



# ENZYME TECHNICAL ASSOCIATION

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## **MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS**

The enzyme industry is extensively regulated at the state, national, and international levels. At the federal level alone, the Food and Drug Administration (“FDA”), the Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”), the U. S. Department of Agriculture (“USDA”), and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (“OSHA”) are just a few of the agencies that are developing policies that will have a significant impact on the enzyme industry and those who sell enzymes as components of their products.

It is therefore vitally important that the enzyme industry have a collective voice, such as the Enzyme Technical Association (“ETA”), to assure the proper development of these regulations and policies. ETA is a non-profit trade association that monitors the activities of the regulatory agencies and actively participates in the development of regulations and policies that affect the enzyme industry. ETA membership is open to North American manufacturers, distributors, and importers of enzyme preparations from any plant, animal, or microbial source.

ETA was formed in 1973, as the Ad Hoc Enzyme Technical Committee (AHETC”), by concerned manufacturers interested in assisting the FDA in the promulgation of enzyme preparation regulations. In 1985, it reorganized and formed the Enzyme Technical Association.

ETA has taken an active role in the development of regulations that affect you. For example:

- ETA has developed a positive rapport with FDA and continues to work closely with the agency as it develops its Generally Recognized as Safe (“GRAS”) criteria and regulations.
- ETA has been involved over the years in the publications of documents that outline the requirements for safety testing of enzyme preparations. In 1983, Drs. Pariza and Foster of the Food Research Institute of the University of Wisconsin were commissioned by ETA to author a safety paper that has remained standard of the industry (Pariza, M.W. and Foster, E.M., Determining the Safety of Enzymes Used in Food Processing, Journal of Food Protection, 46(5): 453-468, 1983). ETA later worked with the International Food Biotechnology Council (“IFBC”) in the preparation of a second paper that updated the Pariza and Foster paper to include the safety evaluation of enzyme from genetically modified

sources (IFBC, Safety Evaluation of Foods and Food Ingredients Derived from Microorganisms, Regulatory Toxicology and Pharmacology, 12(3): S114-S128, 1990). Currently, a third paper providing an update to include new concepts, such as safe strain lineage and site specific mutagenesis, has been commissioned by ETA and should publish shortly.

- ETA prepared the original specifications of enzyme preparations for the first edition of the Food Chemicals Codex and the enzyme preparation monograph for the recent fourth edition. The organization continues to work closely with the NAS/NRC as the Food Chemicals Codex is updated.
- ETA is actively cooperating with the Association of Analytical Chemists (“AOAC”) on developing methodologies for enzyme assays.
- ETA has prepared guidelines for the use of enzymes in dietary supplements. ETA is also working closely with the Soap and Detergent Association (“SDA”) to develop recommended safety testing procedures for consumer products that will contain enzymes.
- As members of the Enzyme and Microbial Task Force, ETA has played a major role in the listing of feed enzymes in the AAFCO manual.
- At the request of the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (“NIOSH”) of the Center for Disease Control, ETA participated with NIOSH in a study of various enzyme manufacturer processes in anticipation of needs, which may arise in facilities, which manufacture enzymes from genetically modified microorganisms.
- ETA developed an industry-wide approach to complying with the requirements of the Hazard Communications Policy of OSHA.
- ETA actively cooperated with the EPA on the listing of enzymes on the TSCA inventory and the development of exemptions and/or expedited review for certain low risk recombinant microorganisms used to produce enzymes.
- ETA has also been active at the international level. The Association has supplied information to the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (“JECFA”) and has established liaisons with similar organizations in Europe. ETA supplied JECFA with a complete listing of all enzyme preparations used in the United States as processing aids. This listing identifies the enzyme preparations that should be reviewed by JECFA when it undertakes its review of enzyme preparations.
- ETA keeps current on European activities regarding enzyme preparations and promotes international cooperation in the enzyme industry through its contacts

with the European trade association, the Association of Microbial Food Enzyme Producers (“AMFEP”).

Recently, ETA has stepped up its interaction with the FDA and is urging the agency to streamline its procedures for the review of enzyme preparations from traditional and genetically modified sources. For the past three years, the ETA has made comments to the FDA in response to the agency’s request for priority setting initiatives, stressing the need for FDA to final the GRAS Notification regulations.

ETA intends to continue its active participation in all matters relating to the enzyme industry. More importantly, ETA keeps its members informed and up-to-date on regulatory issues of concern and interest.

As a member, you can influence the areas of activity of the ETA. We have enclosed an ETA membership application for your consideration. Full membership allows your company to designate an individual to be a member of the Board and to actively participate in the development and implementation of the ETA strategies designed to affect regulatory policy at the international, national, and state levels. (Other members of your company are welcome to participate in the Board and Committee activities but would not have a vote.) Associate membership affords your company all the benefits of a Full membership except that an Associate member’s representative could not hold the position of Chair or President of the Board.

We would be happy to process your application or answer any questions you may have. You can reach us at (202) 778-9335.