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## MEMORANDUM

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**DATE:** August 8, 2017  
**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 71<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting

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The 2017 AAPFCO Annual meeting was held in Bellevue, Washington from August 6<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup>. There was excellent attendance at the meeting, including 54 Control Officials and 110 industry representatives (and guests). Control Officials from 29 different states and Canada also attended.

### **Terms & Definitions Committee**

Many fertilizer related definitions were discussed during the recent committee meeting; including those for several beneficial microbes. More relevant to the composting industry, our 'compost' definition was voted by the membership at the General Session to 'officially' become a "tentative" term. We then proposed moving the term to "official" during the committee meeting, and the motion was passed. During the review process, it was suggested that the term "composting" be eliminated from the AAPFCO Official Publication; as AAPFCO does not want to define processes, only products. The new 'tentative' term reads:

**TENTATIVE – T-34 - Compost** - is the product manufactured through the controlled aerobic, biological decomposition of biodegradable materials. The product has undergone mesophilic and thermophilic temperatures, which significantly reduces the viability of pathogens and weed seeds, and stabilizes the carbon such that it is beneficial to plant growth. Compost is typically used as a soil amendment, but may also contribute plant nutrients.

**CURRENT - T-34 - Compost** - A biologically stable material derived from the composting process. (Official 1991)

During the February 2018 meeting, the term should go official. During this effort, qualifier language was added to the compost claim describing content of beneficial microbes in the allowable claims list.

### **Environmental Affairs Committee**

A guest speaker spoke on fertilizer application and its effects on climate change. New chairs took over the committee and reviewed potential topics for the committee to work on; including products derived

from recycled materials. The USCC liaison proposed doing a presentation updating the membership on organics recycling in the US. They will consider this request.

### **Uniform Bills Committee**

The only real issue at the committee meeting that affected compost were the modifications completed to include the new compost definition into the Uniform State Fertilizer Bill and the Uniform Soil Amendment Bill. These changes were made as editorial changes and should be placed in the 2018 AAPFCO Official Publication, along with the new definition.

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The AAPFCO 2018 Winter-Annual meeting is scheduled for February in Savannah, Georgia.