

You Have Safety Questions? We Have Safety Answers!

QUESTION # 14: *I am from the Greater Essex County DSB and I am the chair of the science heads for our district. We have a question about using fresh "plucks" (i.e. organs from freshly killed cows obtained from an abattoir). What is STAOs stance on this because it could be a huge cost-cutter. Please let me know so I can pass on the word to the rest of the system.*



RESPONSE: It is both permissible and safe to study fresh organs (e.g. hearts, kidneys, lungs etc.) obtained from an abattoir since the animals from which they have been taken will have been inspected and passed as fit for human consumption.

« « « By the STAO Safety Committee

The STAO Safety Committee welcomes enquiries, with respect to safety issues, from STAO members. Please send your questions to the Safety Committee Chair (refer to page 4 'Committee Chairs'). Your questions and the STAO Safety Committee responses may be published in *Crucible*, particularly if the information is deemed of general interest to other STAO members. Anonymity, however, will be guaranteed.

QUESTION # 15: *What advice can you offer with respect the use of mercury thermometers in high school science courses.*

RESPONSE: The STAO Safety Committee recommends that: Mercury thermometers should NOT be used prior to Grade 11.

If mercury thermometers are use in senior grades (i.e. Grades 11 and 12) they should be Teflon coated. Then if one should ever break, all remnants of liquid are safely contained. These teflon coated thermometers are readily available from most suppliers.

