
MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 14, 2019
TO: USCC Market Development Committee and USCC Executive Committee
FROM: Ron Alexander (RAA), USCC Market Development Committee Co-Chair & Industry Liaison to AAPFCO
RE: Update from the AAPFCO Winter Annual 2019

The 2018 AAPFCO Annual meeting was held in Albuquerque, New Mexico from February 10th to 13th. Control Officials from 27 different states and Canada attended.

Welcome, Opening Comments, Roll Call and Vote

Under the new AAPFCO meeting format, after the Role Call, to determine which states were in attendance and to make sure that they have a quorum, voting by the membership takes place. This is the formal vote by the membership on issues approved by the committees (and the Board) to go 'tentative' or 'official' at the previous meeting. This is when the status of new items and modifications are formalized (approved) or voted down by the membership.

Nothing was voted on during this session that affected compost.

Terms & Definitions Committee

Many fertilizer related definitions were discussed during the recent committee meeting; but only the humic substances definition was related to compost.

T-100 Humic Substances – constituents of soil organic matter and the aquatic environment, consisting of complex heterogeneous mixtures of carbon-based substances formed by biochemical reactions during the decay and transformation of plant and microbial remains. They are primarily composed of three main fractions, called humic acids, fulvic acids, and humin, which are operationally defined by their solubility in dilute alkali and acid solutions. *Sources of humic substances are commercially harvested from terrestrial deposits of which include, but are not limited to, Leonardite, oxidized lignite, oxidized sub-bituminous coals, humalite, carbonaceous shales (including humic shale), peat, and sapropel.*

This definition, created by the Humic Products Trade Association (HPTA), limits what products can claim they contain humic substances (not including compost). *However, several states already do allow compost to claim a humic acid content, as long as test data can illustrate its existence in a product.* While a change was sought in the definition, discussions suggested changing the definition so non-mined materials could claim that they are humic substances. The HPTA objected, but a working group was formed to evaluate definition changes. The USCC Industry Liaison was placed on the working group.

Uniform Bills Committee

The only major issue discussed during the committee meeting that was relevant to the composting industry was the creation of a labeling format exemption. The 'exemption' allows for a state to exempt a product label from meeting its labeling law, in order to allow its registration and would allow for label conformity.

(e) Format exemptions. The department may exempt a soil amendment from any guaranteed analysis format requirement under _____ if the person requesting the exemption demonstrates all of the following to the department's satisfaction:

The exemption was voted to go to official status. And, although a great idea, it is unknown how many states would be willing to use it. That stated, it is another tool to assist label uniformity from state to state.

Environmental Affairs Committee

The USCC led working group presented addition information on the allowance of water extractible phosphorus data on product labels. With limited control official (and no industry) support, the suggestions of the USCC were accepted, and efforts to complete the following were approved to move forward:

- Determine how to best provide the additional P data on product labels,
- Have the WEP test method evaluated by the Lab Practices Committee, and consider which
- New related definitions will be required.

Hopefully, these suggestions will be proposed at the August meeting.

The AAPFCO 2019 Summer-Annual meeting is scheduled for August in Louisville, Kentucky.