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The role of analytical testing in maintaining food safety in the world today

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Abstract

The world is becoming smaller every day and the challenge of providing a safe and nutritious food supply to over 7 billion people grows larger every day.

The safety of the food supply continues to be a high priority for food manufacturers, testing providers, regulatory agencies, and appropriately so. With the emergence of new microbiological, chemical and physical contaminants, companies around the world are establishing more effective safety programs to address these issues and reduce risk factors. As part of these efforts, cutting-edge analytical methods are being developed to respond to emerging issues and improve food safety throughout the supply chain.

Analytical methods are a vital component of food safety programs. Officially-approved methods are continuously used to monitor for known issues. In response to new and emerging issues, new analytical methods are sometimes developed, and developed rapidly. Accurate data from sound analytical methods are required and critical to make sound decisions. The inclusion of this requirement is the focus of this discussion.

Biography

Dr. John Szpylka is the Director of Chemistry N.A. with Silliker, Inc., a Mérieux NutriSciences Company. John is responsible for identifying and implementing the ever expanding scope of chemistry testing needs for the food industry . John has been active in the identification and development of new & improved methods of nutritional analyses for use in product development and quality assurance.

Before joining Silliker in 2012, John was a Principal Scientist with a major food company for 21 years where he developed methods for food testing, managed lab areas within the analytical department, lead the project resulting in the laboratory obtaining ISO 17025 accreditation, and worked on product introductions.

John Szpylka is the immediate past chair of the AOAC Official Methods Board, and has served as chair of the Methods Committee on Food Nutrition, chair of the AOAC Technical Division on Laboratory Management, and chair of the AOAC Analytical Laboratory Accreditation Criteria Committee.

John received his doctorate in analytical chemistry from the Ohio State University after receiving a B.S. in chemistry from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.