

Baby Food Standard Technical Committee

Meeting agenda & minutes

when: 14 April, 2021 11:00 am-12:05 pm Eastern Standard Time

where: Microsoft Teams

Members present: Greg Bird, Boma Brown-West, Todd DeKryger (Chair), Monica Foote, Jillian Glew, David Gould (FoodChain ID, minutes), Emily Griep, Lori Hoagland, Jane Houlihan, Jason Jacobs, Rui Hai Liu, Micheal Mazourek, Tom Neltner (Oversight Committee), Jason Rosecast, Arthur Villordon

Absent: Christopher Bonafide, Cheryl Callen, Conrad Choiniere, Robert Harvey, Alejandro Rodriguez

Background materials:

- progressed iteration of the Standard (Baby Food Standard _draft2 clean.docx)
- data collection template

1. Technical Committee bios still missing (5 minutes)

Discussion: still needing bios for the website, from Christopher, Cheryl, Conrad, Monica, Jillian, Jason J., Rui Hai

Action: the above-mentioned members to provide to David asap.

2. Standard Organization progress (30 minutes)

a. review next iteration

i. overall structure

Discussion: Overall order is probably workable. Still some concerns especially regarding Part II (general requirements for all operations). Further discussion needed. Next iteration should also normalize the numbering/nomenclature and make terms more consistent. Part V on Labeling and Claims will entail involvement by the Communications and Oversight Committees, to be taken up once the requirements and expectations posed by the other parts of the Standard are clearer.

Action: *David will pursue conversations with TC members individually to air concerns in greater detail, and follow up further with WG meetings. In the meantime, all TC members and WGs will start working from the current iteration, adding suggestions, content, etc.*

ii. main body vs. annexes; requirements vs. guidance

Discussion: The main body of the standard should contain all requirements, some of which may be framed more as categories of best practices, while annexes can contain details about specific best practices. This will allow for the annexes to be amended as knowledge is gained, without having to

undertake full/formal revisions of the Standard. Some clauses in the main body of the Standard could be worded as “guidance” meaning recommended but not absolutely required practices.

iii. formulating questions for the public consultation

Discussion: The TC should start to think of specific questions to pose to stakeholders as part of the public consultation on the draft Standard - namely topics where we seek more guidance on how to develop content. One question that arises is whether or not the Standard should address/include food products that babies/toddlers might eat but are not marketed only for their age group.

Action: David starts a separate document on the google drive to collate potential questions, to be reviewed and presented to the Oversight Committee for approval prior to any release for the public consultation. TC members can add suggestions to this document.

b. next steps for the TC and WGs

Discussion: A few questions were raised on specific clauses in the current draft: certain terms in the Glossary; limits on heavy metals per Part II may be delineated by product type (eg fruit or veg versus cereals) or type of consumption (eg meal vs. snack) - suggestion to consider EU regulations of limits. Specific questions deliberately limited during the meeting due to time constraints and to focus on the broader question of the overall organization of the document.

Action: All TC members are encouraged to add comments and suggestions to the current version on the google drive (suggesting mode, not overwriting). David will arrange another round of WG meetings to occur within the coming weeks.

3. Data collection (10 minutes)

a. template

Discussion: Rui Hai leads on presenting a common template for data collection. This aspect of the program is deemed among the highest priority, as the setting of quantitative limits depends on empirical data in order to have meaningful and achievable targets. Data needs to be collected in a consistent manner to enable better analysis of it.

Action: The template will be placed on the google drive so that TC members can comment/make suggestions.

b. WG?

Discussion: Agreed that a new WG is not necessary, but a special meeting for all interested persons involved in the initiative should be held. The topic of actual levels to set can ultimately be taken up by the Processed Products WG.

Action: David will email all Council and Committee members, asking for interest, and then circulate a Doodle poll to those who express interest.

4. Limits proposed by Congress, [FDA Closer to Zero](#) (10 minutes)

No discussion due to lack of time; to be taken up as needed at a later date.

5. AOB (5 minutes)

None.

End of minutes.