

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda Item 4.1

MAS-CRD/18

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX COMMITTEE ON METHODS OF ANALYSIS SAMPLING

REVIEW OF METHODS OF ANALYSIS IN CXS 234: DAIRY WORKABLE PACKAGE (CX/MAS 21/41/4)

Comments of Uruguay

COMMENTS FROM URUGUAY REGARDING THE METHOD OF MOISTURE IN DAIRY PRODUCTS (ISO 5537 I IDF 26)

Uruguay wishes to thank ISO and IDF for the valuable information they have provided in CDR 06. This information has been very helpful, it has facilitated the comparison of methodologies and has strengthened the concepts we already had, based on our laboratory experience.

In previous meetings, Uruguay presented its reservations regarding the application of the ISO 5537 I IDF26 standard because it was understood that it did not meet several of the general criteria established by CODEX to select a method of analysis. This same concern was shared by many Latin American and Caribbean countries in various instances, for example during the previous meeting of this same committee and at the 21st Session of the CCLAC.

The ISO 5537 I IDF 26 method consists of a humidity determination by drying in a specific design oven at 87°C, for 5 hours, while an air stream of specific composition passes through the sample, at a fixed flow of 33ml / min.

Uruguay understands that this differs from Codex general food moisture methods and that it does not meet various selection criteria for Codex methods listed in the Procedural Manual such as: practicality and applicability under normal laboratory conditions, preference for the methods that can be applied for routine use, as well as the criteria that, at the time of selection, uniform methods applicable to various groups of products will be preferred.

Uruguay also understands that the determination of humidity in a classic stove is a typical uniform or general Codex method.

ISO 5537 I IDF 26 method requires specific equipment and inputs not required in the general Codex methods for moisture determination, which generates additional costs and waste to the environment, special devices inside the oven, which limits the capacities of samples by testing batch and equipment calibration capabilities in flow and air composition not easily accessible in the region. We also consider very important to highlight that the Codex Committee on Milk and Milk Products at the time of establishing the specifications for these provisions, did not do so considering the analytical data of this proposed humidity standard, but of its previous version IDF 26: 1993 that did not require this technological change and was a Codex general moisture method.

Regarding this last point, we understand that based on the information provided by ISO and IDF on validation data, when comparing the methods ISO 5537 I IDF 26 and its previous version IDF 26: 1993, it is evidenced that there is equivalence in their performance, considering their applicability.

Uruguay therefore understands that both methods could be defined as equivalent.