mary Frances Lowe,

U.S. Manager for Codex Alimentarius

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