

The principles outlined in the following papers are the basis for relevant sampling for objectives such as safety assessment, regulatory enforcement and compliance, surveillance and post market monitoring, and manufacturing process control. The following papers underscore that proper understanding of Sample Quality Criteria (SQC) and the Theory of Sampling as critical to making inferences from analytical data to allow correct food/feed safety decisions. Implementation of the systematic process described in these papers will enable defensible decisions for product misbranding/adulteration and for detecting safety issues.

The papers were published as a Special Section in the March 2015 issue of *Journal of AOAC International*,

Representative Sampling for Food and Feed Materials: A Critical Need for Food/Feed Safety: https://doi.org/10.5740/jaoacint.SGE_Esbensen_intro

Food and Feed Safety Assessment: The Importance of Proper Sampling: <https://doi.org/10.5740/jaoacint.15-007>

Towards a Unified Sampling Terminology: Clarifying Misperceptions: <https://doi.org/10.5740/jaoacint.14-290>

A Systematic Approach to Representative Sampling—Sampling Quality Criteria, Material Properties, Theory of Sampling: <https://doi.org/10.5740/jaoacint.14-239>

Sample Quality Criteria: <https://doi.org/10.5740/jaoacint.14-247>

Material Properties: Heterogeneity and Appropriate Sampling Modes: <https://doi.org/10.5740/jaoacint.14-234>

Theory of Sampling: Four Critical Success Factors Before Analysis: <https://doi.org/10.5740/jaoacint.14-236>

QC of Sampling Processes – A First Overview: From Field to Test Portion: <https://doi.org/10.5740/jaoacint.14-288>

Consideration for Inference to Decision Units: <https://doi.org/10.5740/jaoacint.14-292>

Distributional Assumptions in Food and Feed Commodities – Development of Fit-For-Purpose Sampling Protocols: <https://doi.org/10.5740/jaoacint.14-250>

Critical Practicalities in Sampling for Mycotoxins in Feed: <https://doi.org/10.5740/jaoacint.14-235>

Consideration for Sampling Contaminants in Agricultural Soils: <https://doi.org/10.5740/jaoacint.14-268>

Considerations in Sampling of Water: <https://doi.org/10.5740/jaoacint.14-251>