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Tehran-Iran
13.5.2013

Kick-off message for an Electronic Working Group on the International Numbering System (INS)

The 45th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA), held in Beijing, China 18 – 22 March 2013, agreed to establish an electronic Working Group, led by Iran, open to all members and observers and working in English only. This Working Group will be working in English only with the following terms of reference, to:

- (i) Consider the replies to the CL requesting proposals for changes and/or additions to the INS list; and
- (ii) Prepare a proposal for circulation for comments at Step 3

Iran, as leading country of the eWG invites Members and Observers interested in participating in the eWG to provide a contact name, including e-mail address, to the coordinator, Dr. Behzad Marandi.

Please send messages by e-mail to bmarandi@arianprocess.com with copy to bn31518@yahoo.com (Mrs Banafesheh Nasiri, Iran Codex Secretariat) by **15 June 2013**. Once the contact list has been established, a further e-mail will be circulated containing details of the issues to be dealt with.

The deadline for comments on the INS issues detailed in CL 2013/13-FA is 15 September 2013. Shortly after the deadline Iran will compile the proposals for changes/addition to Section 3 of the INS list and prepare a proposal for circulation for comments at Step 3. If necessary a summary is prepared of other INS matters addressed by the eWG.

The draft document(s) will be sent to the eWG members for comments. Comments must be submitted by 31 October 2013. Comments received after 31 October cannot be taken into account. Based on the comments received from Members of the eWG, Iran will then prepare the final document(s) to be circulated by the Codex Secretariat as basis for discussions at the 46th Session of the CCFA to be held in March 2014 in China.

We look forward to very productive cooperation and your kind comments.

With Friendly Regards,

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ELECTRONIC WORKING GROUP ON THE INS – PROPOSED WORK FLOW IN 2013 AND INVITATION TO MEMBERS OF THE WORKING GROUP TO SUBMIT COMMENTS

1. In March 2013 the 45thCCFA agreed to establish an electronic working group (eWG) open to all members and observers and hosted by Iran.
2. In April 2013 the Codex Secretariat distributed CL 2013/13-FA (inviting, by 15 September 2013 proposals for changes, addition (and deletion) to the INS list.
3. The Codex Secretariat distributed a kick-off message (attached) on 14 May 2013 .The eWG containing an invitation to members and observers to sign up for the eWG by 15 June 2013. It was mentioned that the eWG will be working in English only. The terms of reference of the eWG as decided by the 45thCCFA:
 - (i) To consider the replies to the CL2013/13 FA requesting proposals for changes and/or additions to the INS list; and
 - (ii) To prepare a proposal for circulation for comments at Step 3
4. By 19 June 2013 nine countries, one member organization and observers from thirteen international organizations had signed up for the eWG and a contact list was established on 20 June (attached). All members of the eWG are invited to submit comments by 15 September on issues listed under point 3. above.
5. The main task of the eWG is to consider comments received in answer 2013/13-FA and these comments will not be available until after 15 September 2013. The eWG will then have to work fairly fast, since draft documents need to be submitted to the Codex Secretariat in November. Shortly after the deadline we will
 - compile the proposals for changes/additions to Section 3 of the INS list and prepare a draft proposal
 - prepare a draft summary of the comments submitted by members of the eWG on issues above

These two draft documents will in early October be sent to the eWG members for comments. Comments must be submitted by 31 October. Comments received after 31 October cannot be taken into account. Based on the comments received, we will then prepare the final document to be circulated by the Codex Secretariat as basis for discussions at the 46th Session of the CCFA to be held in March 2014.
6. **Even if the main work must be done in September – October, it is suggested that between now and about 15 September:**
 - **eWG participants comment on the proposed work flow outlined in this paper**
 - **eWG participants send their own comments regarding points of para 3 above**

Important Notice: Please kindly include justification for your kind request regarding changes to INS list.

Behzad Marandi
Banafsheh Nasiri

Attachments: Kick-off letter 14.05.2013
eWG members 20.6.2013
CL 2013/13-FA