

2013-2014 AFDO FINAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Laboratory, Science & Technology Committee

*Chair: Yvonne Salfinger, Denver, CO

Chair: Daniel Rice, NY Dept. of Agriculture & Markets, Albany, NY

Final report-May 2014

Charge 1: Work with the Registry Work Group and conduct searches for qualified SME's to be added to the SME registry. The registry will be modeled on and expand the existing SME Registry hosted by AFDO MFRPA. This database should be expanded in the areas of food science, food technology, and food laboratory systems and will be linked on APHL, AAFCO, and AFDO websites as a resource for food safety laboratories.

Discussion: Maria Ishida from Florida Ag is the current chair of the Registry Work Group. AFDO staff has developed handout cards and a PowerPoint slide for marketing of the SME registry for all categories; cards are being distributed at various venues where staff and AFDO representatives are attending meetings. Additional categories added include: Animal Feed Testing, Pet Food Testing, and Sampling. The SME Registry will be reviewed periodically and contact information updated.

SMEs registered to date (last reported March 14, 2014):

Animal Feed Testing (4) increased to (9)

Food Laboratory (51) increased to (55)

Laboratory Accreditation (2) remained at (2)

Pet Food Testing (3) increased to (7)

Sampling (1) increased to (2)

Recommendation: This charge can be combined into a combined charge for all the accreditation cooperative agreement activities; the activity should continue.

Executive Committee Action:

Approval



Disapproval



Date

6/2/14

Charge 2: Work with AFDO to update and maintain a list of "Laboratory Managers" for any State jurisdictions with regulatory authority for food and animal feed programs in the United States that would be useful additions to the Directory of State & Local Officials.

Discussion: Updates have been provided to AFDO staff for updating the Laboratory Managers in the Directory of State and Local Officials. The list is reviewed periodically and also updated where known and verifiable contact information changes can be made by staff.

Recommendation: This charge is being taken care of by AFDO staff at this time. The charge should be removed from the committee, but the activity should continue.

Executive Committee Action:

Approval



Disapproval



Date

6/2/14

Charge 3: Provide a committee structure environment and encourage involvement from laboratory managers to assist in technical guidance solutions and in sharing best practices.

**Responsible for submission of reports*

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Discussion: AFDO is sponsoring an active Laboratory Managers Steering Committee which meets every 2 weeks by phone to discuss various topics to help facilitate laboratory accreditation, with a charge of also working to improve the MFRP standards in regards to laboratory issues (specifically Standard 10). The Committee met in person during the MFRPA meeting on March 11th, 2014 (topics discussed included equivalency, metric for success, and Standard 10 update), and also plans to meet during the AFDO Educational Conference in June 2014.

Recommendation: The Laboratory Managers Steering Committee should continue to work on MFRPS activities and accreditation standards. This charge should continue.

Executive Committee Action:

Approval Disapproval Date 6/2/14

Charge 4: Develop a structured process to implement changes to the ISO accreditation standards and Program Standard 10 (MFRPS).

Discussion: Steve Sobek of Wisconsin Ag has been appointed to the MFRPA Board as a non-voting laboratory member. This should help with some of the discrepancies identified in the written standard compared to what is actually occurring in state laboratory testing for the MFRPS program. It will also ensure a robust and achievable Standard 10, which covers the laboratory and accreditation. The Laboratory Managers Steering Committee is taking the lead for this activity.

Recommendation: This activity is very important to ensuring laboratory representation in the MFRPA and that the MFRPS can be updated regarding laboratory activities. This charge should continue.

Executive Committee Action:

Approval Disapproval Date 6/2/14

Charge 5: Work with AFDO Staff to meet APHL/AFDO/AAFCO Cooperative Agreement deliverables.

Discussion: The committee co-chairs (Yvonne Salfinger and Dan Rice, New York Ag) are both working on many committees/workgroups to ensure the APHL/AFDO/AAFCO Cooperative Agreement deliverables are met. Yvonne is a consultant for AFDO and works closely with staff and Ron Klein, the program manager, to ensure that state laboratories have access to available resources to ensure laboratories become accredited. Dan Rice represented both AFDO and the APHL at a recent meeting with the ACRA's office to discuss the tri-association cooperative agreement and prioritizing deliverables. An Executive Steering Committee has been created that includes very high level personnel from FDA ORA which was one outcome for that meeting.

Recommendation: The charge should be continued and broadened to encompass the various activities such as the SME Registry, finalizing the IFPTI Curriculum Framework, and ensuring networking and community between laboratories seeking/maintaining ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation.

Executive Committee Action:

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Charge 6: Add tutorials and/or educational material on how to conduct a literature search/review in the Topical Index.

Discussion:

A PubMed Tutorial on literature/searching has been added under the laboratory section of the Topical Index.

Recommendation: This has been completed. The charge should be removed.

Executive Committee Action:

Approval Disapproval Date 6/2/14

Charge 7: Review the PFP report on laboratory equivalency, when available, and work with the Executive Director to develop a resolution of support and implementation if necessary.

Discussion: The PFP document was published as "Draft". We will be working with the AFDO Executive Director to consider if a resolution of support and implementation will be useful to support this document. A resolution that food testing laboratories should seek ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation is an appropriate step in support of the PFP laboratory document, *Food/Feed Testing Laboratories Best Practices Document (Draft)*, since there is no requirement that laboratories do this except for those being funded by FDA or USDA cooperative agreements (MFRPA, ISO, and Pesticide Data Program). Gaining accreditation to the ISO/IEC 17025 standard is a recognized laboratory best practice. APHL will be convening a Data Acceptance workgroup to work on some matters of equivalency. Both the Program Manager, Ron Klein (for AFDO), and Program Consultant, Yvonne Salfinger (for APHL), are participating.

Recommendation: This activity is being addressed by various workgroups of APHL, AFDO and AAFCO. This charge can be discontinued as a specific charge.

Executive Committee Action:

Approval Disapproval Date 6/2/14

Charge 8: Serve as AFDO liaison with APHL and provide AFDO's Board of Directors with a list of relevant activities of mutual interest.

Discussion: The AFDO co-chairs are on many APHL committees; Dan Rice is the President-Elect for APHL. Relevant activities include the many related to the Association's Cooperative Agreement. A Steering Committee made up of liaisons from each Association guides the work and assesses the progress of the cooperative agreement.

Recommendation: The Chair, or a member, should continue to serve as the AFDO liaison with APHL and provide reports to the Board.

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Charge 9: Review Topical Index of Laws and Guidance and identify possible scientific articles that could be imported into this portal.

Discussion: The Laboratory tab now contains 50 resources for laboratories performing testing on food. In addition, the Laboratory Accreditation tab contains 11 resources, including 4 documents about why accreditation is important. The Sampling tab was also populated by this committee and contains 17 resources to ensure quality sampling for defensible results. Additionally, the MFRPA portal has resources for laboratories and on sampling agreements.

Recommendation: Many documents have been added to the Topical Index. As this now is fairly comprehensive, besides an occasional check of the links, this is no longer required to be a committee charge for the LST.

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Charge 10: Identify possible Food Laboratory contact information or links that would be useful additions to the Director of State & Local Officials.

Discussion: This is tied into Charge 2. Additional information is provided when found so that the DSLO site can be kept current and useful.

Recommendation: This charge is being taken care of by AFDO staff at this time. The charge should be removed from the committee, but the activity should continue.

Executive Committee Action:

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Charge 11: Collaborate with the Seafood Committee to develop a statement for inclusion in the revision of the AFDO Cured, Salted, Smoked Fish Establishments Good Manufacturing Practices *including *Listeria monocytogenes* Control Manual that addresses the validation process for a chemical manufacturer to verify that their product will have the effect they say it does, if used according to their instructions, to eliminate or reduce LM by a pre-determined log reduction. This will also apply to the upcoming Wholesale Sushi Guidance Document.

Discussion: Work is pending and is being discussed with Seafood Committee chair. This will be a discussion item for the in-person committee meeting at the Annual Conference.

Recommendation: This charge should be continued.

Executive Committee Action:

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