



AAFCO Quality Assurance/Quality Control Guidelines for Feed Laboratories, 2014 Edition

*Supplement to ISO/IEC 17025:2005
General Requirements for the Competence of Testing and Calibration Laboratories*

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) Last updated in February 2016

Background

The AAFCO Laboratory Methods and Services Committee deals with issues that affect feed laboratories. The Quality Assurance/Quality Control Working Group (QA/QC WG) is assigned to provide quality related guidance to feed laboratories and the government entities to which they provide analytical services.

AAFCO recommends that laboratories use these Guidelines to design and implement a Quality Management System (QMS) that meets the needs of their laboratory and regulatory program, including laboratories seeking third-party accreditation to ISO/IEC 17025 for feed testing. Laboratories are encouraged to study the accreditation requirements contained in Volume I, the guidance contained in Volume II, and the example documents and forms contained in Volume III of these Guidelines to establish a quality system appropriate to their operations.

The guidance and examples offered in Volume II and Volume III represent one or more ways a laboratory may meet ISO/IEC 17025 requirements. There are certainly acceptable equivalent mechanisms a feed laboratory may utilize to meet the ISO/IEC 17025 “General Requirements for the Competence of Testing and Calibration Laboratories” standard.

Introduction to FAQs

The AAFCO Laboratory Methods and Services Committee Quality Assurance/Quality Control Working Group (QA/QC WG) is available to clarify the Guidelines. Questions may be submitted to the QA/QC WG via the AAFCO Website general contact email address (aafco@aafco.org).

Questions and answers are posted here as FAQs as the information becomes available.

1. Will AAFCO and/or the FDA require accreditation of laboratories analyzing feed products, whether public or private, to the *AAFCO 2014 Quality Assurance/Quality Control Guidelines for Feed Laboratories*?
 - a. Neither AAFCO nor the FDA currently require feed laboratories, regulatory or private, to be accredited to ISO/IEC 17025:2005 or the AAFCO 2014 Guidelines. Both organizations encourage feed laboratories to be ISO/IEC 17025 accredited and to utilize the AAFCO Guidelines for interpreting and implementing their ISO/IEC 17025 compliant quality management system (QMS). The AAFCO QA/QC Guidelines will continue to provide uniform guidance and definitions for both the regulatory and industry communities.

2. Will AAFCO develop a product certification trademark that would identify laboratories accredited to the *2014 AAFCO Quality Assurance/Quality Control Guidelines for Feed Laboratories*?
 - a. AAFCO's mission is not to provide product certifications for testing or manufacturing organizations and thus does not provide any trademark for use by such entities. The international standard for product certification which is utilized by entities such as Underwriters' Laboratories is ISO/IEC 17065:2012 *Conformity Assessment -- Requirements for Bodies Certifying Products, Processes and Services*, which is not part of AAFCO's role or mission.

3. For questions related to Water Purification System verification checks, AAFCO has issued an ERRATUM which updates the *2014 AAFCO Quality Assurance/Quality Control Guidelines for Feed Laboratories VOLUME III Table 2 for Equipment, Calibration, Verification and Maintenance*.
 - a. View the ERRATA on the AAFCO website at www.aafco.org/Laboratory