

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Safety Committee

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Committee Actions

The Safety Committee held its meeting on September 15, 2003, during the AOAC Annual Meeting in Atlanta, GA. Dur-

ing that meeting, we discussed the necessity of having new members and suggested possible qualified candidates as Safety Advisors for the Committee on Microbiology (H) and for the Committee on Dietary Supplements (K). Several names were proposed and the Chair will contact them for possible appointment.

The Safety Symposium planned for the 118th Annual Meeting in St. Louis (MO) was discussed. With no quorum at the meeting, the Chair will send an electronic ballot. According to the Committee reports, the Safety Committee recommended in 1998 that we should have a Safety Symposium every 3–4 years during the Annual Meeting to provide training to the membership. The last Safety Symposium was in Montreal, Canada in September 1998 and one is necessary now with all the new challenges in methods to be collaborated for possible terrorists acts.

The main duties of the Safety Advisor were addressed, for example, making sure that the safety checklist is properly filled out and making recommendations as to any cautionary statements that should be included in the method for final publication in the *Official Methods of Analysis*. Safety standards and procedures associated with laboratory accreditation were also reviewed. The number of methods being reviewed is almost nonexistent for the majority of the committees except Dietary Supplements and Microbiology.

The Committee terms of reference were discussed and the new policies were explained. The Committee was encouraged to send articles to *Inside Laboratory Management* for publication.