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Dried milk and dried milk products — Determination of insolubility index

Lait sec et produits laitiers en poudre - Détermination de l'indice d'insolubilité

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Foreword

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NOTE — The method specified in this International Standard has been developed jointly with the International Dairy Federation (IDF) and the Association of Official Analytical Chemists (AOAC) and will also be published by these organizations.

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Dried milk and dried milk products – Determination of insolubility index

0 Introduction

0.1 There are several rather elaborate gravimetric methods for determining the solubility of dried milk (for example Van Kreveld & Verhoog^[1], 1963; British Standard 1743 : Part 2 : 1980^[2]) but, for routine purposes, including grading, the most widely used procedure is the so-called solubility index method of the American Dry Milk Institute (ADMI^[3], 1971) in which a test portion is mixed with water and the reconstituted product is centrifuged; the volume, in millilitres, of the sediment finally obtained (i.e. insoluble residue) is the solubility index. Since solubility index is thus inversely related to solubility it seems more direct and more rational to use the term "insolubility index" to describe what is determined by a "solubility" method such as that of ADMI. Accordingly, "insolubility index" was adopted to designate what is determined in the sedimentvolume solubility method described in this International Standard: the use of this new expression also serves to differentiate the method described in this International Standard from the solubility index method of ADMI.

Although the ADMI solubility index method has been in use in many countries for a considerable period, it became evident some time ago that its precision (repeatability, reproducibility), which is not stated by ADMI, is unsatisfactory with some types of spray-dried whole milk and with roller-dried milk and milk products. This led to the conclusion that the apparatus and technique of the ADMI method are inadequately defined, and are unsuitable for some dried milks, and consequently either the ADMI method should be more closely specified, and possibly modified in some respects, or an alternative method developed. The latter approach was at first favoured because of difficulty in obtaining the special mixer (and spare parts) manufactured in the USA for the ADMI method. However, when improved models of this mixer came to be manufactured in several countries and hence were readily available, it was decided to concentrate on improving the precision of the ADMI method while retaining its principal features so that most of the existing ADMI solubility index specifications for grading would still be applicable.

0.2 In any sediment-volume solubility method applied to a dried milk or a dried milk product, the temperature at which the test portion is reconstituted is the main factor influencing what the result will be. In the ADMI solubility index method, a reconstituting temperature of 75 °F (23,9 °C) is used with spray-dried or roller-dried whole milk, skimmed milk and buttermilk, instant or non-instant as appropriate. But for the insolubility index method, it was decided to adopt the principle that the reconstituting temperature should be either 24 °C or 50 °C depending on whether the product, in normal usage or from its guality specification, is expected to be reconstitutable in "cold" water or "warm" water respectively. This means that the reconstituting temperature to be used in the insolubility index method will, in general, be 24 °C for spray-dried products and 50 °C for roller-dried products. Exceptions to this general rule may be spray-dried milk-based baby food, and, in some instances, spray-dried whole milk or partly skimmed milk, intended to be reconstituted in warm water. However, it is important to note that if the insolubility index of spray-dried fat-containing milks is determined at 50 °C, the values obtained will all tend to be very small because the method will no longer detect products which have been subjected to excessive dry heat through faulty manufacture or storage. This is because milk protein denatured by dry heat is insoluble at 24 °C and, along with entrapped or combined fat, is precipitated as sediment when centrifuging is performed; at 50 °C, the dry-heat-denatured protein is soluble and this, with the release of the associated fat, can cause a marked reduction in the volume of sediment (Wright^[4], 1932; Howat & Wright^[5], 1933; Waite & White^[6], 1949).

0.3 The insolubility index method described in this International Standard is thus basically the same as the ADMI solubility index method but with all the apparatus and experimental conditions as closely defined as practicable and the reconstituting temperature either 24 °C or 50 °C, as appropriate (see 0.2). The latter innovation means that an insolubility index value will require to be accompanied by the reconstituting temperature used, for example 0,25 ml (24 °C), 0,10 ml (50 °C). The precision of the insolubility index method has been determined in an inter-laboratory collaborative study and is considered to be satisfactory.