This coded memorandum is in regards to a change to laboratory identification numbers on the IMS List. The IMS List is having its software upgraded. During the discussions in preparation for the software upgrade, questions were raised regarding the identification numbers used for NCIMS laboratories.

Currently, laboratory identification numbers are based on two (2) identifiers. States are identified by the first two (2) numbers based on the Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS) codes, and laboratory types are identified by the third number (0, 1, 2, 3, ... 9), with the last three (3) numbers, 000 to 999, identifying specific laboratories in each State.

Two (2) changes will be made to the IMS List to:

1. Accommodate the identification of non-U.S. laboratories, and
2. Change how laboratory types are identified, which will also allow more than 200 numbers for any class of laboratories. This will be conducted using a letter based identification system to identify a laboratory’s type.

The NCIMS currently has approved laboratories located outside of the U.S. so the first change will be a means to identify non-U.S. laboratories. This change will accommodate non-U.S. laboratories by using current International Standard Operations (ISO) country identifications, for example, CA=Canada, DE=Germany, MX=Mexico, etc. The ISO country identifiers will be placed immediately preceding the laboratory identification. Normally U.S. laboratories should be preceded by the US identifier; however, US will not be used on the IMS List. This will allow all of the U.S. laboratories to be listed first, with non-U.S. laboratories following in alphabetical order.
Secondly, letters will be used to identify laboratory types:

A=Official/Central;
B=Private/Commercial;
C=Industry;
D=CIS;
E=Screening;
F=Vitamin; and
G=Federal.

Examples of the new laboratory identifications are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>State/Prov.</th>
<th>Laboratory Name</th>
<th>Current Lab ID</th>
<th>New IMS Listing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>US</td>
<td>Alabama</td>
<td>Dept. of Agriculture</td>
<td>01008</td>
<td>01–A-00008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US</td>
<td>Iowa</td>
<td>AMPI</td>
<td>19354</td>
<td>19-C-00354</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>Chihuahua</td>
<td>Alpura</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>MX-06-D-00300</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Initially it may be helpful for some when looking at the new laboratory identifications in that the first two (2) numbers and the last three (3) numbers give the laboratory identification as cited on the current IMS List.

When the upgrade is implemented the current listings will be automatically converted to the new laboratory identifications on the IMS List.

An electronic version of this memorandum is available for distribution to Regional Milk Specialists, Milk Regulatory Agencies, Laboratory Evaluation Officers and Milk Sanitation Rating Officers in your region. This memorandum should be widely distributed to representatives of the dairy industry and other interested parties and will also be available on the FDA Web Site at http://www.fda.gov at a later date.

If you would like an electronic version of this document prior to it being available on the FDA Web Site, please e-mail your request to Robert.Hennes@fda.hhs.gov.

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