

Inspection and Sampling Committee Report
2024 AAFCO Midyear Meeting
January 23, 2024, 3:45 – 5:15 PM (EDT), Chattanooga, TN

Committee Recommendations and Board Recommendations

None

Committee Participants: Chad Linton-(WV) (Co-Chair) – WV, Jamie Spencer-(KS)(Co-Chair), Austin Therrell – (AAFCO), Shaness Thomas – (FL), Jim True – (KY), David Husner – (PA), Barb Schroeder (MN), Blythe Freihage- (MO), Caroline Wilkinson- (VA), Chris Olinger- (NGFA), Felicity Stewart- (PFI), Jan Campbell- (NGFA), Jessica Gore- (NC), Joe Haynes- (FDA), Laura Scott – (CFIA), Madison Phillips- (TN), Pat Tovey- (PFI), Wendy Powell (proxy for Stevie Glaspie)- (MI), Mark Glover (TN), Jenny Combs- (KY), Samantha Moran-Defty- (CA), Mary Sasser- (TX), Daniel Zangari- (CO), Blaine Brown- (IN), Chelsea Mills- (NE), Dan King- (MN), Debra Brasel- (KS), Madison Phillips- (TN), Leah Wilkinson- (AFIA), Jason Fields- (LA), Sally Flowers (AAFCO)

Committee Report: Last year, the Committee agreed to host the next Advanced Inspector Training Seminar (AITS) in Colorado on June 10 – 14, 2024. It is still searching for a host state for the 2025 AITS. The host state must select a city and hotel where the three-day, all-classroom training can be held. The location and date of this year's Basic Inspector Training Seminar (BITS) remain unknown. The Committee has spoken to staff in Idaho, who have confirmed they can host the training in the third week of September. Additionally, the date and location for the 2025 BITS are unconfirmed. However, Louisiana staff has shown initial interest in hosting it.

Subcommittee Activities

None

Committee Minutes

Chad Linton, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:45 PM (EDT)

- **Workgroup Updates**

- **Bulk Tote Sampling Method Update:** The workgroup has organized an AAFCO Bulk Feed Tote Sampling Study Request for Proposal (RFP) that requires the Committee's approval. The RFP will be distributed to the Committee soon for review, and during next month's meeting, when it votes on the meeting minutes, the Committee will vote to change, complete corrections, or submit the RFP to the BOD for approval.
- **Bagged Probe Sampling Study Update:** The Ten-Probe Method Study was completed in October. The final step of an organizational review is taking longer because the lab wants to utilize the study for an extended period. The completion date for the organizational review is unknown. The study has

concluded that regardless of the chosen bag, the ten-probe gives a representative mineral sample. When the study is published, it will be sent to the committee. No time frame of when this will be completed.

- **Inspector Guidance Tool for PC and cGMP Inspections Update:** The workgroup has been meeting monthly since November 2023. It is critiquing two documents consisting of standout features and less favorable features and observing features missing from both. The goal is to move forward with a hybridized version of the combined documents that functions as a checklist for the printed and pertinent part of the 507 regulations. Inspectors are required to complete subparts for the applicable level of the 507 while at designated field locations. The new hybridized document will be converted from PDF format to an Excel spreadsheet file. This conversion is expected to be demonstrated during the workgroup's February meeting. After this, the members will decide how to move forward.
- **AAFCO Branded Sampling Equipment Update:** The workgroup has a final version of its standard trier designed and modified based on its specifications. The workgroup is ready to start producing the standard trier soon, except for moving the slot near the pointed end further away from the T-handle where there is an opening. The website will be available soon, and AAFCO members will receive a pre-sale email next week to gauge how many standard triers for the first manufacturer order is needed. A single order is \$450, an order for five or more is \$400 each, and members must call for pricing for an order of 10 or more.

Discussion: Jim True suggests the handle be modified to four inches wide for an easier fit in the bag. Dave Husner proposed that the probe be longer to fit into large bags such as the 100-pound bag. Austin Therrell inquired about the required correction of the slot length, and Jamie Spencer confirmed it had already been completed. Austin confirmed that a second standard trier with a longer probe could easily be manufactured and placed on the website at a member's request. Jamie has discussed this with the manufacturer, who has agreed that a longer probe can be produced. The current standard trier length design is based on state and inspector handbook specifications. The formal name of the standard trier will be a three-quarter-inch trier per the wording in chapter three of the inspector manual.

Jim True motions to shorten the T-handle width from five inches to four. The motion was properly seconded by Chad Linton. The motion carries unanimously.

A motion to get quotes on a stream cup in galvanized, steel, stainless steel and aluminum was moved by David Husner and properly seconded by Chad Linton. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.

Discussion: A stream cup can have a handle or a piece of pipe with a handle to reach out. This could be an opportunity to obtain samplers' feedback about improving the design and making the stream cup easier to use. The material weight should also be considered when developing a stream cup. There are two examples of the stream cup in the inspector manual. The workgroup can ask AAFCO members which stream cup they are using and which they prefer. Ideally, the stream cup will be 16-gauge galvanized iron or 18-20 galvanized stainless type three or four. There must be a minimum three-quarter-inch slot at the top. Jamie has already spoken to the manufacturer, who can produce the stream cup and the T-handle. He recommends a stainless-steel product because it lasts longer and will not rust. Jamie will price the stream cup as galvanized and stainless steel. Aluminum is another good option because it will be lighter. Marty will obtain the design specs, and Jamie will present a stream cup design at the next meeting.

- **Chain of Custody Update:** 21 states have provided verbiage to be combined into formal guidance for chapter three of the AAFCO inspector manual. The final guidance will be delivered to the Committee during a Teams meeting before this summer. Most of the states are using similar verbiage for the same guidance. This is another tool for everyone to ensure uniformity across the states.
- **AAFCO Inspectors Manual Update:** The workgroup has been meeting monthly to combine everyone's updates. Four chapters are complete; the next step is to complete additional chapters. Part of the plan is to ensure the manual coincides with the animal feed seed resistance. This is an important document for the Committee and AAFCO to have in its inspector manual. Everyone who attended BITS received a manual that functions as a smaller book that inspectors can carry with them in the field. The manual can also be requested to be printed in this size. All chapter updates must be sent to Austin Therrell for website additions. Comments can be inserted into the documents before sending them to him. Also, single printing requests can be completed. Chapters five and six will be completed next.
- **Aseptic Sampling WG Update:** This update is part of chapter three in the AAFCO inspector manual. The workgroup has discussed including better examples than the current ones.
- **Other Topics for Discussion / New Business**

- **Alignment of Chapter 5 of the OP with AFRPS:** A Chapter 5 review, begun in October 2023, indicates gaps. The review is still a work in progress, and we will regroup this spring—more updates to come. Committee Chair Linton recommends combining the alignment of the Chapter 5 task force with the inspector manual workgroup, which is reviewing Chapter 5 as their next task.
- **AAFCO Strategic Plan Updates:** Started a strategic plan from the BOD.

1. 3.1 Promote and Integrate Animal Food Safety Systems.	Fulfilled – Reserve five spots for the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) state liaisons to attend AITS.
2. EIC and Planning	In action – Promote standard collaborative work planning.
3. Inspector Procedures	In action – The inspector guidance work group will remain a permanent task force.
4. Support and Training	In action – The inspector guidance work group is completing this strategic update.
5. Fermented	In action – The chain of custody working group collaborates on this strategic update with the lab. There is an animal feed inspector model training document on the AAFCO website. It was previously updated in 2018 and may require a comparative review with the AAFCO standards. It is a good resource for states without any standards.

- **Other New Business:** Jim True reported that the bag probe sticker labels were becoming less adhesive, so he sent an email inquiry and received a recommendation from the feed industry group. After speaking with the manufacturer, he ordered better quality and more affordable sticker labels that the inspectors are liking. He is sharing this solution with anyone who needs help with the sticker labels they have.
- **Adjournment**
The Inspection and Sampling Committee meeting was adjourned at 4:51 pm EDT.