

International Association for Food Protection

POLICY FOR THE EVALUATION OF MANUSCRIPTS SUBMITTED FOR PUBLICATION IN ASSOCIATION JOURNALS

The International Association for Food Protection (IAFP) recognizes the importance of open scientific exchange and the avoidance of censorship. In addition, IAFP requires authors to provide sufficient detail in their manuscripts so that published experiments may be repeated by others. However, IAFP recognizes that detailed scientific information on food security issues may be of value not only to the scientific community, but also to those who may wish to cause harm. The use of scientific or technical information for purposes contrary to the benefit of humankind is of concern to members of IAFP. Bioterrorism and food security are of major concern to all involved in food production, processing, evaluation and distribution including members of IAFP. IAFP will follow this policy to minimize the chances for publication of manuscripts with details that might be used by individuals or organizations for acts of terrorism.

The following procedures will be used in the evaluation of manuscripts submitted for publication in journals printed by IAFP to minimize the possibility that their contents may be used to pose a food security threat:

1. Authors of manuscripts submitted to IAFP for publication will be made aware of the Association's concern about bioterrorism and food security issues through incorporation of an appropriate statement in the "Instructions for Authors."
2. Should the Scientific Editors feel that a manuscript might contain sensitive material, they will alert reviewers to this and ask them to provide feedback.
3. A bulleted statement will be included in the Guidelines for Manuscript Review form to make reviewers aware of the concerns described in this policy.
4. Scientific Editors will be vigilant in examining manuscripts containing information about bioterrorism and/or food security issues and the respective comments of the reviewers and use sound judgment to determine the disposition or modification of the manuscript in question. If the Scientific Editors are in doubt as to whether or not a manuscript may contain sensitive information concerning bioterrorism and food security, they will forward the manuscript to the other Scientific Editors for their opinion. If the Scientific Editors cannot reach consensus on the disposition or modification of the manuscript in question, the manuscript will be forwarded to the IAFP Executive Board for their evaluation and opinion.
5. If the IAFP Board is asked for their evaluation and opinion, the President of IAFP will notify the Scientific Editor of the Board's decision concerning the manuscript in question.
6. The Scientific Editor will then notify the author of the final disposition of the manuscript.