
MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 2, 2001
TO: USCC Board
FROM: Ron Alexander, USCC Market Development Committee & Industry Liaison to AAPFCO
RE: Update from 2001 Mid-year AAPFCO meeting

Uniform Bills Committee - Uniform Compost Bill

On Monday, February 19th, AAPFCO's Uniform Bills Committee met to begin working on the development of a draft Uniform Compost Bill. As many of you know, at last August's meeting in Charleston, West Virginia, the Uniform Bills Committee ended its debate regarding to need for such a Bill, and voted to move forward with it's development. This occurred because support for the Bill was demonstrated for by several AAPFCO State representatives. During the 4 hour meeting, the Committee started to review and modify the draft Bill on a line-by-line basis. Literally, all comments on the most recent version of the Compost Bill have been added into the Bill's text, and are being reviewed along with the existing text. Between 30 and 45 individuals participated throughout the meeting; including several AAPFCO Board members.

Environmental Affairs Committee

On Saturday and Sunday, February 17th and 18th, the 'Heavy Metals' Working Group of the Environmental Committee's By-Products and Recycled Products Subcommittee met to discuss the most recent draft of The Fertilizer Institute's (TFI) risk assessment, as well as California's new pending fertilizer rules (which include new heavy metal standards). As a precursor to the meeting, the Working Group held a conference call with both consulting companies which have been assisting AAPFCO and the TFI on their fertilizer risk assessment. During the conference call, the risk assessment specialists stated that the risk assessment based science used to develop the proposed TFI standards 'had gone as far as it can go.' Both companies felt that the proposed standards were sound and defensible. The goal of the Working Group meetings was to decide on which proposed heavy metal standards (TFI or California) would be proposed to the Environmental Affairs Committee membership for approval. The major difference between the two standards was that California reduced the allowable limits for Arsenic, Cadmium, and Lead for various risk management reasons. After the Working Group's vote ended in a tie, it was decided that both proposed standards would be presented to the Environmental Affairs Committee for their review and discussion. After some discussion, the Environmental Affairs Committee voted to propose the TFI standards to the AAPFCO Board. The next day, the AAPFCO Board approved the proposal unanimously. The next step, assuming that no new and compelling risk assessment data becomes available, is that the entire association will vote on the SUIP at the August meeting. The approved version of the SUIP is approved. The USCC text, which exempts composts and associated products from the proposed heavy metal standards, remains in the SUIP.