



The Scientific Association
Dedicated to Analytical Excellence



TECHNICAL DIVISION ON REFERENCE MATERIALS VISION STATEMENT

Future Directions of the Technical Division on Reference Materials

Quality assurance of analytical measurements is a vital part of international commerce and technology exchange. AOAC INTERNATIONAL is a worldwide authority on the process of validating analytical methods and generating analytical measurements of the highest quality. The promotion and improvement of the quality of analytical measurements through method validation is the fundamental mission of AOAC INTERNATIONAL. Reference materials, in combination with validated methods, are the solid foundation of quality analytical measurements.

From the time the Technical Division on Reference Materials (TDRM) was founded, a primary goal for the Division has been to author and recommend policy changes within AOAC toward including reference materials in the development, validation and routine use of AOAC methods. An important mechanism for accomplishing this goal is establishing and maintaining a close relationship with the AOAC International Official Methods Board focused on addressing issues and policies involving reference materials in AOAC programs. Members of TDRM will participate in and promote the writing of recommendations for policy changes and criteria for the use of reference materials in the development and validation AOAC methods.

A second goal is to identify and facilitate the availability of appropriate reference materials for collaborative validation studies and the implementation and incorporation into AOAC methods on a routine basis. A reference material database on the availability of suitable certified reference materials matched by analyte/matrix combinations for use with specific AOAC methods will be developed and maintained. The Technical Division will assist the AOAC constituency in the development and use of in-house reference materials. Members of the TDRM will assist in the validation of methods through

identifying appropriate reference materials to be used to assess the precision of collaboratively studied methods.

A third objective of the TDRM is the dissemination of information within AOAC. These activities can be done cooperatively with other groups conducting similar or complementary activities. In addition, TDRM will disseminate information within AOAC about the use of reference materials in measurements and testing programs. TDRM will encourage and support programs that will contribute to the understanding and use of reference materials. The Technical Division will promote quality of measurements and method validations in support of legislation of the U. S. and other countries. (e.g., Nutritional Labeling and Education Act, Dietary Supplement Health and Education Act)

A final objective of the TDRM is to facilitate the development of a worldwide network of people interested and engaged in reference material production and use. This objective is best obtained by organizing and conducting topical conferences and symposia as well as educational/informational forums for discussion and other activities involving reference materials. TDRM meetings will serve as a base for members interested in the role of reference materials in assurance and quality control of measurements. Finally, TDRM will recognize and honor key people or institutions whose actions have contributed to the development and use of reference materials.