FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

3-A SSI Releases New Sanitary Standard for Robot-based Automation Systems

McLEAN, Virginia - 3-A Sanitary Standards, Inc. announces the release of 3-A Sanitary Standard Number 103-00, 3-A Sanitary Standard for Robot-based Automation Systems. This is the first industry standard for the minimum sanitary (hygienic) requirements for design, materials, and fabrication/installation of robot-based automation systems (RBAS).

This new standard applies to the hygienic applications of industrial robot systems integral to food processing, preparation, or other applications or industries where process equipment cleaning and sanitization is required. The standard addresses the robot and ancillary robotic system equipment, including the robot base, end-of-arm tooling (EOAT), tool changers, and robot dressing. Specifically, the standard includes materials and fabrication requirements as well as special requirements unique to robot systems, including zone considerations, programming requirements, controller requirements, wiring/robot dressing requirements and tooling, and installation. The standard does not apply to robots associated with milking systems on dairy farms.

The new standard reflects nearly five years of work to develop criteria for robots employed in the food processing environment that allow robots to be cleanable and not a source of food contamination. With introduction of the new standard, RBAS manufacturers, processors, and regulatory sanitarians now have accepted and uniform criteria for materials of construction, fabrication requirements for product contact surfaces and non-product contact surfaces, and informative appendices to ensure cleanability and inspectability in a food processing plant.

During the development of this new standard, 3-A SSI was also engaged in the drafting and approval in 2014 of ANSI/3-A 00-00-2014, 3-A Sanitary Standards for General Requirements, a compendium of updated criteria and requirements common to the entire inventory of 3-A Sanitary Standards and 3-A Accepted Practices.

Purchasers of the new RBAS standard are encouraged to also obtain a copy of ANSI/3-A 00-00-2014, which provides many of the criteria referenced in the new robotics standard. These standards and other 3-A SSI documents are available from 3-A SSI at www.3-a.org under 'Standards & Accepted Practices Store'.

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3-A Sanitary Standards, Inc. is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is to enhance product safety for consumers of food, beverages, and pharmaceutical products through the development and use of 3-A Sanitary Standards and 3-A Accepted Practices. Visit the 3-A SSI web site at www.3-a.org.