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Committee Actions

*Food Microbiology, Non-Dairy, Wallace H. Andrews
and Thomas S. Hammack (see pp 346–355)*

Bacillus anthracis: 2003–2004, Anthony D. Hitchins

An open-ended series of validation studies on *Bacillus anthracis* detection methods, organized by AOAC INTERNATIONAL, is in the process of being conducted for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS). A key hurdle that these methods have to pass is the ability to distinguish *B. anthracis* spores from those of near-neighbor species as well as those of more distantly related species.

The CDC (Atlanta, GA) precollaboratively and collaboratively studied the USAMRIID (Frederick, MD) culture method for identification of *Bacillus anthracis* spores. It was granted First Action approval earlier this year. This validated culture method is now the standard reference for use in method comparison studies. Currently, it is only available from DHS at their discretion.

A rapid method for detecting *Bacillus anthracis* spores was precollaboratively and collaboratively studied. It was recently granted First Action approval. It is intended for laboratory use. The method will be specified at a later date.

A precollaborative study of the ability of a fatty acid methyl-ester gas chromatographic profile method (MIDI Inc., Newark, DE) to identify *B. anthracis* spores was completed. The collaborative study is in progress.

Other validation studies are in the planning stage.

Continue all studies toward the First Action or Final Action approval stage.

Efficacy Testing of Disinfectants, Stephen F. Tomasino (see pp 355–358)