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ARTICLE

INTERNATIONAL STANDARDISATION OF IDF-ISO ANALYSIS METHODS - EVOLUTION IN PROCESS AT IDF LEVEL -

(This article draws upon the principal items of the strategic plan prepared by the IDF MSSG and presented at the opening of the 2009 IDF-ISO analytical week, which took place in Sochi in Russia from 18 to 22 May 2009).

CONTEXT

IDF and ISO have been in close collaboration since 2001 for the elaboration and publication of joint standards concerning milk and dairy product analysis methods. They are the backbone in the elaboration of method standards, which are recovered by the international organisations in charge of the publication of recommendations in their respective frameworks. It is notably the case of Codex Alimentarius for exchanges concerning foodstuffs, CEN for the elaboration of European Union community directives, ICAR for the harmonization of methods in the field of production and dairy genetics.

The activity of analysis method standardisation is carried out by groups of experts under the guidance of the Method Standard Steering Group or MSSG, which is under the responsibility of the IDF Science and Programme Coordination Committee or SPCC. The SPCC is linked directly to the IDF Board of Directors. The groups are constituted of experts nominated by the IDF national committees and ISO experts, members of sub-committee 5 (physico-chemical methods) and sub-committee 9 (microbiological methods) of the ISO Technical Commission 34.

The IDF-ISO analytical week, which took place in Suchi in Russia from 17 to 22 May 2009, was marked by the proposition of a new organisation of the committees and work groups that are the living force of the international standardisation of analysis methods in the dairy sector.

DIFFICULTIES TO RESOLVE

As a decrease in the number of experts was observed, linked to the retirement of the senior workers who are not replaced by new analysts, discussions were engaged 18 months earlier within the Method Standard Steering Group (MSSG).

Indeed, it was observed that a large number of projects relied increasingly on the same experts, generally the eldest, who moreover ensure the posts of coordinators, and that it is increasingly difficult for the experts to carry out a regular standardisation activity due to a lack of time.

In the current conditions, the annual IDF-ISO analytical week is an important moment for the analytical standardisation activity, and it was noted that the work of the experts is concentrated over the 3 or 4 months before this event. The time necessary for discussion and exchanges between experts is thus short, which can generate inadequate decision-making and delays in the programs.

The IDF MSSG members thus came to the conclusion that a new dynamism needed to be injected in its standardisation activity and desired a new set up based on the reorganisation of the groups of experts and a new working method.

A 2009-2010 Strategic Plan to « Strengthen the productivity in the IDF and ISO analysis methods and sampling sector » was then presented at the beginning of the last Analytical Week.

ELABORATION OF A STRATEGIC PLAN BY THE IDF MSSG

During the preliminary work, the MSSG members clearly re-stated the role of each authority and expert analyst in the following terms:

« The IDF analysis methods sector contributes to the efficient functioning of the dairy field thanks its development, publication and review of the analysis and sampling methods and other guidelines, and provides pertinent information. These activities are governed by the IDF National Committees and carried out in close collaboration with ISO. »

The main stakeholders were identified in order of importance:

a) milk producers, dairy transformers (industry), consumers (consumer associations): « The dairy chain »,

b) regulatory organisations (national authorities), EU, Codex, inter-governmental organisations,

c) control laboratories and organisations,

d) regional standardisation organisations through ISO (CEN/TC302 and national institutions),

e) international associations (International Committee for Animal Recording (ICAR), European Dairy Association (EDA), National Mastitis Council (NMC),

f) universities and research organisations.

The main objectives were then re-stated and listed in order of importance:

a) to develop, publish and review the international analytical standards in conjunction with ISO,

b) to supply the Codex with the necessary reports (CCMAS, CCMMP, etc) linked to the

harmonised procedure (through the MSSG),

c) to diffuse the pertinent scientific and technical information (publications, workshops, symposia, etc), and advise on the application of standards, guidelines or procedures,

d) to closely follow and give an account of the work of the other groups and organisations concerned by the subject linked to analytical and sampling methodologies (regulation agencies, standardisation organisations, commercial organisations, and other associations of interest),

e) to anticipate future needs and propose possible solutions.

The strong and weak points, the opportunities and threats (SWOT analysis) were identified in February 2008 by the MSSG in order to establish the necessary recommendations (see table). A calendar for the set up of the new organisation was then established.

The most significant recommendation concerns the reorganisation of various IDF-ISO groups associated with the analytical standardisation groups. Indeed, the IDF analytical sector Standing Committees currently only provide limited technical information for the projects or specific work programs. Moreover, a large number of the work groups (Joint Action Teams or JATs) cover themes that are too broad and deal with (too) many projects simultaneously.
The first recommendation was then to withdraw the Joint Action Teams (JATs) to retain only the most specific work groups (Work Group or Project Group). Such work groups will be created when a new project is approved and a manager nominated. The group is dissolved once the work has been accomplished

THE IDF-ISO WORK GROUPS

These work groups have to develop analytical standards and also participate in other important activities, such as the publication of standard implementation guides or the participation in activities in collaboration with other major organisations (CODEX, ICAR, OIE, WHO, etc). If necessary, the work groups can get together to deal with important current affairs in the dairy sector, help in the management of crises, evaluate new technologies or equipment.
In parallel, a small number of standing work groups will be necessary, such as, for example, a group of statistical experts to review the experimental plans and the results of various interlaboratory studies.

THE STANDING COMMITTEES

In the proposition of the new organisation, the IDF-ISO work groups will report their activities to a committee, which will supervise, follow the progress of the projects and offer advice. These committees named IDF-ISO Coordinating Committees or CC will ensure the animation of 6 corresponding Standing Committees or SC, which will replace the 5 Standing Committees from the previous organisation (see table).

RESULTS OF THE SWOT ANALYSIS

Strengths	Weaknesses / *Potential Solutions*
• know-how and knowledge of the experts • Diversity of the experts, complementarity of competences • Very good cooperation with ISO TC34/SC5 • dairy sector and regions throughout the world are widely covered • Good reputation with the other organisations (i.e. Codex), recognised legitimacy • Recognition of the sampling and analysis methods as an IDF « area of priority », increased support from the IDF head office	• lack of time for the IDF-ISO work, voluntary aspect of the work, no frequent meetings ➢ *to plan a second meeting by TV/video conference* ➢ *to encourage meetings for specific projects* • Deadlines not always met, comments not presented on time (MSSG admits it is due to the pressure and the workload linked to the duties of the members in their day to day work, and not due to a lack of effort or interest) • Current structure not ideal ➢ *restructure* • need time for this, workload not understood ➢ *communicate with the stakeholders* • Meetings that only focus on the subject in progress ➢ *to permit other discussions on important subjects, additional agenda* • Difficulty in finding collaborators for interlaboratory tests, cost of tests * unequal work distribution (only certain « key » experts are relied on to ensure a heavy workload)

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Opportunities	Threats / *Potential solutions*
• Increased use of new technology (electronic communication, Web meetings, multimedia, etc) • Using the work group to provide help in the implementation of the standards • Increased cooperation with other organisations • Increased cooperation with the material manufacturers to guarantee that problems of approval, manufacturer technologies, etc, are taken into account • Providing help in accreditation and equivalence	• Retirement, lack of young participants ➢ *To make sure that the members eligible for retirement nominate and train their substitutes* • Extra work for the « key » experts (unequal work distribution) • Lack of support from employers, lack of respect for the importance of the work, under-estimation of the workload ➢ *to promote the activities and ensure that the employers know the importance of the work and the time necessary* ➢ *to give a quicker answer to the development in process* ➢ *to ensure a better anticipation of future needs in order to encourage exchanges and discussions* • Lack of comprehension of the importance of the work ➢ *To promote the activities and the applications* • Probable loss or reduction in ISO support (retirement in 2010) ➢ *Contact ISO*

Organisation before June 2009: 5 Standing Committees

1. Standing Committee « Main components of milk » or SC MCM
   JAT Fat / JAT Nitrogen compounds / JAT Carbohydrates / JAT Water
2. Standing Committee « Analysis methods for additives and contaminants » or SC AMAC
   JAT Organic contaminants and veterinary residues / JAT Food additives and vitamins
3. Standing Committee « Minor components and characterisation of physical proprieties » or SC MCCPP
   JAT Heat treatment / JAT Enzymes in cheese process
4. Standing Committee « Quality assurance, statistics and sampling » or SC QASADS
   JAT Statistics and sampling / JAT Automated methods
5. Standing Committee « Microbiological methods of analysis » or SC MMA
   JAT Harmonisation / JAT Lactic bacteria and ferments / JAT Security and functionality of the beneficial microorganisms in dairy products

Organisation after June 2009: 6 Standing Committees (provisional names)

1. Standing Committee « Composition » or SC C:
Project groups formerly Fat, Nitrogen compounds, Carbohydrates, Water and minor components JATs
2. Standing Committee « Analysis methods for additives and contaminants » or SC AMAC:
Project groups formerly organic contaminants and veterinary residues, and Food additives and vitamins JATs
3. Standing Committee « Process Aids and indicators » or SC PAI:
Project groups formerly Heat treatment and Enzymes in cheese process JATs
4. Standing Committee « Statistics and automation » or SC SA:
Project groups formerly Statistics and sampling and Automated methods JATs
5. Standing Committee « Harmonisation of the microbiological methods » or SC HMM:
Project groups formerly Harmonisation JAT
6. Standing Committee « Dairy microorganisms » or SC DM:
Project groups formerly Lactic bacteria and ferments, and Security and functionality of beneficial microorganisms in dairy products JATs

METHOD STANDARD STEERING GROUP (MSSG)

The role and function of the MSSG will remain the same under the new organisation scheme, its composition will be:

- Six Standing Committee presidents,
- An ISO representative (President and/or Secretary),
- A President member of the Scientific Program Coordinating Committee (SPCC) elected by the national committees.

PROGRESS OF THE WORK

Each of the 6 Coordinating Committee members will be assigned to one or several specific work groups and will be in charge of closely following the work in progress in collaboration with ISO/TC34/SC5 committee.

With the current system, a large part of the work is carried out and finalised around and during the IDF-ISO analytical week. With the new organisation, the work groups will be encouraged to carry out their work throughout the year and the Coordinating Committees to regularly monitor the progress. Moreover, the Coordinating Committees will have to meet twice a year, physically during the annual analytical week, with a supplementary phone or web conference meeting. The president of each Coordinating Committee will draw up and forward activity reports to the MSSG, to ensure that the work is progressing on schedule and according to IDF-ISO procedures.

The annual analytical week will be modified to take into account the new structure. More time will be devoted to work group meetings to deal with their respective subjects. Each group manager will send a report to the Standing Committee.

SET UP OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN

The new general scheme was approved by the IDF Scientific Program Coordinating Committee and the set up began at the 2009 IDF-ISO analytical week, which took place for the last time according to the old format.
The national committees and the IDF experts concerned will receive an explanatory document concerning the proposed changes and will be invited to nominate (or confirm) the work group experts assigned to the 6 new Standing Committees. Joint Action Teams will then be dissolved.

This new structure will take effect over the next few weeks as soon as the new organisation is set up. The next analytical week, which will be held in Montreal in 2010, will be the first meeting between the work groups and the Standing Committees.

Olivier LERAY

STANDARDS, DRAFT STANDARDS

Classification in alphabetic order by theme

1 - ISO standards under development

MILK		
MILK / FAT	ISO/DIS 1211 April 2009	MILK Determination of fat content – Gravimetric method (Reference method)
FERMENTED MILK PRODUCTS		
FERMENTED MILK PRODUCTS / STARTER	ISO/DIS 27205 June 2009	FERMENTED MILK PRODUCTS Bacterial starter cultures – Standard of identity

2 - ISO published standards

MILK		
MILK / FREEZING POINT	ISO 5764 (IDF 108) May 2009	MILK Determination of freezing point
MILK AND MILK PRODUCTS		
MILK / MILK PRODUCTS / SENSORY ANALYSIS	ISO 22935-1-2-3 (IDF 99-1-2-3) April 2009	MILK AND MILK PRODUCTS Sensory analysis Part 1 :General guidance for the recruitment, training and monitoring of assessors Part 2 :Recommended methods for sensory evaluation Part 3 :Guidance on a method for evaluation of compliance

NEW EU REGULATIONS

Classification is established in alphabetical order of the first keyword

CASEINS / CASEINATES / CHEESE

O.J.E.U. L 162, 25th June 2009 – Commission Regulation (EC) n° 548/2009 of 24 June 2009 amending Regulation (EC) n° 760/2008 laying down detailed rules for the application of Council Regulation (EC) n° 1234/2007 as regards authorisations for the use of casein and caseinates in the manufacture of cheeses
http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2009:162:0003:0004:EN:PDF

PESTICIDES

O.J.E.U. L 81, 27th March 2009 – Commission Regulation (EC) n° 256/2009 of 23 March 2009 amending Annexes II and III to Regulation (EC) n° 396/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards maximum residue levels for azoxystrobin and fludioxonil in or on certain products
http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2009:081:0003:0014:EN:PDF

P.G.I. / P.D.O.

O.J.E.U. C 74, 28th March 2009 – Publication of an amendment application pursuant to Article 6 (2) of Council Regulation (EC) n° 510/2006 on the protection of geographical indications and designations of origin for agricultural products and foodstuffs ["Picodon de l'Ardèche" or "Picodon de la Drôme" (PDO) (cheese)]
http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2009:074:0074:0080:EN:PDF

O.J.E.U. C 87, 16th April 2009 – Publication of an amendment pursuant to Article 6 (2) of Council Regulation (EC) n° 510/2006 on the protection of geographical indications and designations of origin for agricultural products and foodstuffs["Parmigiano Reggiano" (PDO) (cheese)]
http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2009:087:0014:0019:EN:PDF

STANDARDS - REGULATIONS

O.J.E.U. C 87, 16th April 2009 – Publication of an amendment pursuant to Article 6 (2) of Council Regulation (EC) n° 510/2006 on the protection of geographical indications and designations of origin for agricultural products and foodstuffs["Bitto" (PDO) (cheese)]
http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2009:087:0014:0019:EN:PDF

O.J.E.U. L 101, 21st April 2009 – Commission Regulation (EC) n° 323/2009 of 20 April 2009 entering certain names in the register of protected designations of origin and protected geographical indications [Wielkopolsky ser smazony (PGI) (cheese), Budapesti teliszalami (PGI) (meat products)]
http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2009:101:0014:0015:EN:PDF

O.J.E.U. C 103, 5th May 2009 – Publication of an application pursuant to Article 6 (2) of Council Regulation (EC) n° 510/2006 on the protection of geographical indications and designations of origin for agricultural products and foodstuffs [Redykolka (PDO) (cheese)]
http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2009:103:0021:0025:EN:PDF

O.J.E.U. C 108, 12th May 2009 – Publication of an application pursuant to Article 6 (2) of Council Regulation (EC) n° 510/2006 on the protection of geographical indications and designations of origin for agricultural products and foodstuffs [Formaggio di Fossa di Sogliano (PDO) (cheese)]
http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2009:103:0021:0025:EN:PDF

O.J.E.U. L 118, 13rd May 2009 – Commission Regulation (EC) n° 387/2009 of 12 May 2009 approving minor amendments to the specification of a name registered in the register of protected designations of origin and protected geographical indications [Bleu du Vercors-Sassenage (PDO) (cheese)]
http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2009:118:0067:0071:EN:PDF

O.J.E.U. C 131, 10th June 2009 – Publication of an application pursuant to Article 6 (2) of Council Regulation (EC) n° 510/2006 on the protection of geographical indications and designations of origin for agricultural products and foodstuffs [Arzua-Ulloa (PDO) (cheese)]
http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2009:131:0025:0030:EN:PDF

O.J.E.U. C 140, 20th June 2009 – Publication of an application pursuant to Article 6 (2) of Council Regulation (EC) n° 510/2006 on the protection of geographical indications and designations of origin for agricultural products and foodstuffs [Provolone del Monaco (PDO) (cheese)]
http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2009:140:0004:0008:EN:PDF

O.J.E.U. L 166, 27th June 2009 – Commission Regulation (EC) n° 561/2009 of 26 June 2009 approving non-minor amendments to the specification for a name entered in the register of protected designations of origin and protected geographical indications [Queso Manchego (PDO) (cheese)]
http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2009:166:0036:0037:EN:PDF

VETERINARY MEDICINAL PRODUCTS

O.J.E.U. L 144, 9th June 2009 – Commission Regulation (EC) n° 478/2009 of 8 June 2009 amending Annexes I and III to Council Regulation (EEC) n° 2377/90 laying down a Community procedure for the establishment of maximum residue limits of veterinary medicinal products in foodstuffs of animal origin, as regards monepantel
http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2009:144:0017:0019:EN:PDF

O.J.E.U. L 145, 10th June 2009 – Commission Regulation (EC) n° 485/2009 of 9 June 2009 amending Annex II to Council Regulation (EEC) n° 2377/90 laying down a Community procedure for the establishment of maximum residue limits of veterinary medicinal products in foodstuffs of animal origin, as regards tiludronic acid and iron fumarate
http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2009:145:0031:0033:EN:PDF

O.J.E.U. L 152, 16th June 2009 – Regulation (EC) n° 470/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 May 2009 laying down Community procedures for the establishment of residue limits of pharmacologically active substances in foodstuffs of animal origin, repealing Council Regulation (EEC) n° 2377/90 and amending Directive 2001/82/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council and Regulation (EC) n° 726/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council
http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2009:152:0011:0022:EN:PDF

BOOKSHOP: LATEST PUBLICATIONS

The classification in alphabetic order of the first keyword allows you to consult the references according to your interests. The web site allows you to know more, or to order the book.

SENSORY EVALUATION

KEMP S.; HOLLOWOOD T.; HORT J. – **Sensory evaluation: A practical handbook** – Wiley-Blackwell Editions – May 2009 – ISBN 978-1-4051-6210-4 – 208 pages

http://www.wiley.com/go/food

This book is a practical guide to sensory evaluation methods and techniques. The suitability if different testing methods for different situations is explained and it offers step-by-step instructions on how to perform the various types of test.

IN THE PRESS – ON THE WEB

Classification in alphabetical order of keywords

ALLERGENS

Oxoid offers Elisa systems food allergen test-kits

http://www.laboratorytalk.com/news/oxo/oxo385.html

► Oxoid has announced the sell of ELISA tests for the detection of allergens in various products, of which milk.

LACTOSE

Corona CAD analyses lactose in milk

http://www.laboratorytalk.com/news/esa/esa204.html

► ESA Biosciences has issued a new application for the analysis of lactose in milk, using high-performance liquid chromatography and the Corona CAD detector.

MELAMINE

MDS validates two kits for detecting melamine

http://www.laboratorytalk.com/news/mol/mol154.html

Zebron GC column delivers fast melamine analysis

http://www.laboratorytalk.com/news/phe/phe138.html

Melamine in milk detected using NIR spectroscopy

http://www.laboratorytalk.com/news/imu/imu102.html

Lasers used to detect melamine in baby formula

http://www.innovations-report.com/html/reports/agricultural_sciences/lasers_detect_melamine_baby_formula_131976.html

► Many methods to detect melamine in milk are described in these articles.

STANDARDISATION / CODEX

Report of the 30th session of the Codex committee on methods of analysis and sampling

http://www.codexalimentarius.net/web/archives.jsp?year=09

► This session took place from 9 to 13 march 2009 in Balatonalmadi (Hungary).

pH / CHEESE / CREAM

Electrodes deliver pH measurement to food industry

http://www.laboratorytalk.com/news/mea/mea884.html

► Metrohm proposes a range of pH electrodes in semi-solid foodstuffs such as cheese or cream.

SEL / FROMAGE / PRODUITS LAITIERS

Titrando performs salt analysis in food products

http://www.laboratorytalk.com/news/mea/mea890.html

► The automated titrators of the Titrando range permit the analysis of salt without the need of citric acid in various foodstuffs including cheese or dairy products.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Classified in chronological order

CHEESE

4-5 September 2009 Avellino, Italy	Methods and issues in cheese authenticity studies: a workshop	http://www.isa.cnr.it/web-new/ita/eventi/eventi_26_ing.htm

DAIRY INGREDIENTS

30 Sept.-2 Oct. 2009 Papendal, Netherlands	6th NIZO Dairy Conference "Dairy ingredients: innovations in functionality"	http://www.NIZOdairyconf.elsevier.com

MILK / DAIRY PRODUCTS

20-24 September 2009 Berlin, Germany	IDF World Dairy Summit	http://www.wds2009.com

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