The AAFCO Ingredient Definition Process

Diagram:

- **Draft definition sent to Investigator**
- **Is ingredient covered by existing definitions?**
  - Yes: **Definition process ends**
  - No: **Data package sent to Investigator**

- **Investigator reviews definition (30 days)**
  - Yes: **FDA CVM scientific review (180 days)**
  - No: **Revision needed?**
    - Yes: **Firm revises definition**
    - No: **Board of Directors decides whether to recommend definition**
      - Yes: **IDC recommends definition?**
        - Yes: **FDA CVM scientific review (180 days)**
        - No: **Investigator recommends definition?**
          - Yes: **FDA CVM scientific review (180 days)**
          - No: **Revision needed?**
            - Yes: **Firm revises definition**
            - No: **Board of Directors decides whether to recommend definition**
      - No: **25 days prior to meeting**

- **Association Business Meeting**
  - Accept = 6 weeks
  - Reject: **Definition process ends**

- **Tentative definition published in online Official Publication (OP)**
- **Investigator reviews Tentative definitions at least annually**
- **IDC decides whether to recommend move to Official**
- **Board of Directors decides whether to recommend move to Official**

- **Official definition published in Official Publication**

Questions? definitions@aafco.org
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