

Europe Section of AOAC INTERNATIONAL



"The Scientific Association Dedicated To Analytical Excellence"

Private laboratories role and official food control laboratories

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*Legal limits on the road to food safety: establishing sound criteria for
compliance decisions*

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Changes in the Food Control

- Technology in general and Food Tech in particular.
 - Food has changed more than ever in History.
- International food trade.
 - Consumers are receiving food of new origins.
 - New risks have to be prevented.

Role of Laboratories

- New legal responsibilities for laboratories.
- Accreditation is a new task.
 - Accreditation is the same for all labs.
 - Accreditation bodies in Europe are private entities.
 - Legal regulations oblige voluntary system.

Role of Public Laboratories

- Responsibilities assigned by the Gov.
- Control of internal and external markets.
- Are part of a network.
- Have a more limited budget.
- Slow incorporation of personal.
- Accreditation required legally.
- Difficult cost recovery.

Role of Private Laboratories

- Responsibilities assigned by the market and the Gov.
- Quality Control for the private sector.
- Usually not part of a network.
- Flexible budget.
- Fast incorporation of personal.
- Accreditation conditional.
- Based in profit for sustainability.

Relations between both Sectors

- Some Public laboratories pretend to be private.
- Some Private laboratories pretend to be Public.
- Difficulties in exchange of information.
- Resistance from Public to delegate testing.
- Corporative attitude or scientific reason?
- Accreditation equalizes both.
- Most clinical labs are Private.
- Real needs are not explore instead.

Relations between both Sectors

- Public laboratories as Reference Laboratories.
 - Method Development
 - Method Validation
 - Proficiency Testing
 - Training
 - Quality Control Materials
- Accreditation criteria.