

2005 ANNUAL REPORT AAPFCO UNIFORM BILLS COMMITTEE

The Uniform Bills Committee met during the AAPFCO 2004 Annual Meeting in Madison, Wisconsin and also during the 2005 MidYear Meeting in Phoenix, Arizona. The following information summarizes the work performed by the Uniform Bills Committee during these meetings.

AAPFCO 2004 Annual Meeting, Madison, Wisconsin

The Uniform Bills Committee met on Wednesday, August 4, 2004, during the AAPFCO Annual Meeting in Madison, Wisconsin. Of the 50 attendees who signed the roster, there were 19 state and Canadian regulatory officials, one representative from the USDA, three industry association members, and 27 industry representatives. The following agenda items were discussed:

1. **Nickel** – At the 2004 midyear meeting, the committee had approved as “Tentative” the addition of Nickel to Rule 1 as a plant nutrient. At that time, several members felt that a maximum level should also be established when nickel was added to and guaranteed on a fertilizer label; however, the committee agreed that a maximum level would not be necessary but should be based on agronomic need. It was also agreed that a warning or caution statement on the label would not be necessary.
2. **Compost** – The committee discussed the new Rules and Regulations for Compost that were developed to address problems such as label guarantees and variable moisture content in bulk compost. Several members indicated that these problems were also a concern with fertilizers.
3. **BMP Definitions** – The committee reviewed several definitions submitted by the BMP Committee. The definitions were tabled for further discussion.

AAPFCO 2005 Mid Year Meeting, Phoenix, Arizona

The Uniform Bills Committee met on Saturday, February 19, 2005, during the AAPFCO Annual Meeting in Madison, Wisconsin. Of the 45 attendees who signed the roster, there were 28 state and Canadian regulatory officials, two industry association members, 13 industry representatives, and two attendees from academia. The following agenda items were discussed:

1. **Nickel** – After receiving no objections from the AAPFCO membership, the committee approved the recommendation to move the addition of nickel to Rule 1 as “Official” for 2006.
2. **Compost** – The committee approved the new Rules and Regulations for Compost as “Tentative” for 2006. By doing so, the entire AAPFCO membership will be allowed the opportunity to comment.

3. **Silicon** – A presentation was made by Excell Minerals for silicon to be considered as a plant nutrient. Speaking for the company, Dr. Emmanuel Epstein, University of California Davis, and Dr. Lawrence Datnoff, University of Florida, explained the requirements for “essential” plant nutrients and the role of silicon in the plant. The committee agreed that while beneficial to the plant, silicon could not be considered as an *essential* plant nutrient.

4. **Soil Amendment Guarantees** – Ms. Ann Brueck, ID Department of Agriculture, noted her concerns about guarantees required under the Uniform Soil Amendment Bill for organic products such as potting mixes. If the components of their products were guaranteed, such guarantees could divulge the companies’ proprietary formulas. A Soil Amendment Subcommittee was appointed to develop questions for a survey to determine how states address this issue. The subcommittee will also develop questions to update the last soil amendment survey that was printed in the 1997 AAPFCO Official Publication. This survey identifies those states that have adopted a soil amendment law. Members of this the Soil Amendment Subcommittee are Kenny Naylor (Chair), Ann Brueck, Ricky Schroeder, and Teresa Crenshaw.

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