

2014-2015 AFDO FINAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Laboratory, Science & Technology Committee

*Co-Chair: Yvonne Salfinger, Denver, CO

Co-Chair: Daniel Rice, Bothell, WA

Charge 1: Work with AFDO Staff to meet APHL/AFDO/AAFCO Cooperative Agreement deliverables. Work to include expanding the SME registry, finalizing the IFPTI Curriculum Framework, and ensuring networking and community between laboratories seeking/maintaining ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation.

Discussion: This work is progressing. The committee co-chairs are both working on many committees/workgroups to ensure the 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.

The SME registry is in a maintenance mode; Maria Ishida is the chair of this for the laboratory group. The registry is reviewed periodically and contacts verified by Randy Young. The utilization of the registrants is something that needs to be considered to make this a viable registry. SMEs registered to date (April 19, 2015) for laboratory related topics:

Animal Feed Testing (10)

Food Laboratory (56)

Laboratory Accreditation (2)

Pet Food Testing (8)

Sampling (2)

The IFPTI Curriculum Framework workgroup is active, with their last in-person meeting on March 9, 2015. Work has also been done via 3 web calls in January, February, and April 2015. Currently, the workgroup is working on the competency statements (the evaluation of person's abilities using a set of established competency statements helps identify competency gaps and training or experiences to address those gaps) to accompany the framework. The workgroup is hoping to meet again in person for one day at the AFDO meeting in June, but will also work with webinars.

The purpose of the competency (the capability to apply or use a set of related knowledge, skills, and abilities required to successfully perform "critical work functions" or tasks in a defined work setting) framework it to serve as the basis for skill standards that specify the level of knowledge, skills, and abilities required for success in the workplace as well as potential measurement criteria for assessing competency attainment. Membership of the workgroup includes state, FDA, and APHL and AFDO representation. Dan Rice transitioned from a state member to a federal partner in April 2015.

AFDO facilitated the Laboratory Accreditation Meeting held in conjunction with the MFRPA meeting in March 2015 in San Diego, CA. This joint location helped to optimize scarce resources, and better utilized AFDO staffing and FDA staff time. FDA leadership was available to then attend either meeting, attended the Lab Accreditation meeting at time, and provided information to the laboratory as well as regulatory state and local personnel. The Laboratory Accreditation Meeting constituted the required meeting for the cooperative agreement laboratories; however, 20 other unfunded laboratories interested in ISO accreditation also attended. The Laboratory Managers Steering Committee met, and a Sampling workshop led by Chuck Ramsey was held as well.

Recommendations: Continue with this charge. Ideas for utilization of the SME registry should be developed.

**Responsible for submission of reports*

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Executive Committee Action:

Approval Disapproval Date 6/4/15

Charge 2: Provide a committee structure environment and encourage involvement from laboratory managers to assist in technical guidance solutions and in sharing best practices.

Discussion: AFDO is sponsoring an active Laboratory Managers Steering Committee which was meeting every 2 weeks, now monthly, by phone to discuss various topics to help facilitate laboratory accreditation, with the charge of also working to improve the MFRP standards in regards to laboratory issues (specifically Standard 10). FDA representation is present. This committee presented an AFDO resolution in support of the PFP standards at the last AFDO meeting in 2014, which was approved. The group met in-person at the 2015 Laboratory Accreditation meeting as well. Agenda items include support of work being done by the PFP, and evaluation of needs of the laboratories (a survey was sent out ahead of the Lab Accreditation Meeting, and will be evaluated in the coming weeks to ascertain what the laboratories need to become and stay accredited).

Recommendations: Develop concrete activities for the coming year, perhaps to include the PFP Laboratory Workgroup being developed.

Executive Committee Action:

Approval Disapproval Date 6/4/15

Charge 3: Develop a structured process to implement changes to the ISO accreditation standards and Program Standard 10 (MFRPS).

Discussion: Steve Sobek (Wisconsin Ag) has been appointed to the MFRPA Board as a non-voting laboratory member. He is also a member of the Laboratory Managers Steering Committee, which is the lead for changes to this activity.

Recommendations: Continue this activity.

Executive Committee Action:

Approval Disapproval Date 6/4/15

Charge 4: 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 was the 2014-2015 President 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 assess the progress of the cooperative agreement.

Recommendations: Continue this activity.

Executive Committee Action:

Approval Disapproval Date 6/4/15

**Responsible for submission of reports*

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Charge 5: 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: This item was discussed at the in-person Committee meeting in June 2014. Rita Johnson provided background on the topic, and industry along with regulatory programs were present. Many good suggestions emerged, and the Seafood Committee will be continuing to develop the statement based on these discussions.

Recommendations: Await further word if the LST Committee needs to provide additional input to the Seafood Committee.

Executive Committee Action:

Approval



Disapproval



Date

6/4/15

**Responsible for submission of reports*