

**ISSC 2013 Biennial Meeting
January 25 – January 31, 2014 – San Antonio, Texas
Committee Report**

Committee Name : Use of Press
Chairperson: Mike Hickey
Date of Meeting: 01/27/2013 **Approved By:** Mike Hickey
Recorder: Kris Phelps

Committee Members Present:

Mike Hickey	Bill Dewey	Johnathan Gerhardt
Maryanne Guichard	Lori Howell	Rick Porso
Kirk Wiles	Michael Antee	

Committee Members Absent:

Jerrold Davis	AJ Erskine	Bill Mahan
Chis Nelson	Bob Rheault	Otha Easey
Bill Kramer		

Charges

Charge 1: 07-305: Press Releases

Findings:

Guidance for use of press was sent to FDA on June 18, 2012 as requested by FDA. FDA had indicated that an FDA work group was developing effective use of press for use during outbreaks and recall situations.

Conclusions:

FDA provided the ISSC with a copy of an FDA Coordinated Outbreak Response and Evaluation (CORE) document that became effective 01/16/2014 at the committee meeting. This document deals with FDA response and use of press in molluscan shellfish outbreaks and recalls.

Recommendations:

The Use of Press Committee should review this new CORE document and have a conference call in May 2014 to discuss the CORE document.

Charge 2: Investigate and review the use of press by state and federal agencies.

Findings:

A recent incident in Texas was discussed where there was a difference of opinion FDA regarding the scope of a recall of oysters from an area closed due to six illnesses in one family, FDA issued a press release warning the public that oysters from the area adulterated.

Conclusions:

FDA maintains it is their option to issue press releases as they deem necessary and will continue to do so. There appears that there is little that the ISSC can do to mitigate this policy.

Recommendations:

Continue to monitor use of press in light of the CORE Network program made effective by FDA on 01/16/2014.

Charge 3: Look for ways to coordinate use of press.

Findings:

There are numerous difficulties associated with coordinating use of press. These involve communication between numerous agencies, agreeing on the need and content of the message and accomplishing the goal in a short time period.

Conclusions:

Because of these impediments coordination is difficult and often not possible. ISSC may not be able to further improve the situation.

Recommendations:

Continue to monitor use of press in light of the CORE Network program made effective by FDA on 01/16/2014.