AOAC INTERNATIONAL Town Hall Meeting
Sponsored by DHS

Hilton Washington DC/Rockville Executive Meeting Center
1750 Rockville Pike
Rockville, MD 20852
Friday, September 12, 2008
8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Meeting Agenda

I. Introductions – E. James Bradford, AOAC Executive Director


III. DHS Standards Program – Bert Coursey, Director, Standards, DHS

IV. Overview and Progress of AOAC’s Project with DHS – E. James Bradford, AOAC, & Matthew Davenport, DHS S&T and PM

The Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology Directorate (DHS S&T) recognizes the need to provide a national system to identify reliable threat agent detector systems. DHS S&T contracted AOAC INTERNATIONAL, an independent, third-party scientific organization, and the Midwest Research Institute (MRI) to establish and make publicly available a scientifically based set of standards and processes for the independent evaluation and validation of threat agent detector systems including PCR-based methods and hand-held assays. The intent of DHS is that this program will become a national enduring capability run by a third party and funded by those who wish to have their technologies independently validated.

AOAC is currently executing a pilot project in which a PCR-based method for *Bacillus anthracis* is evaluated using the proposed system. The key elements and progress of the project will be reported, including how a stakeholder panel, which includes representatives from CDC, DOD, FBI, DHS, EPA, public health, first responders, and industry, has been brought together to obtain consensus and set method standard performance requirements.

V. Lessons Learned - Matthew Davenport, DHS S&T and PM

The Stakeholder Panel on Agent Detection Assays (SPADA) that was put together for the project has many lessons learned while moving forward to achieve the ultimate goal of creating an Enduring National Capacity for the evaluation and validation of systems to be applicable to first responder tools. These lessons will be presented to help Town Hall attendees make better-informed decisions on the articles.

VI. Presentation of Town Hall Articles (attached below)

Panelists to present each article. TH meeting attendees will have an opportunity to have input/amend and vote on each article. This will help provide strategic guidance to DHS and others in the development of a program for the evaluation, validation, and use of first responder threat agent detection tools.

VII. Next Steps

Adjournment – 4:30 p.m.
Articles:

1. Should DHS expand its effort to coordinate the development of standards for Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosive (CBRNE) detection technologies and devices?

2. Should DHS develop, in collaboration with other agencies, standardization organizations and industry, a program to qualify detection technologies and devices by an independent third party prior to their use by grantees and federally regulated venues; and make this program available to the private sector as a best practice?

3. In cooperation with other agencies, should DHS lead the development of guidelines and standards that lead to the implementation of training, proficiency testing, and certification of the operator in the use of qualified detection technologies?

4. In cooperation with other agencies, should DHS lead the development of guidelines for SOPs which shall include the appropriate use and operation of qualified detection technologies, as well as interpretation and response?

5. Should DHS develop strategic guidance on standards for CBRNE detector technologies for use by relevant sectors in the National Infrastructure Protection Plan (NIPP)?