



AOAC Volunteer Role Description

OMA Editors

Maintaining the Integrity and Quality of the Official Methods of Analysis of AOAC INTERNATIONAL

Supporting Recommendation 6: Re-appointment of OMA Chapter Editors and Editor-in-Chief

Role Overview

OMA Editors are AOAC INTERNATIONAL volunteers who partner with the Official Methods Board (OMB) and AOAC staff to assure and ensure the scientific integrity of the *Official Methods of Analysis of AOAC INTERNATIONAL* (OMA), with a primary focus on the ongoing maintenance of the Compendium. Editors serve in a recommending and advisory capacity — offering editorial, structural, and scientific guidance — while all final decisions remain with the OMB.

Editorial Stewards	Scientific Interpreters	Advisory Partners
<i>Maintain the integrity and accuracy of scientific data and language across the Compendium.</i>	<i>Translate and contextualize complex scientific concepts for authors, reviewers, and staff.</i>	<i>Recommend editorial and structural improvements; advise on standards and policy application.</i>

Why This Role Exists

OMA Editors exist to safeguard the credibility of the Compendium as a globally trusted, scientifically rigorous reference. As advisory partners focused on Compendium maintenance, they:

- Help assure and ensure **scientific integrity, rigor, and clarity** of OMA methods.
- Apply **modernization rules** and the **OMA format** to Compendium content.
- **Harmonize methods** across scientific domains within the Compendium.
- Protect the Compendium's **global trust** through consistent editorial stewardship.

Governance & Advisory Relationship

OMA Editors are a group of appointed volunteer advisors — not a standing committee — who partner with the OMB, AOAC staff, and *Official Methods*SM program volunteers on Compendium maintenance. Their recommendations are advanced to the OMB for deliberation and action.

- Appointed as **volunteer advisors** to the Official Methods Board (OMB).
- Provide **recommendations** on editorial, structural, and scientific matters affecting the Compendium.
- **One Editor** is selected from among the Editors and serves as a **liaison to the OMB**, representing the Editor group and carrying forward their recommendations.
- All **final decisions rest with the OMB**; Editors do not hold independent decisional authority.

Advisory Relationship



Membership Model

The following membership expectations:

- **3–5 appointed Editors** sized to OMA scientific domain coverage.
- Domains are set by the **High-Level and Initial OMA Review** (method groupings).
- Each Editor represents **one or more domain clusters**.
- The roster of editors may **expand** as review of OMA progress and new domains emerge.
- All Editors must be **AOAC INTERNATIONAL members in good standing**.

What Editors Do

Editors focus on the ongoing maintenance of the OMA Compendium, contributing recommendations across three areas of work:

Compendium Maintenance & Lifecycle Review

Editors provide editorial and structural review — and make recommendations — across the full OMA method lifecycle:

1. **Initial Review** — receive reports from the CMWGs and evaluate results from initial review and triage of OMA. Assist in formulating a final report with recommendations for editorial/structural adjustments including method domain groupings.
2. **Periodic Review** — reassess existing methods on scheduled cycles (every five (5) years) and flag items for update, consolidation, or replacement.
3. **Repeals Process** — recommend removal where methods are superseded or obsolete.
4. Identify **modernization needs, gaps, redundancies**, and opportunities for consolidation or replacement within the Compendium.
5. Recommend adherence to **OMA format, modernization rules, and metadata standards**.

Harmonization, Advisory, and Support

- Advise on alignment of **structure, terminology, and formatting** across methods and domains.
- Recommend updates to **OMA front matter, definitions, and editorial guidance**.
- Serve as an advisory resource to the **OMB, AOAC staff, Method Committees, ERPs, CMVGC, and CMWGs** on editorial and structural issues.
- Triage inquiries on OMA methods

Continuous Improvement

- Propose refinements to **modernization rules, templates, and editorial standards**.
- Support the development of **training materials and guidance documents** for authors, reviewers, and committees.

What “Good” Looks Like

Integrity, Expertise, and Continuity

Successful OMA Editors demonstrate the following qualities:

- **Scientific method domain expertise** paired with strong **editorial judgment**.
- Clear understanding of **validation expectations** and **method formatting rules**.
- Ability to **collaborate and advise** across committees, domains, and volunteer and stakeholder groups.
- Deep commitment to **AOAC's mission, ethical standards, and scientific integrity**.

Takeaway

As advisory partners, OMA Editors sustain the Compendium's credibility — ensuring methods remain clear, consistent, and scientifically sound, while recommending improvements that inform user clarity and OMB decision-making.

Operating Norms at a Glance

The table below summarizes how the OMA Editor group operates as an advisory and recommending body to the OMB.

Topic	Expectation
One Editor	Elected for a two-year term; rotates among Editors; serves as a liaison to the OMB.
Capacity	Recommending and advisory — Editors do not take binding decisions; all final authority rests with the OMB.
Working Quorum	Two-thirds of Editors must be present for deliberations and to make consensus recommendations.
Recommendations	Advanced by majority support of the Editor group; forwarded to the OMB for action. Individual Editors may make specific scientific domain recommendations to the OMB related to the methods within their scientific domain after consultation with the Editor group.
Staff Support	Staff liaison(s) assigned by the Executive Director.
Review Cadence	Role description reviewed every three years.
Service	Volunteer, uncompensated; requires AOAC INTERNATIONAL membership; follows COI, confidentiality, and conduct policies.

Source: OMA Editors Role Description —. Revision 3 – 12 May 2026; OMB approved – 14 May 2026.