

From: Capar, Stephen G
Sent: Monday, May 26, 2008 7:46 AM
To: <snip>
Cc: 'Cook, Jo Marie'
Subject: Metals Subgroup Email 2008-05-26 from Chair, Metals Subgroup

Metals Subgroup of the Chemical Contaminants and Residues in Food Community

You are being sent this email because either you participated at the initial meeting of the Metals Subgroup or you joined the Chemical Contaminants and Residues in Food Community and indicated an interest in metals. If you do not wish to receive future Metals Subgroup emails then please reply to this email and asked to be removed from the Metals Subgroup email list.

Dear Metals Subgroup Members,

I appreciate your patience with me on contacting you for input on the tasks of the Metals Subgroup that began at the 2007 AOAC INTERNATIONAL meeting in Anaheim, California. I also welcome those who joined the community since that meeting and indicated an interest in metals. I hope to reignite your interest and participation.

Below I've listed some news and tasks for the Metals Subgroup.

Website

The community now has a web presence at:

<http://www.flworkshop.com/Community/community-1st.html>

Please visit the site to obtain an understanding of what the community is trying to accomplish. There is a link to a Metals Subgroup web page that contains a list of what we need to do (Future Plans) and a link to our first report (Metals Subgroup Meeting Documents 2007-10-31.pdf). I plan to use this site in the near future to communicate to you on our activities and solicit your participation.

An application to join the Chemical Contaminants and Residues in Food Community is available from the website. Please invite your interested colleagues to join us.

There is also a web site sponsored by AOAC INTERNATIONAL (http://www.aoac.org/chem_contam/cc_homepage.html) that contains information on the Chemical Contaminants and Residues in Food Community. However, we have been unable to have this site kept up-to-date.

The Task: Call for Method Needs

At the September 2007 AOAC INTERNATIONAL meeting in Anaheim, California there was a gathering of individuals interested in chemical contaminants and residues in food. This was the initial meeting of the Chemical Contaminants and Residues in Food Community. A small subgroup of 6 individuals (5 from national government laboratories and 1 from a private laboratory) from the community who were interested in metals (toxic and nutritional elements as well as the chemical form or species of these elements) met to begin prioritizing analytical method needs. The following list of 7 needs was generated and the number next to the item indicates the number of members interested in the method need.

Arsenic speciation (4)

Determine the level of the toxic chemical forms of arsenic (arsenite, arsenate, monomethylarsonate and dimethylarsinate) in food (primarily seafood, dietary supplements)

Unification of methods (AAS/ICP) (4)

Integration of flame atomic absorption spectrometry, inductively coupled plasma atomic emission spectrometry and inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry analytical procedures to provide comprehensive, multielement analytical methods for foods.

Iodine (5)

Determine the level of iodine in food.

Methylmercury (4)

Determine the level of methylmercury in food, primarily seafood.

Selenium speciation (2)

Determine the level and chemical forms of selenium in food and dietary supplements.

Cadmium speciation (0)

Determine the level and chemical forms of cadmium in food.

Total mercury (1)

Determine the level of mercury in food.

I am now asking you to contribute other method needs [Metals Subgroup Future Plans 3] to augment this list. You may submit more than one method need. I'll compile an updated list and send it to you (or post on the web) I will then solicit your interest in the "method needs" listed [Metals Subgroup Future Plans 4]. Attached is a Methods Needs form for you to complete (Metals Subgroup Method Needs 2008-05-26.doc) and email the form back to me by June 26, 2008. If a group within the same organization has the same method needs then you may choose to list all the subgroup members of the same form.

Other potential method needs

To get us thinking, I've listed a few of my thoughts on other potential method needs.

(a) Lead in hard candy (GF-AAS or ICP-MS; microwave assisted digestion)

(b) Arsenic, cadmium, lead and mercury in a large variety of foods and dietary supplements (ICP-MS; microwave assisted digestion)

(c) Calcium, chromium, copper, iron, magnesium, manganese, phosphorus, potassium, selenium, sodium, and zinc in a large variety of foods including infant formula (ICP-MS or ICP-AES; microwave assisted digestion)

(d) Aluminum, antimony, nickel, tin in a large variety of foods (ICP-MS; microwave assisted digestion)

(e) Cadmium and lead leached from ceramic foodware (ICP-AES)

(f) Arsenic, cadmium, lead and mercury in foods; quick screening method (XRF)

(g) Toxic arsenic in food and dietary supplements; sum of the toxic forms of arsenic.

Meeting

The Chemical Contaminants and Residues in Food Community will be gathering at the 2008 AOAC INTERNATIONAL meeting this September in Dallas, Texas USA

(http://www.aoac.org/meetings1/122nd_annual_mtg/main.htm). The Community meeting will be on Monday, September 22, 2008. First, there will be a symposium from 1:30-3:00 pm titled CONTAMINANT COMMUNITY: PROGRESS UPDATE AND VISIONS BY COMMUNITY AND SUB-COMMUNITY CHAIRS. After this symposium from 3:15-5:15 pm, the Community and its subgroups will meet.

Hope to hear from you soon,

Steve Capar
Chair, Metals Subgroup

<Metals Subgroup Method Needs 2008-05-26.doc>