A4.1 Citation Guidelines

In 2003, the 4th Edition of the Blue Book (1994) underwent a major revision to include the joint FHS/USFWS Fish Inspection Handbook and many new or updated diagnostic chapters. In addition, the entire document was converted to a digital format for distribution on CDs. These revisions made it necessary to change the way that the Blue Book is structured and cited.

Within the Blue Book, all of the chapters in both sections now have a footer that tells when the chapter was last revised. For purposes of citation, chapters in this document are cited as chapters in a multi-author/multi-chapter book. The editions will no longer be numbered (as in “5th edition”) but will now be described only by the publication date (“2020 edition”). Chapters in the Diagnostic Section are credited to the individual authors that appear on the title page of each chapter. The year cited after the author’s name should be the year in which the chapter was last revised. For the Inspection Section, the section should be cited as a single chapter with the USFWS and AFS-FHS as authors and the same date as the Blue Book edition. Specific examples for citing chapters from this new edition of the Blue Book are below.

Section 1 (Diagnostics) chapters in this document may be cited as follows, using the publication date found in the footer of individual chapters:


Section 2 (Inspection) of this document may be cited as:


Section 3 (Quality Assurance/Quality Control) of this document may be cited as:


The Blue Book in its entirety may be cited as: