

13. *Vendors and Commercial Products*

- 13.1** AFS style gives authors a lot of leeway in referring to the commercial products (feeds, chemical compounds, equipment, and so forth) used in their research. The following formats are all acceptable:

a backpack electrofisher
a backpack electrofisher (Smith-Root, Inc.)
a backpack electrofisher (Smith-Root, Inc.; Model 12)
a backpack electrofisher (Smith-Root, Inc., Vancouver, Washington)
a backpack electrofisher (Smith-Root, Inc., Vancouver, Washington; Model 12)

a Smith-Root backpack electrofisher
a Smith-Root Model 12 backpack electrofisher
a Smith-Root (Vancouver, Washington) backpack electrofisher
a Smith-Root (Vancouver, Washington) Model 12 backpack electrofisher

Note that the abbreviations “Inc.” and “Ltd.” are preceded by a comma and that the abbreviations “Corp.” and “Co.” are not.

If a commercial product figures prominently in a paper (e.g., when different products are being compared), the names of the product and producer should be given at first mention in both the Abstract and the introduction and a complete identification of the product and producer should be given in Methods:

Eagle’s minimum essential medium (Gibco BRL) [Abstract and introduction]

Eagle’s minimum essential medium (Gibco BRL, Gaithersburg, Maryland) [Methods]

- 13.2** Subsequent references to a producer may be shortened:

... phosphate-buffered saline (Sigma Chemical Co., St. Louis, Missouri) [first mention]

... an enzymatic glucose assay (Sigma) [subsequent mention]

Software

- 13.3** The preferred way to refer to a software package is to cite the user’s manual as a book (see section 8.39). When there is no such manual, however, software may be cited as a commercial product or a personal communication, whichever applies.

U.S. Government Disclaimer

- 13.4** When one or more of the authors is a U.S. Government employee, the following language should be included in Acknowledgments:

Reference to trade names does not imply endorsement by the U.S. Government.