

3-A Committee on Sanitary Procedures

Members Present: Charles Price, Dennis Gaalswyk, Randy Elsberry, Ron Schmidt and Bob Sanders.

Visitors/Guests: Allen Sayler, Dan Erickson, Bob Hagberg, Tom Bell, Steve Murphy and Dina Austin Scott.

Meeting Called to Order: 1:00 p.m., Sunday, July 31, 2011.

Recording Secretary of Minutes: Dan Erickson.

Old Business:

For the benefit of visitors, Ron Schmidt (convener) summarized the role of 3-A Sanitary Standards, its partnership with IAFP, and the functions and activities of CSP. Randy Elsberry summarized the CSP activities over the past year in 3-A Sanitary Standards. The CSP held 20 conference call meetings. Ron Schmidt, 3-A Chair, discussed the new initiatives of 3-A outreach to attempt to get more participants in the standards development process from CSP, as well as from food processing sector. The 3-A Education Program at the 3-A annual meeting was also discussed. This program has become very successful. Greater than 200 people attended the 2011 program.

New Business:

Outreach activities of 3-A to other food industries was discussed. It was suggested that 3-A should participate in the SQFI Annual meeting. Further, the discussion of educational materials for IAFP Affiliate meetings and the concept of doing a webinar on sanitary design was discussed

Ron Schmidt presented a proposal to rename and restructure the committee (see below), with the objective of more accurately reflecting the committee activities, as well as how it can engage more with the IAFP membership at large. Such restructuring would have many benefits to both IAFP and 3-A Sanitary Standards, Inc.

Symposia suggestions for 2012 IAFP meeting were discussed. The primary suggestions were: Food Equipment Standards – Evaluating falsification, misrepresentation, and fraud in equipment sales; Sanitary Design Principles Adapted to Various Food Industry Segments.

Recommendations to the Executive Board:

Background. Since the inception of 3-A Sanitary Standards, IAFP has been a key partner in this important food equipment standards development body. In fact, an IAFP precursor organization (the International Association of Milk and Dairy Inspectors) was one of the three original associations of 3-A, along with associations representing dairy equipment manufacturers and dairy processors. 3-A standards have also been developed for egg products and pharmaceutical equipment (P3-A).

The IAFP committee, currently named the 3-A Committee on Sanitary Procedures (CSP), has solidified the IAFP/3-A partnership, through active participation of CSP members in the development of 3-A Sanitary Standards and Practices. In addition, CSP members serve in leadership roles in the 3-A Steering Committee and Interpretations Committee. Through its partnership with 3-A, IAFP also has a bridge with the European food equipment standards community through collaboration of 3-A and European Hygienic Engineering Design Group (EHEDG). With the reorganization of 3-A and formation of 3-A Sanitary Standards, Inc. (3-A SSI), IAFP became a founding member, is represented on the 3-A SSI Board of Directors by two IAFP members, and the 3-A CSP was affirmed as an IAFP committee.

The primary role of CSP has been its involvement in the 3-A standards development process and its primary membership base has been state dairy regulatory sanitarians. However, CSP has also served as an active committee of IAFP through development of symposia and

workshops and through collaborative projects with the Dairy Quality and Safety PDG. The CSP has evolved into IAFP's leading group in sanitary design, an important area of food protection and sanitation. With depth in sanitary engineering principles, CSP programs at IAFP meetings have been well attended and have had a broader interest to IAFP members at large from a variety of disciplines. Sanitary design has had increased interest in recent years with concerns for cross contamination from allergen residues in poorly cleaned and poorly designed food processing equipment, as well as recent food safety initiatives in the regulatory and industrial communities.

The discipline and/or focus and activities of CSP have traditionally been in sanitary design. However, the committee name does not adequately reflect the depth of involvement in this discipline. This has created some confusion among IAFP members regarding the committee's role and some possible overlap with Professional Development Groups (PDGs), which deal with more general sanitation issues.

Recommendations:

CSP is making the following recommendations to IAFP with regard to the name and structure of the committee:

1. Change the name of the committee to Sanitary Equipment and Facility Design Committee to more adequately reflect its focus and activities within IAFP.
2. Form a 3-A subgroup of the Sanitary Equipment and Facility Design Committee to allow for continued and enhanced involvement in the 3-A standards development process, and representation in 3-A leadership.
3. Critically evaluate the current relationships between 3-A and IAFP, with the objective of enhancing future growth and development of both organizations.

Advantages:

There are many advantages of the proposed restructuring for both IAFP and 3-A SSI. Some of these are listed below:

For IAFP, it would facilitate the:

- Growth of the committee as well as IAFP membership;
- Development of a more engaged working IAFP committee in sanitary design, a very important area of food protection;
- Participation, collaboration, and cross-fertilization of CSP with other food industry disciplines;
- Development of a stronger focus of IAFP as a leader in sanitary design;
- Collaboration of IAFP with EHEDG, and other equipment standards organizations; and
- Strengthening the importance of sanitary design in regulatory (e.g., FSMA, HACCP), and third party food safety programs (e.g., GFSI).

For 3-A SSI, it would facilitate the:

- Expansion of outreach and recognition of 3-A standards and practices;
- Enhancement of scientific networking between 3-A SSI and the academic community, as well as with industrial personnel representing other food industries;
- Collaboration in equipment standards development in other food industry segments, where equipment standards are currently lacking;
- Potential expansion of 3-A CSP (and IAFP) involvement in the 3-A standards development process.

Next Meeting Date: August 8, 2011 (Conference Call).

Meeting Adjourned: 3:30 p.m.

Chairperson: Ronald H. Schmidt (Acting Chair).