

Regulations and Paperwork Management Branch, at (202) 692-0043.

Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Agencies, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the Agencies' estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to Cheryl Thompson, Regulations and Paperwork Management Branch, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, 7th Floor, Room 701, 300 7th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20024. All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: December 16, 2002.

Arthur A. Garcia,

Administrator, Rural Housing Service.

Dated: December 20, 2002.

John Rosso,

Administrator, Rural Business-Cooperative Service.

Dated: December 20, 2002.

Hilda Legg,

Administrator, Rural Utilities Service.

Dated: December 23, 2002.

James R. Little,

Administrator, Farm Service Agency.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food Safety and Inspection Service

[Docket No. 02-047N]

Codex Alimentarius Commission: 35th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants

AGENCY: Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting, request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Office of the Under Secretary for Food Safety, United States Department of Agriculture, and the Food And Drug Administration (FDA)

are sponsoring a public meeting on January 30, 2003, to provide information and receive public comments on agenda items that will be discussed at the meeting of the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants (CCFAC), which will be held in Arusha, Tanzania, on March 17-21, 2003. The Under Secretary and FDA recognize the importance of providing interested parties the opportunity to obtain background information on the Thirty-fifth Session of the Additives and Contaminants Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex) and to address items on the Agenda for the 35th CCFAC.

DATES: The public meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 30, 2003, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The public meeting will be held in the Auditorium, Harvey W. Wiley Federal Building, 5100 Paint Branch Parkway, College Park, Maryland. To receive copies of the documents referenced in the notice contact the FSIS Docket Clerk, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Room 102, Cotton Annex, 300 12th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20250-3700. The documents will also be accessible via the World Wide Web at the following address: http://www.codexalimentarius.net/ccfac35/fa03_01e.htm. If you have comments, please send an original and two copies to the FSIS Docket Clerk and reference Docket # 02-047N. All comments submitted will be available for public inspection in the Docket Clerk's Office between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: F. Edward Scarbrough, Ph.D., U.S. Manager for Codex, U.S. Codex Office, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Room 4861, South Building, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250, Phone: (202) 205-7760, Fax: (202) 720-3157. Attendees are requested to pre-register as soon as possible by e-mail to USCCFAC@CFSAN.FDA.GOV.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Codex was established in 1962 by two United Nations organizations, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO). Codex is the major international organization for protecting the health and economic interests of consumers and encouraging fair international trade in food. 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 ensure that the world's food supply is sound, wholesome, free from adulteration, and correctly labeled. In the United States, USDA, FDA, and EPA manage and carry out U.S. Codex activities.

The Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants establishes or endorses maximum or guideline levels for individual food additives, for contaminants (including environmental contaminants), and for naturally occurring toxicants in foodstuffs and animal feeds. In addition the Committee prepares priority lists of food additives and contaminants for toxicological evaluation by the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives; recommends specifications of identity and purity for food additives for adoption by the Commission; considers methods of analysis for the determination of food additives and contaminants in food; and considers and elaborates standards or codes for related subjects such as the labelling of food additives when sold as such, and food irradiation. The Committee is chaired by The Netherlands.

Issues To Be Discussed at the Public Meeting

The provisional agenda items will be discussed during the public meeting:

1. Adoption of the Agenda (CX/FAC 03/1).
2. Matters referred by the Codex Alimentarius Commission and other Codex Committees (CX/FAC 03/2).
3. Summary Report of the 59th Meeting of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA).
4. Action Required as a Result of Changes in ADI Status and other Toxicological Recommendations (CX/FAC 03/3).
5. Comments Submitted on the Proposed Draft Risk Assessment Policy Statement for the Application of Risk Analysis Principles to the Standard Setting Activities of the CCFAC in Conjunction with the Risk Assessments Performed by the JECFA.

Food Additives

6. Endorsement and/or Revision of Maximum Levels for Food Additives in Codex Standards (CX/FAC 03/5).
7. Consideration of the Codex General Standard for Food Additives.
 - (a) Report of the ad hoc Working Group on the Codex General Standard for Food Additives.
 - (b) Proposed Draft Revised Preamble to the Codex General Standard for Food Additives (CX/FAC 03/6).