

Conference for Food Protection 2006-2008  
Executive Board Meeting Committee Update

Council III – Food Allergen Committee

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Date of Committee Report: July 27, 2007

Submitted By: Anne Munoz-Furlong, Co-Chair

Committee Charge(s):

1. Work directly with the FDA pertaining to The Food Allergen Labeling and Consumer Protection Act of 2004, which may include the review of guidelines for the foodservice and retail industries, to include: assisting in developing a list (albeit not exhaustive) of ingredients and sub-ingredients that are, in fact, major food allergens (as defined by FALCPA), along with their common or usual name to assist industry and regulators in identifying when a recipe contains a major food allergen;
2. Work to identify and deliver food allergen information to state/local regulatory officials, food managers, health professionals, and food employees through appropriate marketing/outreach channels.
3. Report any additional recommendations to the Executive Board prior to the 2008 CFP meeting.

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#### Progress Report/Committee Activities

The Food Allergen committee was divided into subcommittees—food managers, food employee, state/local regulatory, health professional/consumer. There was a great deal of overlap in the food managers and food employee subcommittees. Therefore, the two groups elected to merge and work together. We now have three subcommittees.

##### Food Managers and Employees Subcommittee

The subcommittee for food managers and employees has come to the conclusion that current information readily available to the industry is more than adequate for training our target audience. For example, the Food Allergy Training Guide for Restaurants would be very good for this purpose. Their recommendation is that professional groups such as the NRA, could

perhaps develop marketing strategies targeting allergen training for these groups. Additionally, the group agreed on the following recommendations for training:

Managers:

Best Practices training:

1. the 8 major food allergens
2. common foods containing allergens
3. preventing cross-contact or cross-contamination of allergens
4. symptoms of food allergens

Best Methods for delivery:

1. Food Protection Manager Certification programs
2. Job aids such as posters

The full committee will review and comment on these recommendations during our next conference call.

State/Local Regulatory Subcommittee

The State/Local Regulatory Subcommittee held several conference calls to review information on food allergen assessment and inspection. The group discussed tools that could be used by state and local regulatory agencies to improve their knowledge of allergen issues.

The subcommittee reviewed and approved the following documents: allergen ingredient listing, allergen guide for retail food establishments, food allergen labeling requirements, and allergen checklist for food suppliers and manufacturers. Within the next few weeks, the documents will be forwarded to the full committee for consideration as resources to submit to the CFP.

Health Professionals/Consumer subcommittee

Since CFP has no regulatory influence over health care professionals, we will recommend that the CFP send a letter to professional societies highlighting the key points patients with food allergies should know about dining in restaurants. The AMA recently used a similar strategy to influence policies for the care of children with food allergies. The subcommittee will put together a list of suggested professional societies and key points.

Requested Actions

None at this time