

**CODEX COMMITTEE ON CONTAMINANTS IN FOOD
17th Session**

Panama City, 15-19 April 2024

European Union comments on

Agenda Item 7:

**Definition for ready-to-eat peanuts for the establishment of a maximum
level for total aflatoxins in this product**

(CX/CF 24/17/7)

*European Union Competence
European Union Vote*

The European Union (EU) welcomes and appreciates the work of India as chair of the Electronic Working Group to prepare the discussion paper CX/CF 24/17/7 on the definition for ready-to-eat peanuts for the establishment of a maximum level for total aflatoxins in this product.

The EU acknowledges the intention to align the definition for ready-to-eat peanuts to the already existing Codex definition for ready-to-eat treenuts (CXS 193-1995). To avoid any confusion, the EU proposes to reformulate the first part (in bold) of the definition in line with the definition for ready-to-eat treenuts as follows:

“Ready-to-eat peanuts are peanuts which are not intended to undergo an additional processing/treatment that has proven to reduce levels of aflatoxins before being used as an ingredient in foodstuffs, otherwise processed or offered for human consumption, packed in all types of packaging such as consumer or bulk, labelled as ‘RTE Peanuts’. Includes, but not restricted to: (i) raw shelled peanuts, (ii) raw in-shell peanuts, (iii) roasted in-shell peanuts, (iv) roasted/blanched shelled peanuts, (v) fried shelled peanuts with or without skin, (vi) coated peanuts, (vii) seasoned peanuts, (viii) smoked peanuts, (ix) salted and cooked peanuts, (x) peanut butter.”

Furthermore, the EU seeks clarification on the following aspects of the definition:

- “labelled as ‘RTE Peanuts’”: The EU notes that lots/batches of peanuts which fall within the definition of ready-to-eat peanuts will not necessarily be explicitly labelled as “RTE Peanuts”. Given the requirement in the definition of ready-to-eat peanuts to be labelled as such would this mean that the possible future maximum level would not be applicable to lots/batches that have not that specific label?
- the EU questions the inclusion of peanut butter into the definition of ready-to-eat peanuts. It notes that peanut butter is usually not considered to be ready-to-eat peanuts but a product derived/produced from peanuts. The other provided examples for ready-to-eat peanuts included in the definition are peanuts. The inclusion of peanut butter in the

definition is confusing as it might raise questions if e.g. also peanut oil, used as ingredient in food, would also be included in the definition of ready-to-eat peanuts. The EU therefore proposes to delete the example of peanut butter in the definition.

The EU notes that there is an error in paragraph 12 of the document as the paragraph 115 in REP18/CF was a conclusion by CCCF12 and not CCCF18.

The EU agrees to issue a call for occurrence data for aflatoxin total in ready-to-eat peanuts.

As regards the elaboration of the maximum level for aflatoxin total in ready-to-eat peanuts, the EU seeks clarification as regards the relation between the finalisation of the review of the Code of Practice (agenda item 14) and the timing of the establishment of the maximum level for total aflatoxins in ready-to-eat peanuts as the project document in Appendix I of CX/CF 24/17/14 mentions explicitly in point 6 that the Code of Practice is important to support the development of maximum levels for aflatoxin contamination in peanuts.