



Mutual Reliance of Food Testing Results

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Canadian Food Inspection Agency

Corinne Pequignot

Corinne.Pequignot@inspection.gc.ca

Food and Drug Administration

Tim McGrath

Timothy.Mcgrath@fda.hhs.gov



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Overview of the initiative

Objective:

- Facilitate cross-utilization of laboratory results by industry and regulators while maintaining confidence that the test results provide reliable evidence that regulatory requirements have been met for food products within the mandates of CFIA, Health Canada (HC) and the FDA

Deliverable/Outcome:

- Development of jointly acceptable processes and tools (e.g., food safety laboratory accreditation criteria) with a view to ensuring testing conducted in one country would be acceptable to regulators in both countries



Progress update

Action Item 1:

- Develop and implement Guiding Principles for mutual acceptance of laboratory accreditation

Current Status:

- The gap analysis identifying differences in accreditation criteria used by regulators has been completed
- Guiding principles in development in conjunction with the permanent mechanism



Progress update

Action Item 2:

- Establish a permanent mechanism to maintain mutual acceptance of laboratory accreditation

Current Status:

- Two options were considered
 - 1) Develop a new mechanism
 - 2) Re-invigorate and adapt an existing mechanism
- Option two is being developed



Process for the next three months for ongoing alignment work

- *Current collaboration is a good basis for future work to strengthen ongoing alignment mechanisms*
- *Work will continue on re-invigoration of existing mechanisms and ensuring that this mechanism suites our need.*
- *Work undertaken to date has been exploratory in nature and could form part of a more systemic approach in the future.*



Next steps and key issues

- Solicit feedback from stakeholders on the gap analysis
- Continue to develop a permanent mechanism, which will include guiding principles, in a manner consistent with overall Canada-U.S. regulatory cooperation



Questions

Questions?

Comments?