

**Conference for Food Protection 2004-2006
Executive Board Meeting Committee Update -
Date Marking Coded as Critical Violations Committee**

Date of Committee Report: March 6, 2005

Submitted By: Dale Yamnik

Committee Charge:

The Conference recommends the conference chairman establish a committee to study the issue of critical items and public health risk and provide its recommendations to the 2006 conference.

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Progress Report/Committee Activity:

Our Committee has met several times via telephone conference calls since July. We have discussed our role and objectives and we are focusing on determining whether or not Date Marking is a critical item or not. We have also listed 33 food code sections which committee members feel may be marked incorrectly in the food code as critical or non-critical items.

Our biggest concern has been what criteria we use to determine if an item is critical or non-critical. At our January call we decided to await FDA's investigation into criteria which may be used to determine an items risk/criticality. An FDA committee of regional food specialists chaired by Shirley Bohm met the first week of March and came up with three definitions for the new 'critical items' and also outlined criteria and a process to determine into which of the three definitions an item will fall. They are polishing this material and will have it available for our committee's review by 3-25-2005. We will then evaluate their definitions for the new 'critical item' terminology and the process they propose to use for determining an item's criticality.

In the interim, at our March 7 meeting, Shirley shared FDA's regional specialists meeting results. They're suggesting the use of three (still unnamed) definitions instead of the current two (critical and non-critical) to define an items criticality. They are also suggesting the use of a process that evaluates four criteria to determine which of the three categories an item will fall into. Our committee will review the notes from this conference call and Shirley's comments and reply back to her by March 18 with any concerns we may have. Shirley will meet on March 23 with her group of FDA regional food specialists and will finalize the definitions and the process for determining criticality. This will be sent to the CFP committee by March 25 and we will get any comments to Shirley by April 11th. A conference call will be held on April 11 with the CFP Critical Item Committee where further discussion will be held with Shirley and the proposed definitions and criteria/process for determining an items criticality.