



Notes from COO Liaison Committee Meeting of August 24th 2009

Present: Betsy Hui (CHFA), Rochelle Eisen (COABC), Nicole Boudreau (OFC/FBC), Deb Foote (CHFA), Sally Blackman (CPMA), Jean Duval (Bio-Action), Stephanie Wells (OTA/OFC), Matthew Holmes (OTA), John Hollinger (MAFRI), Ann Macey, Tomas Nimmo, Weronika Ziomek (EFC), Gunta Vitins (Sunopta), Julie Belzile (FBQ), Anne Caron (CGSB), Ted Zettel (OFC), Dag Falck (Nature's Path), Tiffany Priestley (OPAM), Louise Burden (DFAIT)

COO office: Michel Saumur, Stephane O'Neil.

Regulations - Questions are continuously compiled and the COO is classifying the questions and preparing answers; the sector will be notified when updates will be posted on the COO website. Questions should be sent by email to:

Elizabeth.Corrigan@inspection.gc.ca

Stephane.ONeil@inspection.gc.ca

Michel.Saumur@inspection.gc.ca

The COO plans to notify the sector about its website updates through the OFC listserv. The actual CFIA subscribing service that is supposed to notify registered stakeholders when the website is changed does not work. COO will try to fix that with CFIA webmaster. Last COO website update was done June 30th.

Standards –

The fourth ballot: The 4th ballot summary report containing all of the comments received at the ballot and the responses to those comments was distributed. Members had until August 21th to review and comment on the proposed actions. Members also had until then to decide if they wished to maintain or withdraw their negative votes. Discussions will continue to seek resolution of negative votes prior to proceeding to the next step. Afterwards, the amendment will be edited, the CGSB second level review panel will review the documents and the final amendment will be submitted to SCC, hopefully in September/October.

The COO does not feel that it their mandate to pay for access to the standards . CGSB is working on a cost-recovery basis and may change the fees when updates are done. The industry should put pressure and strategize for getting free access to the standards.

The fifth ballot: The COO has submitted a plan for holding a fifth ballot this fall and is waiting for CGSB proposal.

The funding for the Standards Interpretation Committee (SIC) is in the process of approval. Elizabeth Corrigan returns from vacation August 25 and she and Ted Zettel, the SIC chair, will

prepare a plan of action for the functioning of the SIC. Questions targeted to the SIC are now being compiled by Elizabeth.

CVBs and CBs – the COO will hold its semi-annual meeting with the accredited CVBs in Winnipeg in October. CBs have also asked the COO to have a day meeting. Planning is underway.

Equivalency Agreement – The NOP and COR have formed a workgroup to establish procedures for verification, communications, etc. The NOP-COR workgroup agreed that once established, the verification procedures will be posted on their respective websites. There is also a proposal to have the two countries' sectors meet to discuss the agreement.

The COO is waiting for the sector analysis of the EU-Canada critical variances for resuming the negotiations with the EU representatives.

Next Meeting is scheduled for 1pm EST on Monday, September 14th.

Call-in Number is: 1-866-646-2080. Pass code is 2217165.