

Done in Washington, DC on August 9, 2004.

F. Edward Scarbrough,

U.S. Manager for Codex Alimentarius.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food Safety and Inspection Service

[Docket No. 04-025N]

Codex Alimentarius Commission: 22nd Session of the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables

AGENCY: Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting, request for comments.

SUMMARY: This notice informs the public that the Office of the Under Secretary for Food Safety, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), USDA, are sponsoring a public meeting on August 31, 2004, to provide information and receive public comments on agenda items that will be discussed at the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables (CCPFV), which will be held in Alexandria, Virginia on September 27–October 1, 2004. The Under Secretary and AMS recognize the importance of providing interested parties with information about the Processed Fruits and Vegetables Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex) and to address items on the Agenda for the 22nd CCPFV.

DATES: The public meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 31, 2004, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

ADDRESSES: The public meeting will be held in Room 3501 South Building, United States Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC. To receive copies of the documents referenced in the notice contact the Docket Clerk, (FSIS Docket Room), U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Room 102, Cotton Annex, 300 12th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20250. The documents will also be accessible via the World Wide Web at the following address http://www.codexalimentarius.net/ccpfv22/pf22_01e.htm. FSIS invites interested persons to submit comments on this notice. Comments may be submitted by any of the following methods:

- Mail, including floppy disks or CD-ROM's, and hand- or courier-delivered items: Send to Docket Clerk, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food Safety

and Inspection Service, 300 12th Street, SW., Room 102 Cotton Annex, Washington, DC 20250.

All submissions received must include the Agency name and docket number 04-025N. All comments submitted in response to this notice, as well as research and background information used by FSIS in developing this document, will be available for public inspection in the FSIS Docket Room at the address listed above between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. The comments also will be posted on the Agency's Web site at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/OPPDE/rdad/FRDockets.htm>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Ellen Matten, 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. Persons requiring a sign language interpreter or other special accommodations should notify Ms. Matten at the above number.

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, the Food and Drug Administration of the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Environmental Protection Agency manage and carry out U.S. Codex.

The Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables elaborates world wide standards for various processed fruits and vegetables, including certain dried and canned products. This committee does not cover standards for fruit and vegetable juices. The Commission has also allocated to this Committee the work of revision of standards for quick frozen fruits and vegetables. The Committee is chaired by the United States of America.

Issues To Be Discussed at the Public Meeting

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

1. Adoption of the Agenda.
 2. Matters Referred by the Codex Alimentarius Commission and other Codex Committees.
 3. Consideration of Codex Draft Revised Standards at Step 7.
 - Pickled Products.
 4. Consideration of Proposed Draft Codex Standards at Step 4.
 - Processed Tomato Concentrates.
 - Canned Tomatoes.
 - Canned Vegetables, including Guidelines for Packing Media for Canned Vegetables.
 - Jams, Jellies and Marmalades.
 - Soy Sauce.
 - Canned Citrus Fruits.
 5. Proposals for Amendments to the Priority List for the Standardization of Processed Fruits and Vegetables.
 6. Other Business and Future Work.
 - Methods of Analysis and Sampling for Processed Fruits and Vegetables.
- Each issue listed will be fully described in documents distributed, or to be distributed, by the United States' Secretariat to the Meeting. Members of the public may access or request copies of these documents (*see ADDRESSES*).

Public Meeting

At the August 31st public meeting, the agenda items will be described, discussed, and attendees will have the opportunity to pose questions and offer comments. Comments may be sent to the FSIS Docket Room (*see ADDRESSES*). Written comments should state that they relate to activities of the 22nd CCPFV, docket number 04-025N.

Additional Public Notification

Public awareness of all segments of rulemaking and policy development is important. Consequently, in an effort to ensure that the public and in particular 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>.

FSIS also will make copies of this **Federal Register** publication available through the FSIS Constituent Update, which is used to provide information regarding FSIS policies, procedures, regulations, **Federal Register** notices, FSIS public meetings, recalls, and other types of information that could affect or would be of interest to our constituents and stakeholders. The update is communicated via Listserv, a free e-mail subscription service consisting of industry, trade, and farm groups, consumer interest groups, allied health professionals, scientific professionals, and other individuals who have requested to be included. The update also is available on the FSIS Web page.

Through Listserv and the Web page, FSIS is able to provide information to a much broader, more diverse audience.

Done in Washington, DC on August 9, 2004.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food Safety and Inspection Service

[Docket No. 04-028N]

National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods

AGENCY: Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting; request for comments.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, this notice announces that the National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods (NACMCF) will hold public meetings of the full committee and subcommittees on August 24-27, 2004. The committee will continue to discuss: (1) Performance standards for ground chicken/ground turkey, (2) the scientific basis for establishing safety-based "use by" date labeling for refrigerated ready-to-eat foods, and (3) scientific criteria for redefining pasteurization.

DATES: The full Committee and subcommittees will hold open meetings on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, August 24-27, 2004, from 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held at the Hotel Monaco, Athens Room, 700 F Street, NW., Washington, DC 20004; telephone number 202-628-7177 or 877-205-5411.

FSIS invites interested persons to submit comments on this notice. Comments may be submitted by mail, including floppy disks or CD-ROM's, or by hand delivery to Docket Clerk, Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service, 300 12th Street, SW., Room 102 Cotton Annex, Washington, DC 20250. All submissions received must include the Agency name and docket number 04-028N.

Persons interested in making a presentation, submitting technical papers, or providing comments may send their requests, papers, or comments to the contact person identified herein at: Food Safety and Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, Office of Public Health and Science, Aerospace Center, Room 333,

1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-3700.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Karen Thomas, phone (202) 690-6620, fax (202) 690-6334, e-mail address: Karen.thomas@fsis.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The NACMCF was established on April 18, 1988, in response to a recommendation of the National Academy of Sciences for an interagency approach to microbiological criteria for foods, and in response to a recommendation of the U.S. House of Representatives' Committee on Appropriations, as expressed in the Rural Development, Agriculture, and Related Agencies Appropriation Bill for fiscal year 1988. The Charter for the NACMCF is available for viewing on the FSIS Internet Web page at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/ophs/nacmcf/charter.htm>.

The NACMCF provides scientific advice and recommendations to the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Health and Human Services on public health issues relative to the safety and wholesomeness of the U.S. food supply, including development of microbiological criteria and review and evaluation of epidemiological and risk assessment data and methodologies for assessing microbiological hazards in foods. The Committee also provides advice to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Departments of Commerce and Defense.

Dr. Merle Pierson, Deputy Under Secretary for Food Safety, USDA, is the Committee Chair, Dr. Robert E. Brackett, Director of Food and Drug Administration's Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (CFSAN), is the Vice-Chair, and Gerri Ransom, FSIS, is the Executive Secretariat.

At the meetings the week of August 24-27, 2004, the Committee will discuss:

- Continuing work on performance standards for ground chicken/ground turkey;
- Continuing work on the scientific basis for establishing safety-based "use by" date labeling for refrigerated ready-to-eat foods; and
- Continuing work on the scientific criteria for redefining pasteurization.

Persons requiring a sign language interpreter or other special accommodations should notify Ms. Thomas by August 17, 2004.

Availability of Advisory Committee Materials

FSIS intends to make available to the public all materials that are reviewed

and considered by NACMCF regarding its deliberations. Generally, these materials will be made available as soon as possible after the full committee meeting. Further, FSIS intends to make these materials available in both electronic formats on the FSIS Web page, as well as in hard copy format in the Docket Room. Often, an attempt is made to make the materials available at the start of the full committee meeting when sufficient time is allowed in advance to do so.

All documents related to full committee meetings will be available for inspection in the FSIS Docket Room between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, as soon as they become available. All comments submitted in response to this notice, as well as research and background information used by FSIS in developing this document, will be available for public inspection in the FSIS Docket Room at the address listed above between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. The comments also will be posted on the Agency's Web site at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/OPPDE/rdad/FRDockets.htm>.

See the disclaimer section below regarding modifications that may be necessary due to the presentation of the comments. The NACMCF documents also will be available on the Internet at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/OPPDE/rdad/FRDockets.htm>.

FSIS will finalize an agenda on or before the meeting dates and post it on the FSIS Internet Web page at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/OPPDE/rdad/FRDockets.htm>.

Also, the official transcripts of the August 2004 full committee meeting, when they become available, will be kept in the FSIS Docket Room at the above address and also will be posted on <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/OPHS/NACMCF/transcripts>.

Disclaimer

For electronic copies, all NACMCF documents and comments are electronic conversions from a variety of source formats into HTML that may have resulted in character translation or format errors. Readers are cautioned not to rely on this HTML document. Minor changes to materials in electronic format may be necessary in order to meet the electronic and information technology accessibility standards contained in Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act in which graphs, charts, and tables must be accompanied by a text descriptor in order for the vision-impaired to be made aware of the content. FSIS will add these text descriptors along with a qualifier that the text is a simplified