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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food Safety and Inspection Service

[Docket No. FSIS–2015–0044]

Codex Alimentarius Commission: Meeting of the Codex Committee on Food Additives

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

ACTION: Notice of public meeting and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Office of the Deputy Under Secretary for 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 February 16, 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 48th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA) of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex), taking place in Xi'an, China March 14–18, 2016. The Deputy Under Secretary for Food Safety and the FDA recognize the importance of providing interested parties the opportunity to obtain background information on the 48th Session of the CCFA and to address items on the agenda.

DATES: The public meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 16, 2016, from 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The public meeting will take place at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Harvey Wiley Federal Building, 5100 Paint Branch Parkway, Rooms 1A–001 and 1A–002, College Park, MD 20740.

Documents related to the 48th Session of the CCFA will be accessible via the Internet at the following address: <http://www.codexalimentarius.org/meetings-reports/en/>.

Susan Carberry, Ph.D., U.S. Delegate to the 48th Session of the CCFA and the FDA invite interested U.S. parties to submit their comments electronically to the following email address: ccfa@fda.hhs.gov.

Registration: Attendees may register to attend the public meeting by emailing ccfa@fda.hhs.gov by February 12, 2016. Early registration is encouraged because it will expedite entry into the building and parking area. If you require parking, please include your vehicle make and tag number when you register. The meeting will take place in a Federal building. Attendees should bring photo identification and plan for adequate time to pass through security screening systems. Attendees who are not able to attend the meeting in person, but wish to participate, may do so by phone. Those wishing to participate by phone should request the *call-in-number* and the conference code when they register for the meeting.

For Further Information About The 48th Session of the CCFA Contact: Susan Carberry, Ph.D., Supervisory Chemist, Division of Petition Review, Office of Food Additive Safety, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (CFSAN), Food and Drug Administration, Harvey W. Wiley Federal Building, 5100 Paint Branch Parkway, HFS–205, College Park, MD 20740, Telephone: (240) 402–1269, Fax: (301) 436–2972, Email: susan.carberry@fda.hhs.gov.

For Further Information About The Public Meeting Contact: Daniel E. Folmer, Ph.D., Review Chemist, Division of Petition Review, Office of Food Additive Safety, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (CFSAN), Food and Drug Administration, Harvey W. Wiley Federal Building, 5100 Paint Branch Parkway, HFS–265, College Park, MD 20740, Telephone: (240) 402–1269, Fax: (301) 436–2972, Email: daniel.folmer@fda.hhs.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

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 trade.

The CCFA establishes or endorses permitted maximum levels for individual food additives; prepares priority lists of food additives for risk assessment by the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA); assigns functional classes and International Numbering System (INS) numbers to individual food additives; recommends specifications of identity and purity for food additives for adoption by Codex; considers methods of analysis for the determination of additives in food; and considers and elaborates standards or codes for related subjects, such as labeling of food additives when sold as such. The CCFA is hosted by China.

Issues To Be Discussed at the Public Meeting

The following items on the agenda for the 48th Session of the CCFA will be discussed during the public meeting:

- Matters referred by the Codex Alimentarius Commission and other subsidiary bodies
- Matters of Interest arising from FAO/WHO and from the 80th Meeting of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA)
- Proposed draft Specifications for Identity and Purity of Food Additives arising from the 80th JECFA Meeting
- Endorsement or Revision of Maximum Levels for Food Additives and Processing Aids and Codex Standards
- Alignment of the food-additive provisions of commodity standards and relevant provisions of the General Standard for Food Additives
- Food additive provisions in Table 1 and 2 in food categories 01.2 through 08.4, with the exclusion of food categories 04.1.2.4, 04.2.2.4, 04.2.2.5, 04.2.2.6, 05.1.1, 05.1.3, and 05.1.4 (outstanding from CCFA47)
- Use of nisin (INS 234) in food category 08.3.2 in general, and specifically in products conforming to the corresponding commodity standards
- Proposed draft provision for quillaia extracts (INS 999 (i), (ii)) in food category 14.1.4
- Uses and use levels of paprika extract (INS 160c(ii)) (replies to CL 2015/9–FA Part C, point 8)

- Proposals for new and/or revision of food additive provisions (replies to CL 2015/12–FA)
 - Proposed draft revision of food category 01.1 “Milk and dairy-based drinks” and its sub-categories
 - Discussion paper on the use of specific food additives in the production of wine
 - Proposed draft revision to the International Numbering System (INS) for Food Additives (CAC/GL 36–1989)
 - Proposals for additions and changes to the Priority List of Substances proposed for evaluation by JECFA (replies to CL 2015/11–FA)
 - Information on commercial use of: Potassium hydrogen sulfate (INS 515(ii)), sodium sorbates (INS 201) and calcium hydrogen sulfite (INS 227) (replies to CL 2015/9–FA Part C, point 9)
 - Discussion paper on secondary additives
 - Proposed draft revision of Section 4.1c and 5.1c of the General Standard for the Labelling of Food Additives When Sold As Such (CODEX STAN 107–1981)
 - Other Business and Future Work
- Each issue listed will be fully described in documents distributed, or to be distributed, by the Codex Secretariat prior to the meeting. Members of the public may access these documents at <http://www.codexalimentarius.org/meetings-reports/detail/en/?meeting=CCFA&session=48>.

Public Meeting

At the February 16, 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 48th Session of the CCFA, Dr. Susan Carberry at the following address: ccfa@fda.hhs.gov. Written comments should state they relate to activities of the 48th Session of the CCFA.

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.

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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).

Mary Frances Lowe,

U.S. Manager for Codex Alimentarius.

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BILLING CODE 3410–DM–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food and Nutrition Service

Request for Information: Software Vendors of State and Local Management Information Systems (MIS) and Other Technology Solutions for the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs

AGENCY: Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), USDA.

ACTION: Notice; Request for information.

SUMMARY: This is a request for information from Management Information Systems (MIS) software and hardware vendors and developers (“vendors”) to learn about the functionality of State and School Food Authority National School Lunch and School Breakfast Program (NSLP/SBP) data management information systems. It is not a request for proposal and does not commit the Government to issue a solicitation, make an award, or pay any costs associated with responding to this announcement. All submitted information shall remain with the Government and will not be returned. All responses will become part of the public record and will not be held confidential.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is seeking information that will inform future data reporting requirements for the Department’s oversight and management of NSLP/SBP. The Department is aware that all States and many school districts have installed and implemented MIS or other technology solutions to improve State and local program management. To better understand the availability and implementation of these solutions, USDA is requesting information from vendors about NSLP/SBP data systems they offer and have deployed at the State and local levels.

The objectives of this request for information (RFI) are to:

1. Obtain background data to inform later research on State and School Food Authority (SFA) NSLP/SBP data management information systems.
2. Describe the functionality and capabilities of systems currently in use by State agencies and SFAs, or available to States and SFA for purchase.
3. Describe the typical costs of system development, installation, maintenance, and upgrades.
4. Identify which States and SFAs are using particular systems.

DATES: To be assured of consideration, written comments must be submitted or postmarked on or before March 14, 2016.