

Conference for Food Protection – Committee Periodic Status Report

Template approved by the Executive Board May 2014

Committee Periodic Status Reports are considered DRAFT until reviewed and acknowledged by the Executive Board

COMMITTEE NAME: Food Recovery

COUNCIL or EXECUTIVE BOARD ASSIGNMENT: Council I (established by 2014-I-035)

DATE OF REPORT: February 28, 2015

SUBMITTED BY: Lorinda Lhotka and Susie McKinley, Committee Co-Chairs

COMMITTEE MEMBER ROSTER:

- see attached roster for updated member listing and Executive Board approval

COMMITTEE CHARGE(s):

That the retired Food Recovery Committee be re-created and charged to review and revise the *Comprehensive Guidelines for Food Recovery Programs* document (currently posted on the CFP web site) and report back its recommendations to the 2016 CFP Biennial Meeting.

COMMITTEE'S REQUESTED ACTION FOR EXECUTIVE BOARD (If Applicable):

None at this time.

PROGRESS REPORT / COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES WITH ACTIVITY DATES:

1. Progress on Overall Committee Activities

- a. Members of the committee were selected by the interest level that was expressed. We contacted all CFP members that expressed an interest level of 1st or 2nd choice. The committee has met six times on a recurring monthly schedule (10/13, 11/10, 12/8, 1/12, 2/9, 3/9). During the initial meetings the discussion was around the members and co-chairs becoming oriented with the CFP committee process; and food recovery activities, current issues, processes and agencies involved. There is good attendance and participation at the teleconference meetings. The committee is well represented by agencies that are applicable to the charge. The one consumer representative is no longer able to participate on the committee. There is one returning member from the previous committee.
- b. There are currently two subcommittees: Date Coding and Document Outline.
- c. The Date Coding Subcommittee discussed recommending that the CFP Executive Board consider approaching the Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO) regarding the group's interest in educating food safety regulators on what date-coding means on packaging and that it does not necessarily represent a food safety issue. Feeding America has stated that regulators taking regulatory action based on the code date alone results in the waste of food that could be used to feed the hungry.

2. Progress Addressing each Assigned Committee Charge

- a. Charge #1: The committee has thoroughly reviewed the current Food Recovery Comprehensive Guidelines and recognizes that there is significant work to be completed as it is difficult with the current document for agencies and readers accessing it as a resource to find the information that is relevant to food recovery activities. The document is very long and includes information that could be included in references such as flow charts on potentially hazardous foods, decision trees for employee health, and in depth discussion on food defense. While the committee agrees that it is important to make this information accessible to users of the document, the information that is specific to food recovery operations is not readily accessed in the document. Committee members agree that the document should be shortened and increase focus on food recovery food safety issues.
- b. A subcommittee was created to work on a basic outline for the document. This subcommittee has met twice. The members are using the current "Feeding America Online Marketplace and Retail Food Guidelines" document as a model for organization of the document and then filling in the gaps that need to be covered for other audiences that would use the document as a resource, such as regulators and agencies that are recipients of the donations. Feeding America developed their document based on the CFP Comprehensive Guidelines for Food Recovery Programs document. The development of this outline and committee agreement of going this direction with the document represents a significant milestone for the committee.
- c. A subcommittee has been formed to work on creating language that describes for agencies, regulators and consumers who may receive donated products what date coding means. This subcommittee has met twice. Committee members have discussed that this is a difficult topic for both food donors and recipients because date coding does is generally a food quality issue and not a food safety issue and also an issue due to regulators taking action on products based only on the date and not because the product represents a food safety risk. There has been a lot of discussion about this with the full committee that this CFP committee cannot recommend changes to date coding as it is not part of the FDA Food Code. **CHARGE #1 IN PROGRESS.**