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Agenda Item 6 CX/MAS 14/35/6

**JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME
CODEX COMMITTEE ON METHODS OF ANALYSIS AND SAMPLING
Thirty-fifth Session
Budapest, Hungary, 3 - 7 March 2014
DISCUSSION PAPER ON ELABORATION OF PROCEDURES
FOR REGULAR UPDATING OF METHODS**

AOCS, AOAC and AACCI appreciate the opportunity provided by the CCMAS secretariat to comment on this agenda item.

Codex relies on the Scientific Agencies to provide validated methods that are fit for purpose to Codex Standards.

All of the scientific agencies use best practices to validate methods and provide the best scientific knowledge to the approval processes.

All of the scientific agencies are committed to provide timely expert communication to the CCMAS

- **A documented process to introduce updated methods, where the science is known to have advanced and or the standard originating committee is no longer active would benefit from clarification.**
- **The availability of Standard 234 in an accessible format (e.g. Excel) would help facilitate this process.**
- **The update of Standard 234 on a regular and more frequent basis would help to facilitate this process.**

All of the scientific agencies provide international access to their scientific method publications.

The proposal that method performance criteria be added to a database in addition to the scientific expertise already provided:

- **Is duplication of the information already provided with scientific oversight.**
- **Provides no additional quality information to that already included in the method approval processes.**
- **Requires staff time that is not available within the scientific agencies.**
- **Adds another area where information can become outdated and needs validation.**
- **Adds areas where the absence of information can be misinterpreted (earlier methods may have missing data that may be considered an inferior method to a naive reader).**

AOAC International, AACC International, AOCS