



**AOAC INTERNATIONAL**  
**Proposal to Launch Heavy Metals in Foods Working Group**

AOAC is seeking support to launch a working group to review the applicability of current standard method performance requirements for heavy metals in foods in response to the lower regulatory limits worldwide. The project is proposed to operate at an accelerated pace to meet a timeline specified by stakeholders.

**OBJECTIVES<sup>1</sup>**

- Review current relevant AOAC Standard Method Performance Requirements (SMPR®)
- Revise or develop SMPRs to reflect global changes in regulatory limits for heavy metals in defined matrices
- Assess candidate methods through AOAC Expert Review Panel process for *Official Method of Analysis* status
- Recommendations to Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis for Sampling (CCMAS)

**TIMELINE REQUESTED OF AOAC<sup>2</sup>**

Q4			Q1			Q2			Q3		
Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
		Advisory Panel Meeting									
		WG Chair Identification									
		Call for WG Members									
		Working Group Meetings									
		SMPR Development									
			Call for Comments								
				Stakeholder Meeting							
				SMPR approval							
				Call for Methods							
				Call for Experts							
						Expert Review Panel					
						OMA approval					
						OMA publication					

<sup>1</sup> AOAC is not solely responsible, nor can it guarantee, Official First Action Methods, Official Final Action Methods, or approval by the Codex Alimentarius Commission

<sup>2</sup> Timeline and project components are dependent on AOAC reaching appropriate funding levels to drive this project at an accelerated pace. Delays in milestones that are dependent on laboratory work or volunteer coordination may impact the overall timeline

## PROJECT COMPONENTS

- **Advisory Panel:** AOAC will hold Advisory Panel meetings to identify renowned subject matter experts, identify additional key authorities and experts to participate, and monitor working group progress toward deliverables.
- **Working Group:** Working Group meetings will be held, as needed, to complete draft SMPR(s).
- **SMPR Development & Review:** AOAC will facilitate the development, comment reconciliation, and presentation of DRAFT SMPRs for stakeholder consensus.
- **Expert Review Panel (ERP):** AOAC will post a Call for Methods to meet approved SMPRs, post a Call for Experts for ERP membership, and facilitate the review of candidate methods in accordance with AOAC policies & procedures.
- **Publications:** AOAC will publish approved SMPRs and OMAs as appropriate.
- **Codex Delegation:** As a Codex Observer Organization, AOAC will send a delegation to CCMAS42. The delegation may present recommendations to the committee through CRD as appropriate.

## SUPPORT

AOAC is seeking funding contributions of \$10,000 from organizations interested in driving the development and/or revision of method performance requirements for the heavy metals in foods. Representatives from contributing organizations will comprise the project's Advisory Panel (other levels of contributions may be considered).

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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