

# **Reference Materials and Round Robin Testing: Creating Tools for an International Food Market**

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The National Institute of Standards and Technology began developing food reference materials to address the needs of the industry introduced by the Infant Formula Act of 1980 and the Nutrition Labeling and Education act of 1994. During this time, it became apparent that the industry required tools to confirm that appropriate scientific methods were in place for the determination of both fortified and unfortified vitamins and elements. The program has evolved over time to include more reference materials, more analytes, and more tools, including round robin testing and computer search tools. In this talk, I will discuss how reference materials are planned and certified, the role of scientific method development in the certification process, how NIST quality assurance programs and AOAC PT programs contribute to the community, and our current efforts toward materials for insuring safe foods.