Proposal No. 2 7 - 1 1 5

Proposal for Task Force Consideration at the ISSC 2027 Biennial Meeting *(Tab to go to next field)*	1. a. X Growing Area b. ☐ Harvesting/Handling/Distribution c. ☐ Administrative
2. Submitter	US Food & Drug Administration (FDA)
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9. Proposal Subject	Clarification of proficiency test participation in NSSP laboratories
10. Specific NSSP Guide Reference	Section II Model Ordinance, Chapter III Laboratory, @.01 Quality Assurance, B. (1) (f)
11. Text of Proposal/ Requested Action	Chapter III @.01 A… B. State Program Responsibilities. The Authority shall ensure that all samples are collected, maintained, transported, and analyzed in a manner that assures the validity of the analytical results. Accordingly, the Authority shall: (1) Require laboratories to develop a written quality assurance plan that: (a) Describes the organization and management structure of the laboratory; (b) Describes the laboratory staff training program ensuring that all laboratory personnel are qualified, properly trained, and supervised; (c) Describes all procedures and methods used to analyze samples; (d) Describes quality control measures, their frequency and tolerance limits, for determining equipment performance; (e) Requires maintenance of records of analytical performance, quality control results, and equipment maintenance and calibration; (f) Includes an internal assessment and participation in a recognized annual proficiency test program, as applicable. For microbiology, potential providers include (FDA FoodSHIELD, and Northeast Laboratory Examination Officers and Managers (NELEOM), etc.); and (g) Requires corrective action for any deficiencies found in the laboratory quality assurance program.
12. Public Health Significance	Proficiency test programs are not available for all NSSP Approved methods. The proposed wording provides clarification that participation in annual proficiency test programs is only required when such programs are available.
13. Cost Information	None
14. Changes Needed to Guidance (if proposed change is adopted)	N/A