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COMMITTEE NAME: Safe Use of Reusable Containers

DATE OF REPORT: Initial fall progress report Spring progress report Second fall progress report

Date submitted: [Click here to enter a date.](#) **Date amended (if applicable):** [Click here to enter a date.](#) **Date accepted by Executive Board:** [Click here to enter a date.](#)

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT: Council I Council II Council III Executive Board

REPORT SUBMITTED BY: Dagny Tucker and Carrie Pohjola, Co-Chairs

COMMITTEE CHARGE(S):

Issue # 2020 I-024 (combined with 2020 I-022 and 2020 I-023) _____

1. Clarify the scenarios related to reusable containers within the scope of regulation
2. Identify and analyze the scientific and other literature related to consumer-owned containers at retail.
3. Draft recommended guidance around scenarios identified in the issue and create a definition of reusable container.
4. Provide recommended code language changes, if necessary, to the FDA
5. Report progress back to the next Biennial Meeting in 2023 and the committee findings and recommendations may be presented at the subsequent Biennial Meeting if necessary.

COMMITTEE WORK PLAN AND TIMELINE:

Co-chairs Dagny Tucker and Carrie Pohjola developed some goals prior to the committee began full meeting on 11-16-2021 that included outlining scenarios and to identify and analyze literature. Meetings were then scheduled bi-weekly using the ZoomGov Platform on Tuesdays. All full committee meetings are recorded and placed on the Teams channel. Summations are also developed and included on the channel. Agendas for full committee meetings are also developed and placed in the Teams channel folder as well as sent prior to meetings.

COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES:

1. Dates of committee meetings or conference calls:

11/16/2021, 11/30/2021, 12/14/2021, 1/11/2022, 2/8/2022, 2/22/2022

2. Overview of committee activities:

The committee determined that subcommittee work would be best to accomplish the charges. The first subcommittee was the Regulatory Foundation Subcommittee that developed a flow chart of what is currently allowed in the Food Code for the safe use of re-usable containers. This will be used to address scenarios that were then addressed by sub-committees. Subcommittees then determined all types of scenarios that could possibly occur at the retail level based on types of sales of foods and finally a sub-committee is working on flows based on the packaging (consumer owned, business owned, third party owned) and when finalized will be used to determine which of the identified scenarios could be safely done with food code language changes. Once this is determined, guidance will be drafted based on identified literature and best practices to safely allow for the re-use of containers.

3. Charges COMPLETED and the rationale for each specific recommendation:

- a. The committee via subcommittee work has identified scenarios at the retail level where there could be the re-use of containers (see attached spreadsheet)
- b. The committee has identified literature related to re-use of containers as well as language to allow this in other jurisdictions. All documents are included in our Teams channel files.

4. Status of charges still PENDING and activities yet to be completed:

- a. Once the committee has developed and identified scenarios that could be safely done at the retail level, guidance will be drafted as well as drafting code language changes including a possible reusable definition.

COMMITTEE REQUESTED ACTION FOR EXECUTIVE BOARD:

Board Action is NOT required and therefore the report can be placed on the consent calendar for Board review and acceptance.

Board Action is required for some provision(s) of this report and therefore a verbal report needs to be presented at the Board Meeting.

1.

2.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Content Documents:

- a. **Committee Member Roster:** See changes noted above under “requested action” No changes to previously approved roster
“Committee Members Template” (Excel) available at: www.foodprotect.org/work/ Committee roster to be submitted as a PDF attachment to this report.
- b. **Committee Generated Content Documents (OPTIONAL):** No draft content documents submitted at this time

2. Supporting Attachments (OPTIONAL): Not applicable

- a. Meeting agenda 11-16-21
- b. Safe Use of Re-Usable Containers Agendas (11/30/2021, 12/14/2021, 1/11/2022, 1/25/2022 (meeting cancelled), 2/8/2022, 2/22/2022)
- c. Scenario Map
- d. Refilling Returnables v. 3
- e. Safe Use of Returnables Scenario Matrix
- f. Committee Member Roster with attendance