

**ALTERNATIVE PATHWAY to *FIRST ACTION OFFICIAL METHOD*<sup>SM</sup> STATUS REQUIREMENTS**

**Expert Review Panels (ERPs)**

- Must be supported by relevant stakeholders
- Constituted solely for the ERP purpose, not for Standard Method Performance Requirements (SMPRs) purposes or as an extension of an SMPR.
- Consist of a minimum of seven members representing balance of key stakeholders. A quorum is the presence of seven members or 2/3 of total vetted ERP membership, whichever is greater.
- ERP constituency must be approved by the AOAC Official Methods Board (OMB).
- Holds transparent public meetings only.
- Remains in force as long as method in First Action status.

**First Action Official Method Status Decision**

- Must be made by an ERP constituted or reinstated post 2011-03-28 for First Action Official Method status approval (FAOMA).
- Must be made by an ERP vetted for FAOMA purposes by OMB post 2011-03-28.
- Method adopted by ERP must perform adequately against SMPR set forth by stakeholders.
- Method must be adopted by unanimous decision of ERP on first ballot, if not unanimous, negative votes must delineate scientific reasons.
- Negative voter(s) can be overridden by 2/3 of voting ERP members after due consideration.
- Method becomes First Action on the date when ERP decision is made.
- Methods must be drafted into AOAC format by a knowledgeable AOAC staff member or designee on collaboration with the ERP and method author.
- Report of FAOMA decision complete with ERP report regarding decision including scientific background (references etc) to be published concurrently with method in traditional AOAC publication venues.

**Method in First Action Status and Transitioning to Final Action Status**

- Further data indicative of adequate method reproducibility (between laboratory) performance to be collected. Data may be collected via a collaborative study or by proficiency or other testing data of similar magnitude.
- Two years maximum transition time (additional year(s) if ERP determines a relevant collaborative study or proficiency or other data collection is in progress).
- Method removed from Official First Action and OMA if no evidence of method use available at the end of the transition time.
- Method removed from Official First Action and OMA if no data indicative of adequate method reproducibility is forthcoming as outlined above at the end of the transition time.
- ERP to recommend Method to Official Final Action Status to the OMB.
- OMB decision on First to Final Action Status.