

A REPORT OF THE AOAC - AOCS - AACC - ASTM  
INTERSOCIETY RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The ASTM and the AOAC are two societies that have the same basic objectives; the establishment of standard methods of analysis by collaborative tests that are acceptable, precise, and accurate.

The procedure by which both societies establish their standard methods is also quite similar, for both societies use the interlaboratory methods of testing as well as the intralaboratory tests. The ASTM designates its interlaboratory test procedures as "round robin" while the AOAC defines its as "collaborative" tests.

Until a few years ago there was but little duplication of methods standardization by the two societies due to the wide variety of methods applicable to a multitude of materials. With the establishment of E-15 "Analysis and Testing of Industrial Chemicals" by ASTM it became apparent that here was an area where considerable duplication could develop.

It seemed but logical that some procedure could be devised whereby such duplication of objectives, use of trained personnel, as well as laboratory facilities could be avoided or minimized. But even more important, it should be possible for the two societies to be mutually helpful to each other in the development of new or modified methods of analysis.

Early in 1965, Willits and Ensminger of AOAC met with Mr. T. A. Marshall, Executive Secretary of ASTM to see what could be done. As a result, not only was it agreed that a liaison should be established

between the AOAC and ASTM but that the liaison should also include the AOCS because they too are concerned with establishing standard methods of analysis of chemicals of the same general nature as those that concern AOAC and ASTM.

The AOCS was therefore invited to join and they accepted the invitation to participate in this joint effort.

The first meeting was held November 16, 1965 at ASTM headquarters in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Each of the three societies were represented by three of their members to serve on the "JOINT AOCS-AOAC-ASTM LIAISON COMMITTEE". Mr. L. C. Gilbert of the ASTM staff served as secretary and was elected chairman.

Chairman Gilbert outlined the purpose of the joint committee"-- to explore areas of common interest and consider how the three organizations might coordinate their activities in these areas." It was recognized that there are areas of overlapping interest in the three organizations, particularly in the development and publication of standards. The scope of the three organizations was defined as follows:

AMERICAN OIL CHEMISTS' SOCIETY

A professional association with specialized committees engaged in research and collaborative testing, the Society provides an analytical testing service on the chemistry and technology of oils, fats, waxes, their constituents and compounds, and allied products.

ASSOCIATION OF OFFICIAL ANALYTICAL CHEMISTS

AOAC is the professional organization of State and Federal scientists devoted to developing, testing, and approving methods for the analysis of

fertilizers, feeds, pesticides, foods, drugs, cosmetics, caustic poisons and other materials related to agricultural and public health pursuits.

AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR TESTING AND MATERIALS

The promotion of knowledge of the materials of engineering, and the standardization of specifications and the methods of testing.

THE AOAC-ASTM-AOCS JOINT LIAISON COMMITTEE

It was recognized there was coordination at the committee level in many cases. Referring more specifically, an illustration was given with respect to the organization of ASTM Committee E-15 on Analysis and Testing of Industrial Chemicals where it was soon apparent that standards were already in progress in AOAC and that liaison should be established. Committee E-15 took advantage of the work accomplished in AOAC in the development of an ASTM test method. Another area in which liaison has been accomplished is represented by the Joint Committee on Fatty Acids which is jointly sponsored by the Fatty Acids Producers Council, Fatty Acids Committee of AOCS and ASTM. With ASTM as the only one of the three organizations developing specifications, it was agreed all further consideration will be with respect to methods of tests and possibly definitions of terms.

THE STANDARDIZATION PROCEDURE FOR NEW OR REVISED METHODS OF EACH OF THE SOCIETIES.

AOAC

A new project involving analytical methods is referred to the General Referee who reviews the problem and if considered worthwhile assigns the project to an Associate Referee. The Associate Referee is selected as one who is trained in the area of the assignment and who will provide voluntary work on it. State and Federal agencies are depended upon to provide men in this

category as well as various universities. The Associate Referee studies the problem and establishes initial testing using his own facilities. The Associate Referee then drafts the procedure and prepares samples which are distributed to at least five laboratories for a collaborative test program. The Associate Referee then reports the methods to the members of the Subcommittee on Recommendations of Referees. Following acceptance the method is reported to the Association for acceptance at its Annual Meeting. It is then published as Official First Action. Final action is taken not more than three years later.

### ASTM

The initiation of standardization projects in ASTM can begin at either the top or bottom level, that is, from requests sent to ASTM Headquarters or initiated by a member of a technical committee or subcommittee. At Headquarters, staff members ascertain if there is an existing technical committee whose scope would encompass the proposed project, and if so, the request is directed to that committee. If it is in a new field, further attention is given to the breadth of the project and need for national standards, followed by the organization of a new technical committee. The technical committees usually organize a task force or subcommittee to consider and proceed with the development of standards. These committees are guided by the Regulations Governing ASTM Technical Committees. There are over 100 ASTM technical committees, all operating in a uniform manner and with those developing specifications maintaining a balanced membership between producers, consumers and general interests. The actual development of a standard is handled by a subcommittee or working group within the subcommittee. All necessary technical information, either

through a survey of literature or through round-robin testing program, is obtained by this working group. Approval is by letter ballot in subcommittee and then main committee preliminary to submittal to the Society for acceptance or approval. Standards are presented to the Society at the Annual Meeting or by the Interim Procedure for adoption which includes a letter ballot.

Tentatives are presented to the Society at the Annual Meeting or to the Administrative Committee on Standards between annual meetings and do not require a Society letter ballot. Tentatives may be advanced to standard at the end of one year.

#### Proposals for Coordination - Screening Operation Among the Member Societies

Each working group of a society when given an assignment should become informed of any similar development in the other two organizations before initiating actual work. One member of each organization will be recognized as the official contact between the organizations. This contact man will inaugurate a program within his organization directed particularly to the working group chairman, or the associate referee in order to establish a procedure whereby the securing and screening of information would automatically be the first step in the activity of the working group. The chairman of the working group will inform the official contact of his project who then will funnel this information to the Secretary of the Joint Liaison Committee. The secretary then forwards the inquiry to the official contact in the other two societies. The official contact will then circulate the request within his organization in order to obtain any specific information which would indicate whether there was any activity of a similar nature under way or planned. The procedure is reversed whereby information is relayed to the official contact of the originating organization with a copy to the Secretary of the Joint Liaison Committee.

The official contact then informs the working group chairman. It was tentatively agreed that the official contact in each organization would be as follows:

AOCS - Chairman of Uniform Methods Committee

AOAC - Chairman of Liaison Committee

ASTM - Staff Man

March 1, 1966 was established as the deadline for receipt of information by the Secretary.

#### Coordination Procedures

Chairman Gilbert called attention to the successful operation of joint committees and subcommittees between ASTM and other societies - one example being the ASTM Committee D-23 in which certain subcommittees are joining working groups representing the American Chemical Society, the Technical Association of the Pulp and Paper Industry, and ASTM. Attention was called to the joint committee of the AOAC and the AOCS. There is also the mechanism of having official representation from the other organizations on working groups. The discussion led to the suggestion of developing a guide on operating procedure to insure proper coordination. It was felt further recommendations could not be made at this time on specific coordination procedure, but that it would be a major responsibility of the Joint Liaison Committee and will be given attention at a later date. Emphasis was placed on establishing the screening operation as outlined. This screening would develop information on new projects as well as current projects.

#### General Acceptance of Standards

The question of proper acknowledgment by one of the organizations of a method already published by another organization was raised. Mr. Gilbert

cited how this is handled in ASTM whereby the designation of the other organization is imprinted on the first page of the ASTM standard and in some cases, further acknowledgment is made in a footnote.

The second meeting was held November 23, 1966 with representative of the three societies present. Already the efforts of the committee were being felt. Inquiries already have been exchanged by committees of ASTM and Referees of the AOAC for information on methods being studied by the two societies.

To better acquaint the members of the other two societies, each society agreed to prepare lists of assignments (AOAC), the minutes of appropriate committees and semi-annual reports (AOCS) and minutes of appropriate committees, particularly E-15 (ASTM), for circulation to the secretaries of the other member societies.

This information was subsequently circulated to the different committees or referees of each society. The Interrelations Committee was in complete agreement that best results would be obtained by having the above information made available to all of the interested subgroups of each society. The material describing work done and the new work on methods of each society was subsequently supplied to each society secretary for intersociety distribution.

The fourth meeting of the AOAC-AOCS-ASTM Intersociety Relations Committee was held February 16, 1968 at ASTM headquarters.

Dr. Sobatzki, chairman of the ASTM representatives, chaired the meeting. He announced that Mr. L. C. Gilbert, Associate Secretary of ASTM, who has served as the secretary of the Intersociety Relations Committee is retiring and that Mr. M. D. Huber of the ASTM staff was subsequently elected secretary of the committee.

Action was taken on the desire of the (A)merican (A)ssociation of (C)ereal (C)hemists to join the work of the committee and it was voted that the cereal chemists be invited to join and to appoint three of their members to serve on the Intersociety Committee with one of them being designated their chairman. The invitation has been sent to AACC who have accepted.

The committee agreed that other societies would not be contacted relative to affiliation, but if any wanted to join their requests would be given serious consideration. With the addition of the AACC the committee voted to change its name from AOAC-AOCS-ASTM Liaison Committee to the broader one of AOAC-AOCS-AACC-ASTM Intersociety Relations Committee.

The committee reaffirmed its mission as stated in the minutes of its 1965 meeting "...for purposes of coordination between the three societies in overlapping areas of interest to avoid duplication of effort and to afford the best utilization of manpower...." In achieving this it was also pointed out that it was not the intent nor the purpose of this Intersociety Committee to conduct collaborative or round-robin tests of methods; instead it would furnish specific information to the interested groups of the respective society.

The mechanics of dissemination of this information is divided into two areas. The physical part, supplying each society the programs and scope of the activity and interest of the other societies (that is now being done). The other is to acquaint all interested parties and groups of each society of the availability of this service. This latter is a basic objective of this committee - to keep key personnel apprised of the work in the associate societies and to encourage the use of the same terminology in all groups.

One way in which this will be done in ASTM is through an article for publication in "Materials Research and Standards". This same article will be made in leaflet form for distribution to members of the associate societies and submitted for publication in other journals.

I am proud to report that during the past four years the Intersociety Relations Committee is demonstrating its true potential judging by the number of requests that have been made of associate societies for information and assistance on the development of new methods and the adoption of an existing method of one society by an associate society.

The Intersociety stands ready to serve and this is limited only by the extent to which the working groups of each society is made aware of this service.

C. O. Willits

General Chairman

AOAC-AOCS-AACC-ASTM Inter-  
society Relations Committee

The 1968 representatives of the Intersociety Relations Committee are:

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ASTM Members

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AOCS Members

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