

Institute of Food Technologists (IFT) 2024 Codex Update

Abbreviations

EWG: Electronic Working Group

FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization

WHO: World Health Organization

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Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) Meeting

Key CAC Scientific Agenda Topics	2024-25 Major Engagement Areas	IFT 2024 Related Inputs to CAC	Key IFT CAC Takeaways on Science & Regulations
Approvals of Codex Standards, Guidelines, and Codes of Practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Almost 900 new standards, guidelines, and codes of practice approved • Codex 2026-2031 Strategic Plan approved 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IFT substantially contributed via various committee working groups to the new standards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCFICS Food Fraud definitions approved • CCFL debate on Country of Harvest vs. Country of Origin
Codex Elections and Appointments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allan Azegele, PhD, (Kenya) elected new Codex Chairperson • Three new vice-chairs elected (from China, Saudi Arabia, Turkiye) • Sarah Cahill appointed Secretariat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IFT congratulated Azegele on his election • IFT congratulated Cahill on appointment as Secretariat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The elected vice-chairs are new to Codex leadership roles and there will be a learning curve regarding implementation of the approved Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031
Movement of Codex Texts through Eight-Step Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modification to principles for traceability (CCFICS) were not moved forward and sent back for further work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IFT provided input to traceability modifications • CCCF maximum limits moved forward on spices and herbs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IFT will engage with the CCFICS working group to help resolve issues on traceability proposal
Other Codex Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24 new work proposals (substantial increase) for various committees were approved 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IFT commented on the importance of prioritization of food safety work proposals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TiO₂ was debated during the CCFA agenda session with Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JEFCA) restating their conclusions

Further reading:

- [IFT CAC 47 Summary](#)
- [CAC 47 Agenda](#)
- [CAC 47 Full Report](#)

Codex Committee on Contaminants in Food (CCCF)

Host Country: Netherlands

IFT Team Leader: Martin Slayne, PhD, Ingredient

Team: Four IFT members (Canada, Nigeria, USA)

2024 Engagement Overview:

- Responded to multiple Circular Letters
- Participated in CCCF meeting
- Engaged on multiple EWGs

Key CCCF Scientific Agenda Topics	2024-25 Major Engagement Areas	IFT 2024 Related Inputs to CCCF	Key IFT CCCF Takeaways on Science & Regulations
FAO-WHO-CCCF Intersections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cereal aflatoxins, arsenic, PFAS, ethylene oxide 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IFT recommended focus on aflatoxins and heavy metals (arsenic, cadmium, lead) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JECFA assessments are slow due to overload of work • Likely upcoming Codex activity on PFAS
Heavy Metals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contaminants in spices • Lead Maximum Limits (MLs) on various foods • Code of Practice (COP) on Cadmium • Methylmercury in seafood 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead in spices comments • Cadmium COP comments and request to review, possibly expand existing cadmium MLs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cadmium COP draft needs substantial work by EWG • Current cadmium MLs are based on outdated science (~2010) and need update
Natural Toxins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aflatoxins and ochratoxins • Pyrrolizidine alkaloids • Ciguatera in seafood 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joined EWG for aflatoxins and ochratoxins in spices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IFT has been engaged with aflatoxin and ochratoxin MLs for cereals, peanuts, etc.
Synthetic or Process Contaminants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revisit of acrylamide in foods • Mineral oil hydrocarbons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IFT submitted comments on acrylamide 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IFT believes existing Codex work on acrylamide COP is sufficient with current science
Emerging Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Inhibitors (EI) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IFT tracking Codex activity on environmental 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No solid toxicological concerns with EI currently

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Contaminants from recycled packaging material	inhibitors and recycled plastics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recycled plastics needs more data
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Further reading:

- [IFT CCCF 17 Input](#)
- [IFT CCCF 17 Summary](#)
- [CCCF 17 Agenda](#)
- [CCFH 17 Full Report](#)

Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA)

Host Country: China

IFT Team Leader: Isolde Aubuchon, ABM Cocktails

Team: Seven IFT members (Canada, China, Ireland, USA)

2024 Engagement Overview:

- Circular Letters and Position Document for CCFA 54
- Attended CCFA 54 and engaged in EWGs

Key CCFA Scientific Agenda Topics	2024-25 Major Engagement Areas	IFT 2024 Related Inputs to CCFA	Key IFT CCFA Takeaways on Science & Regulations
FAO-WHO-CCFA Intersections (JECFA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JECFA evaluation of aspartame • JECFA evaluation of TiO₂ • JECFA engagement process with CCFA on Acceptable Daily Intake (ADI) changes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IFT commented on the criticality of JECFA use as pre-eminent Codex food toxicological safety body 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JECFA held to its safe to use positions on ADI for aspartame and TiO₂. • ADI changes must be run through CCFA – JECFA cannot change alone
General Standard for Food Additives (GSFA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 350 food additive provisions adopted in 2024 • Carotenoid use level revisions • Paprika extract • Tocopherols and phosphates • Carrier additives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IFT made comments on aspartame, TiO₂, steviol glycosides and modified starches • IFT made comments on standards for “Carriers” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IFT strongly supported the role of JECFA primacy for Codex food safety evaluations as some members were proposing use of other food safety evaluations • IFT supported JECFA assessment of “Carriers” as a separate classification
Other Food Additive Topics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revisit of language (Note 381) regarding “As Consumed” in the context of CCFA Standards setting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IFT commented on the “As Consumed” review 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IFT supports evaluation of all food additives “As Consumed” (e.g., EFSA TiO₂ nanoparticle issue)

Emerging Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop a standard for “Yeast”	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• None	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• TBD
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Further reading:

- [IFT CCFA 54 Input](#)
- [IFT CCFA 54 Summary](#)
- [CCFA 54 Agenda](#)
- [CCFA 54 Full Report](#)

Codex Executive Committee (CC EXEC) Meetings

Key CC Exec Scientific Agenda Topics	2024-25 Major Topics	IFT 2024 Related Inputs to CC Exec	Key IFT CC Exec Takeaways
FAO-WHO Intersections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide (JMPR) and JECFA Monograph timeliness concerns • Lateness of work availability prior to Codex Committee meetings • WHO 2025 work on Ultra-processed Foods (UPFs) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IFT provided input to CC EXEC (April 2024) regarding improvements to Codex work processes • IFT communicated at CCNFSDU meeting regarding WHO proposed work on UPFs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IFT commented to CC EXEC in 2024 regarding improvements needed to Codex work processes • IFT will be monitoring the WHO work on UPFs to ensure appropriate scientific input is considered
Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of foresight and horizon scanning capability to help define new Codex work • WHO/FAO scientific advice to codex from expert bodies (e.g., JECFA, JMPR) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IFT commented twice in 2024 on various aspects of the Codex Strategic Plan proposals • IFT recommended potentially splitting of JECFA work into two parts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IFT stressed the importance of transparency and consistency in the foresight and horizon scanning process to prioritize Codex committee work priorities • CC EXEC requesting WHO and FAO evaluate their workload on scientific expert bodies
Emerging Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Country of Harvest Labeling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Country of Harvesting labeling discussed at length by members during CAC meeting

Further reading:

- [IFT Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031 April 2024 Comments](#)
- [IFT Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031 October 2024 Comments](#)
- [Codex CC Exec 86 July 2024 Meeting Report](#)
- [Codex CC Exec 87 November 2024 Meeting Report](#)

Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH)

Host Country: USA

IFT Team Leader: James Dickson, PhD, Iowa State

Team: Four IFT members (USA)

2024 Engagement Overview:

- Responded to Circular Letters
- Submitted IFT Position Document

Key CCFA Scientific Agenda Topics	2024-25 Major Engagement Areas	IFT 2024 Related Inputs to CCFH	Key IFT CCFH Takeaways on Science & Regulations
FAO-WHO-CCFH Intersections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public health risks from live animal markets • Joint FAO/WHO Expert Meetings on Microbiological Risk Assessment (JEMRA) work on food viruses • JEMRA work on bacterial pathogens 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IFT tracking work on food viruses and implications to Codex work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IFT continuing to track JEMRA work on Listeria monocytogenes in various foods
Food Borne Pathogens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shiga toxin producing E. coli • Pathogenic vibrio in Seafood • Guidelines for food hygiene in traditional markets • Guidelines on Listeria monocytogenes control 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IFT was aligned with the 2024 progress across these areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IFT will continue to specifically track the work on Listeria monocytogenes considering the many challenges and health risks related to control of this organism
Food Processing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidelines for the safe use and reuse of water in food production (dairy and new technologies) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IFT commented that the guidelines should be broadened to all food industries, not just dairy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IFT expects the continued development of technologies in this area to drive more work, particularly concerning sustainability

Emerging Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revisions to guidelines on control of viruses in foods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IFT commented that this is a rapidly developing area scientifically and will require revision more frequently 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IFT proposed a 5-year revision cycle for control of viruses in food to enable Codex guidance to stay relevant with new science
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Further reading:

- [IFT CCFH 54 Input](#)
- [IFT CCFH 54 Summary](#)
- [CCFH 54 Agenda](#)
- [CCFH 54 Full Report](#)

Codex Committee on Food Import & Export Certification Systems (CCFICS)

Host Country: Australia

IFT Team Leader: Janet Collins, PhD

Team: Four IFT members (Ireland, USA)

2024 Engagement Overview:

- May workshop on New Work Initiatives
- Circular Letter responses
- Attending September CCFICS 27

Key CCFICS Scientific Agenda Topics	2024-25 Major Engagement Areas	IFT 2024 Related Inputs to CCFICS	Key IFT CCFICS Takeaways on Science & Regulations
FAO-WHO-CCFICS Intersections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FAO/WHO food control system assessment tool 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helpful in evaluating National Food Control Systems for countries on a comparative basis
Traceability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Codex 2006 Guidance documents on food traceability being updated by EWG and led by USA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IFT engaged with EWG and provided comments both within EWG and to CCFICS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The revised global traceability principles draft document is mostly aligned with IFT Traceability program
Food Fraud	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Codex is preparing draft guidance on prevention and control of food fraud 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IFT engaged with EWG and provided comments both within EWG and to CCFICS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is substantial debate still ongoing amongst member countries on definitions
Emerging Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of AI in food import/export and certification • Principles for digitizing National Food Control System (NFCS) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IFT participated in EWG on emerging issues in May 2024 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBD – IFT may potentially engage on AI use within CCFICS

Further reading:

- [IFT CCFICS 27 Input](#)

- [IFT CCFICS 27 Summary](#)
- [CCFICS 27 Agenda](#)
- [CCFICS 27 Full Report](#)

Codex Committee on Food Labeling (CCFL)

Host Country: Canada

IFT Team Leader: Richard Wood, PhD, Mars

Team: Seven IFT members (Canada, UK, USA)

2024 Engagement Overview:

- Responded to multiple Circular Letters
- Attended CCFL 48 in October
- Drafted position statement for CCFL 48

Key CCFL Scientific Agenda Topics	2024-25 Major Engagement Areas	IFT 2024 Related Inputs to CCFL	Key IFT CCFL Takeaways on Science & Regulations
FAO-WHO-CCFL Intersections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nutrition Guidance Expert Advisory Group (NUGAG) guidelines on nutrition labelling policies and food marketing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IFT tracking NUGAG guidance development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IFT concerned that WHO NUGAG developments are being done without a global engagement process like Codex has
Food Allergens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revisions in 2023 made to food allergen list • Precautionary Food Allergen Labeling (PAL) guidance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IFT previously commented on the food allergen list – likely to be revisited in 2025-2026 • IFT engaged with EWG on PAL development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scientific basis for some items on the food allergen list is insufficient • PAL EWG work continuing and IFT engaging, as current text development is incomplete
General Labeling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E-commerce labeling • Sugar labeling • New labeling technology (digital) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IFT commented on sugar labeling circular letter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IFT will continue to engage on sugar labeling EWG work to ensure sound use of science in proposed guidance
Emerging Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Labeling of alcoholic beverages • Trans fatty acids • Sustainability labeling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IFT will review discussion papers on these topics as they are available 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IFT concerned about how to verify scientific basis for sustainability labeling

Further reading:

- [IFT CCFL 48 Input](#)
- [IFT CCFL 48 Summary](#)
- [CCFL 48 Agenda](#)
- [CCFL 48 Full Report](#)

Codex Committee on Nutrition & Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU)

Host Country: Germany

IFT Team Leader: Rosemary Walzem, PhD, Texas A&M

Team: Seven IFT members (Netherlands, USA)

2024 Engagement Overview:

- Responded to multiple Circular Letters
- Participated in EWGs
- Attending CCNFSDU 44 in October

Key CCNFSDU Scientific Agenda Topics	2024-25 Major Engagement Areas	IFT 2024 Related Inputs to CCNFSDU	Key IFT CCNFSDU Takeaways on Science & Regulations
FAO-WHO-CCNFSDU Intersections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment of protein quality and requirements • Nutrition Guidance Expert Advisory Group (NUGAG) guidelines on diet and health • WHO Ultra-processed Foods (UPF) assessment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IFT Conference Room Document (CRD) submission on WHO UPH assessment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IFT is expecting further WHO/FAO activity on protein quality in 2025 • IFT expects further engagement on dietary guidelines within CCNFSDU • IFT expects more Codex UPF discussions at CCNFSDU
Review of Additives for Special Use Foods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns raised by some members regarding use of certain additives for infants and children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IFT reviewing discussions and proposals regarding scientific basis for concerns raised • IFT commented on sweetness testing for certain products 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IFT will continue to assess scientific data regarding challenges to already approved food additives for use in special diets, specifically infants and young children
New Work Proposals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harmonized probiotic guidelines for use in foods • Use of fructans, lycopene, and beata- 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IFT engaging in Probiotics & Microbiome EWG work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IFT expecting continuation of EWG on probiotics and that this area will be expanded into guideline

	carotene in infant formular	• IFT evaluating scientific basis on fructans, etc.	recommendations going forward
Emerging Issues	• None currently highlighted	• CRD on UPF	• UPF is expected to become a broader discussion topic within CCNFSDU

Further reading:

- [IFT Comments on Testing for Sweetness in Beverages for Young Children](#)
- [IFT UPF Comments on WHO 2025 UPF Proposed Work](#)
- [IFT CCNFSDU 44 Summary](#)
- [CCNFSDU 44 Agenda](#)
- [CCNFSDU 44 Full Report](#)

Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR)

Host Country: China

IFT Team Leader: Tim Herrman, PhD, Texas A&M

Team: Three IFT members (USA)

2024 Engagement Overview:

- Responded to Circular Letters
- Participated in EWG and CCPR 55

Key CCPR Scientific Agenda Topics	2024-25 Major Engagement Areas	IFT 2024 Related Inputs to CCPR	Key IFT CCPR Takeaways on Science & Regulations
FAO-WHO-CCPR Intersections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide (JMPPR) risk assessment approach proposed changes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IFT agreed with many countries concerned with the transparency regarding the proposed change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IFT will continue to track JMPPR revisions to their risk assessment proposal and concern about the wider use of computer simulation in risk assessments
Pesticide Maximum Residual Limits (MRLs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval of new pesticide use with MRLs • Revocation of existing pesticide use • Pesticide reference management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IFT had no concerns regarding new pesticide use or revocation • Concerns regarding pollinators (bees) impact raised on new uses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IFT stands with the Codex Executive stance that impact on animals is outside the purview of Codex (which is focused by original intent on direct human effects)
Managing MRLs for Unsupported Pesticides	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing EWG to manage this issue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IFT participated in this EWG 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IFT maintains that unsupported (by a particular country) pesticides should not be automatically revoked after a fixed timeframe
Emerging Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental inhibitors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IFT is tracking development on this issue and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IFT will evaluate new scientific assessments

		believes it is relevant to food safety	on the human safety of these molecules
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Further reading:

- [IFT CCPR 55 Summary](#)
- [CCPR 55 Agenda](#)
- [CCPR 55 Full Report](#)

Upcoming Codex Committee Meetings

Committee	Dates	Location	IFT Attendance
CCFA 55	03/24/25 – 03/28/25	Seoul, South Korea	TBD
CCPR 56	05/19/25 – 05/23/25	Budapest, Hungary	In Person
CCCF 18	06/23/25 – 06/27/25	Bangkok, Thailand	TBD
CCEXEC 88	07/14/25 – 07/18/25	Rome, Italy	N/A
CCEXEC 89	11/03/25 – 11/07/25	Rome, Italy	N/A
CAC 48	11/10/25 – 11/14/25	Rome, Italy	Virtual

About IFT

The Institute of Food Technologists (IFT) is a global organization of approximately 11,000 individual members from more than 90 countries committed to advancing the science of food. Since 1939, IFT has brought together the brightest minds in food science, technology, and related professions working in academia, government, and industry to solve the world's greatest food challenges. IFT works to ensure that its members have the resources they need to learn, grow, and innovate to advance the science of food as the population and the world evolve. IFT believes that science and innovation are essential to ensuring a global food supply that is sustainable, safe, nutritious, and accessible to all. For more information, please visit ift.org.