

FT-035 Food Microbiology, Standards Australia Committee

Peter Traynor, MASM, MAIMS

FT-035 ASM representative
Australian Society for Microbiology, Inc.

FT-035 Food Microbiology Australian Standards Committee meets twice a year to review those Australian Standards (AS) that are due for review, or when a new Standard has been proposed and requires work. As reported for FT020 Water Microbiology Australian Standards Committee¹, the committee membership includes volunteer representatives from a diverse range of sources and institutions. Whilst the ASM has one seat at the FT-035 table, many of those representing other institutions are also ASM members. Those with expertise in food microbiology related to dairy, poultry, livestock, public health, culture media, quality assurance are amongst those who currently work on these Standards. There is a high degree of integration of current Australian Standards into the International Standards Organisation (ISO) published Standards, as part of the global harmonisation of published Standards. Whilst the local committee is unable to change the contents of a given ISO Standard, there is involvement through Standards Australia in the writing of those ISO Standards, by way of membership of the Working Groups that are responsible for individual ISO Standards related to food microbiology, and in the Technical Committees responsible for the overall group of ISO Standards for food microbiology².

Where there are needs for local variations to the ISO Standard to meet Australian requirements, these can be found as an additional appendix to the ISO Standard. The document is then published

locally with an Australian Standard number (usually AS5013 series number), cover pages, and the Australian appendices. It's therefore important that, when working locally to an ISO Standard, that the Australian version is obtained to ensure compliance to the necessary Australian variations where applicable.

For a full list of current Standards please use AS5013 as a search option at <http://infostore.saiglobal.com/store/Portal.aspx?publisher=AS>.

As per the FT020 report¹, when a draft Standard is released for public comment, it is critical that users of the Standard avail themselves to be involved in the review process. If you, or your laboratory, are applying AS5013 series Australian Standards in your establishment, then it is important that your laboratory is (a) aware that changes are being proposed, and (b) willing to ensure that the changes being proposed are sensible and understood. Therefore, it is critical that you, or your laboratory manager, are on the Standards Australia mailing list for alerts for public comments on Standards under review. Please see <https://sapc.standards.org.au/sapc/public/listOpenCommentingPublication.action> for more information on how to make comments on draft Australian Standards.

References

1. Woodward, R. (2016) FT020 Water Microbiology Australian Standards Committee. *Microbiol. Aust.* **37**, 50. doi:10.1071/MA16016
2. International Standards Organisation (ISO). http://www.iso.org/iso/home/store/catalogue_tc/catalogue_tc_browse.htm?commid=47920

Mycobacterium Special Interest Group (MSIG)

Lisa Shephard (MSIG Convenor)

c/o SA Pathology, Mycobacterium Reference Laboratory, Frome Road, Adelaide, SA 5000, Australia
Tel: +61 8 8222 3220, Email: lisa.shephard@sa.gov.au

In Q4 of 2016, eight laboratories participated in the MSIG-RCPA Quality Assurance Program. Laboratories will receive results and a discussion will be held at the next MSIG conference in 2017.

The next MSIG conference will be hosted by the Mycobacterium Reference Laboratory, LabPLUS and held at the Auckland City Hospital in New Zealand. The meeting will be held 23–24 March

2017. The meeting provides members with a forum to discuss specialised scientific information. The Agenda will include Regional Reports, an update from the National Tuberculosis Advisory Committee and topical issues.

The MSIG will also be hosting a workshop at the ASM in Hobart, Tasmania. The workshop will be held on 2 July 2017.