WHO were to develop clear rules and procedures for the establishment and functioning of a trust fund for consideration by the Commission to ensure its complete transparency and avoidance of bias and influence, to report on its implementation and indicate envisioned sources of funding. These rules and procedures will be discussed at the public meeting and at the 25th (Extraordinary) Session of the Commission.

**Public Meeting**

At the January 31st public meeting, the agenda items will be described and 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 25th (Extraordinary) Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

**Additional Public Notification**

Pursuant to Departmental Regulation 4300–4, ''Civil Rights Impact Analysis,'' dated September 22, 1993, FSIS has considered the potential civil rights impact of this notice on minorities, women, and persons with disabilities. Therefore, to ensure that these groups and others are made aware of this meeting, FSIS will announce it and provide copies of the **Federal Register** publication in the FSIS Constituent Update. FSIS provides a weekly FSIS Constituent Update, which is communicated via Listserv, a free e-mail subscription service. In addition, the update is available on line through the Internet at *http://www.fsis.usda.gov*. The update is used to provide information regarding FSIS policies, procedures, regulations, **Federal Register** notices, FSIS public meetings, recalls, and any other types of information that could affect or would be of interest to our constituents and stakeholders. The constituent Listserv consists of industry, trade, and farm groups, consumer interest groups, allied health professionals, scientific professionals, and other individuals who have requested to be included. Through the Listserv and web page, FSIS is able to provide information to a much broader, more diverse audience.

For more information, contact the Congressional and Public Affairs Office at (202) 720–9113. To be added to the free e-mail subscription service (Listserv), go to the ''Constituent Update'' page on the FSIS Web site at *http://www.fsis.usda.gov/oa/update.htm*. Click on the ''Subscribe to the Constituent Update Listserv'' link, then fill out and submit the form.

Done at Washington, DC, on January 28, 2003.

**F. Edward Scarbrough,**

*U.S. Manager for Codex Alimentarius.*

[FR Doc. 03–2305 Filed 1–30–03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410–DM–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Food Safety and Inspection Service

**[Docket No. 03–002N]**

### Codex Alimentarius: Meeting of the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods

**AGENCY:** Office of the Under Secretary for Food Safety.

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Office of the Under Secretary for Food Safety, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM), U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), are sponsoring a public meeting on Tuesday, February 18, 2003, to provide information and receive public comments on agenda items that will be discussed at the 14th Session of the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods (CCRVDF), which will be held in Washington, DC on March 4–7, 2003. The Under Secretary and CVM recognize the importance of providing interested parties with information about CCRVDF of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and of discussing items on the Agenda for the 14th Session of the Committee.

**DATES:** The public meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 18, 2003 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The public meeting will be held in Room 0161 of the South Building, Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC (Smithsonian Metro Stop). 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/current.asp.* A link is provided there to the agenda.

If you have comments, please send an original and two copies to the FSIS Docket Clerk and reference Docket Number 03–002N. All comments submitted will be available for public inspection in the Docket Clerk's Office between 8:30 am and 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Edith E. Kennard, Staff Officer, U.S. Codex Office, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Room 4861, South Building, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250, Phone: (202) 720–5261, Fax: (202) 720–3157, e-mail: *edith.kennard@fsis.usda.gov.*

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Background**

The Codex Alimentarius Commission 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 encouraging fair international trade in food and protecting the health and economic interests of consumers. 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 the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) manage and carry out U.S. Codex activities.

The Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods held its First Session in Washington, DC on 27–31 October, 1986. The Committee's Terms of Reference are:

(a) To determine priorities for the consideration of residues of veterinary drugs in foods;

(b) To recommend maximum levels of such substances;

(c) To develop codes of practice as may be required;

(d) To consider methods of sampling and analysis for the determination of veterinary drug residues in foods.

The Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods is hosted by the United States.

**Issues To Be Discussed at the Public Meeting**

Provisional agenda items to be discussed during the public meeting:

—Consideration of Draft Maximum Residue Limits for Veterinary Drugs;

—Proposed Draft Appendix on the Prevention and Control of Veterinary Drug Residues in Milk and Milk Products;

—Proposed Draft Code of Practice to Minimize and Contain Antimicrobial Resistance;

—Proposed Draft Revised Guidelines for the Establishment of a Regulatory Programme for the Control of Veterinary Drugs in Foods;
—Discussion Paper on Risk Analysis Principles and Methodologies, including Risk Assessment;
—Policies in the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods;
—Discussion Paper on Residue Issues;
—Review of Performance-Based Criteria for Methods of Analysis;
—Consideration of the Identification of Routine Methods of Analysis;
—Consideration of the Priority List of Veterinary Drugs Requiring Evaluation or Re-evaluation.

**Public Meeting**

At the February 18 public meeting, the agenda items will be described and 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 Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods.

**Additional Public Notification**

Pursuant to Departmental Regulation 4300–4, ''Civil Rights Impact Analysis,'' dated September 22, 1993, FSIS has considered the potential civil rights impact of this notice on minorities, women, and persons with disabilities. Therefore, to ensure that these groups and others are made aware of this meeting, FSIS will announce it and provide copies of the **Federal Register** publication in the FSIS Constituent Update. FSIS provides a weekly FSIS Constituent Update, which is communicated via Listserv, a free e-mail subscription service. In addition, the update is available on line through the Internet at *http://www.fsis.usda.gov.* The update is used to provide information regarding FSIS policies, procedures, regulations, **Federal Register** notices, FSIS public meetings, recalls, and any other types of information that could affect or would be of interest to our constituents and stakeholders. The constituent Listserv consists of industry, trade, and farm groups, consumer interest groups, allied health professionals, scientific professionals, and other individuals who have requested to be included. Through the Listserv and Web page, FSIS is able to provide information to a much broader, more diverse audience.

For more information, contact the Congressional and Public Affairs Office at (202) 720–9113. To be added to the free e-mail subscription service (Listserv), go to the ''Constituent Update'' page on the FSIS Web site at *http://www.fsis.usda.gov/oa/update.htm.* Click on the ''Subscribe to the Constituent Update Listserv'' link, then fill out and submit the form.

Done at Washington, DC, on January 28, 2003.

**F. Edward Scarbrough,**

*U.S. Manager for Codex Alimentarius.*

[FR Doc. 03–2306 Filed 1–30–03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410–DM–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Food Safety and Inspection Service

**[Docket No. 03–003N]**

### Codex Alimentarius Commission: 4th Session of the Codex Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Task Force on Foods Derived From Biotechnology

**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 (USDA), and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) are sponsoring a public meeting on February 20, 2003, to provide information and receive public comments on agenda items that will be discussed at the 4th Session of the Codex Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Task Force on Foods Derived from Biotechnology (FBT) to be held in Yokohama, Japan, on March 11–14, 2003. The Under Secretary and FDA recognize the importance of providing interested parties the opportunity to obtain background information on the 4th Session of the Codex Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Task Force on Foods Derived from Biotechnology and to address items on the Agenda for the 4th FBT.

**DATES:** The public meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 20, 2003 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The public meeting will be held in the Lincoln Room, White House Conference Center, 726 Jackson Place, NW., Washington, DC. 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 *http://www.codexalimentarius.net/ccfbt4/bt03_01e.htm.* If you have comments, please send an original and two copies to the FSIS Docket Clerk and reference Docket #03–003N. 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.

**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 the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) manage and carry out U.S. Codex activities.

The Codex Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Task Force on Foods Derived from Biotechnology was established to develop standards, guidelines or recommendations, as appropriate, for foods derived from biotechnology or traits introduced into foods by biotechnology, on the basis of scientific evidence, risk analysis and having regard, where appropriate to other legitimate factors relevant to the health of consumers and the promotion of fair trade practices. The Task Force, which was given four years to complete its work, held its first session in 2000.

**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/FBT 03/1).

2. Matters Referred to the Task Force by Other Codex Committees (CX/FTB 03/2).

3. Matters of Interest from Other International Organizations with respect to the Evaluation of the Safety and Nutrition Aspects of Foods Derived from Biotechnology (CX/FBT 03/3).