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## MEMORANDUM

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**DATE:** February 29, 2016  
**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 2016 AAPFCO Winter-Annual Meeting

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The 2016 Winter-Annual AAPFCO meeting was held in Albuquerque, New Mexico from February 21st to 24th. Once again, there was very good attendance at the meeting (approximately 170), with Control Officials attending from 37 different states.

### **Terms & Definitions Committee**

Fertilizer related definitions were the primary items discussed at the recent committee meeting. Only two definitions were discussed that have relevance to the compost manufacturing and organics recycling industry. They were:

1. The “biochar” term was approved by the AAPFCO Board to ‘go official’. However, the definition will actually require additional modification.
2. Aquaculture by-product - *A solid material, primarily organic matter, produced by cultivating aquatic animals and plants. It can be beneficially recycled for its soil amending characteristics.* This term was voted to go to tentative status.

Further, the committee formed a working group to update the terms 'compost' and 'composting'. Work will be completed before the August AAPFCO meeting in order to present suggested changes in the definition. The goal will be to make the definitions more technically accurate, while emphasizing composting as a manufacturing process, and the higher and lower temperature phases of the process.

### **Environmental Affairs Committee**

The most relevant topics presented during the committee meeting were findings of the Phosphorus Restrictions Working Group, in which the USCC was involved. The working group presented it's:

1. Updated version of the AAPFCO Environmental Policy – having to do with fertilizer application, and the
2. new Urban Landscape Policy – also having to do with fertilizer application.

Both Policies were approved to go “Official” by the Committee. These policies confirm the concern regarding the environmental effects of nutrient movement and over fertilization.

The Model Language for Phosphate Restriction for Urban Turf or Lawns was also discussed, but the working group still has work to do on this policy before it is presented for a vote.

### **Uniform Bills Committee**

There were 3 issues discussed at the committee meeting that could affect compost. The first were efforts of the 'State-by-State Labeling Regulation Inconsistencies' working group. Results from this working group could help compost manufacturers selling product over a multiple state region, or nationally. The working group has restarted its efforts, but will begin by concentrating on fertilizer labeling inconsistencies. The committee will survey states in order to gather data on fertilizer labeling inconsistencies, and will hopefully follow up with the same for soil amendments.

Another labeling working group suggested an upgraded definition for the term 'labeling', which will now encompass the inclusion of all written, printed, graphic or *electronic* communication. This was voted to go to tentative status.

Finally, the USCC representative asked for clarification on the use of the term "minerals" in compost and fertilizer labeling. There is interest in using the term as an acronym for micro and other nutrients. There was wide disagreement between the states related to the allowability of this term, therefore it should be avoided by compost manufacturers. That stated, several individual states do seem willing to allow the use of this term; namely, the 3 west coast states.

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The AAPFCO 2016 Annual meeting is scheduled for August 2016 in Pittsburgh.