

## Baby Food Standard Technical Committee

### Meeting agenda & minutes

when: February 19, 2021 1-2pm Eastern Standard Time

where: Microsoft Teams

background materials:

- Terms of Reference - <https://1ilncn2ptox93ih9e41q8but-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/media-library/wp-content/uploads/sites/24/2021/02/BFC-Baby-Food-Standard-and-Certification-Terms-of-Reference.pdf>
- Baby Food Standard website - <https://www.foodchainid.com/babyfoodstandard/>
- Cornell website - <https://foodscience.cals.cornell.edu/industry-partnership-program/cifs-ipp-councils/>
- Initial draft outline (Google doc) - [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1pUfvK1RuD\\_z\\_nVbJSmfeDs35JQTT2rH/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1pUfvK1RuD_z_nVbJSmfeDs35JQTT2rH/view?usp=sharing)

#### 1. Welcome & Introductions (10 minutes)

Members present: Greg Bird, Boma Brown-West, Christopher Bonafide, Cheryl Callen, Nicole Castle (legal counsel), Conrad Choiniere, Todd DeKryger (Chair), David Gould (FoodChain ID, minutes), Emily Griep, Lori Hoagland, Jane Houlihan, Rui Hai Liu, Micheal Mazourek, Tom Neltner (Oversight Committee), Alejandro Rodriguez Sanchez, Jason Rosecast, Arthur Villordon

Absent: Jason Jacobs, Robert Harvey

#### 2. Review Terms of Reference (10 minutes)

- a. Affirm Chair

**Action:** Todd DeKryger affirmed as Chair.

- b. Committee member bios

**Discussion/Action:** Members who have not provided bios are requested to do so as soon as possible to David Gould, for posting on the website and to increase transparency of the initiative. Headshots are encouraged.

- c. Recruiting more members

**Discussion:** Members are encouraged to bring additional expertise to the Technical Committee, either as additional formal members or as contacts who could assist in work of subcommittees, during public consultation rounds on the draft Standard, etc.

Tom also mentions that the Oversight Committee is still seeking additional members in crop categories; current TC members could also serve there or are encouraged to suggest other people who might be willing to serve.

### **3. Outline/scope for the Standard (20 minutes)**

**Discussion:** Draft outline from the google drive used as a starting point. David adds to the draft on the drive as the following suggestions are made:

- Conrad suggests to clearly include the need to protect/preserve nutritional value.
- Michael questions if foods that might be fed to babies/toddlers but is not specifically marketed as baby food should also somehow be captured in the Standard, to assure that those too do not have inappropriate heavy metal levels. Sentiment of the TC is that this is a valid question but will likely not be included in the scope of this Standard at least for this initial version.
- Christopher suggests to make specific mention of a need for personnel/management commitment to the Standard's objectives on the part of any entity seeking certification.
- Tom suggests the requirements can and should be made consistent and compatible with other food safety programs already in place by operations. May also need to separate the safety requirements by crops versus processing.
- Emily supports the idea to mirror the Standard off other preventative control programs, and to make relevant distinctions between crop and processed product requirements.
- David expresses the intention that this new Standard should not be redundant with other programs, but rather "credit" actions already done towards those, and then complement or add value to them with the specific relevance to baby/toddler food products.

### **4. Standard drafting method, work groups (10 minutes)**

**Discussion:**

- The work of drafting the Standard will be shared amongst 3 Working Groups to start: crops, processed products, and general construct/organization of the Standard.
  - Crops WG should focus in two ways: (i) common delineation of the categories to consider, for example genetics, site assessment, production practices, etc.; and (ii) crop-specific practices and analytical limits.
  - Processed Products WG will address the responsibilities of brand owners, final product manufacturers, and primary processors.
  - The General Standard WG will address the order of topics, layout, and overall structure of the Standard.
- TC members may participate in more than one WG.

**Action:** David will add a table to the google drive where TC members can sign up for the WGs of their choice. WGs will be coordinated by David, with communications happening mostly by email/online documents but some virtual meetings may also be necessary.

#### **5. Meeting cadence and schedule (5 minutes)**

**Discussion:** The aim of the TC will be to: (i) provide regular updates to the Oversight Committee in advance of monthly meetings; (ii) to meet with enough frequency to achieve having a standard and certification program ready to launch by end of 2021.

**Action:**

(i) David will circulate a Doodle poll to look for a widely convenient recurring day of the month for the TC to meet. (ii) David will add a basic timeline schematic to the google drive so that TC members can more clearly understand the process and milestones involved, including timing of public consultation rounds. (iii) David will place these minutes on the google drive and organize the drive with some more folders.