

National Association of State Departments of Agriculture



Subject of Action Item A:

Pet Food Label Modernization Enforcement Discretion for States

Submitted by:

Commissioner Charles Hatcher, Tennessee

Director Derek Sandison, Washington

Corresponding Policy Section & Statement:

Section 4 (Food Regulation and Safety) Paragraph 3 (Roles and Responsibilities)

Text of Action Item:

NASDA encourages state feed regulatory programs with regulatory authority over pet food to:

- Swiftly and uniformly adopt the AAFCO Model Regulations for Pet Food and Specialty Pet Food by initiating necessary rulemaking while respecting and recognizing states' individual legal authorities and regulatory processes.
- Work closely with pet food manufacturers and distributors within their state to set goals to achieve full implementation of the regulatory changes within an agreed-upon six-year grace period (the period of six years begins from the date of the availability of the printed version of the 2024 AAFCO Official Publication).
- Allow for the sale and distribution of pet food products that are compliant with state pet food regulations, or the newly approved regulations (Pet Food Labeling Modernization) model rules, by using enforcement discretion in the review of pet food labels during the six-year grace period.

Adopted: 2/7/2024