

## **LAS-ICMSF BY-LAWS**

*(unanimously approved by the LAS members on May 08, 2024)*

The Latin American Subcommittee (LAS) of the International Commission on Microbiological Specifications for Foods (ICMSF) is a non-profit organization, associated to ICMSF as per section 10 of the ICMSF By-laws (published on [www.icmsf.org](http://www.icmsf.org)).

### **1. Objectives of LAS**

- 1.1. To interact with ICMSF on activities and publications by LAS and ICMSF on microbiological food safety and quality, sustainability of food production and the resilience of the food supply chain.
- 1.2. To contribute to the development and dissemination of activities and publications in the areas in scope in Latin American and Caribbean countries.
- 1.3. To develop scientific events and programs in the areas in scope to promote and progress expertise and practices, in cooperation with ICMSF and other scientific organizations.

### **2. Members of LAS**

- 2.1. The LAS is made up of Latin American and Caribbean professionals who work in the region in one or more of the areas related to the objectives of the LAS.
- 2.2. The LAS is made up of the following classes of membership: regular member, honorary member and candidate member. At least one regular member of LAS must be a regular member of the ICMSF.
- 2.3. Regular and honorary members of the LAS can propose candidate members to the LAS. Proposals must be accompanied by the curriculum-vitae of the candidate. To join the LAS formally as a candidate member requires a simple majority vote of the regular members.
- 2.4. For a period of at least 2 years, candidate members must demonstrate active engagement with the LAS, such as (co-)organization of seminars and conferences, publications in line with LAS objectives and collaborative activities with other LAS members. Once the engagement has been verified, a 2/3 majority vote of the regular members of the LAS is required to promote a candidate member to the regular member category.
- 2.5. The maximum number of LAS regular members is 20. The maximum number of LAS regular members per country is 3. The maximum numbers should be re-evaluated from time to time by a 2/3 majority vote of the regular members.

- 2.6. When necessary, LAS may call on expert consultants on specific topics, for specific periods of time, to support the development of activities.
- 2.7. Regular members who turn 70 years of age are no longer regular members, but can continue to participate in LAS activities and meetings as honorary members.
- 2.8. A regular member who does not participate in the LAS activities for three consecutive years or four alternate years will be permanently excluded from the LAS.
- 2.9. Any member may resign by resignation in writing, which shall be effective upon receipt by the President of LAS.

### **3. Other considerations**

- 3.1. The officers of the LAS will be the President, the Secretary and the Treasurer. Officers are elected by a 2/3 majority vote of the regular members. Officers have a two-year term of office, with re-election permitted. Honorary members may apply to be President, Secretary or Treasurer, and if elected, they will have voting rights.
- 3.2. The LAS will inform the ICMSF about the activities it carries out, through an annual activity report and other communications.
- 3.3. The LAS has the right and power to raise funds and manage them independently.
- 3.4. Any publications made on behalf of the LAS must be pre-approved by consensus of regular members. ICMSF should be notified of these publications.
- 3.5. The LAS by-laws must be approved by a 2/3 majority of regular members and subsequently shared with the ICMSF Executive Board.
- 3.6. The activities of the LAS members are without remuneration. There are no dues payable by any category of LAS members.