BUSINESS PLAN

CEN/TC 302
MILK AND MILK PRODUCTS – METHODS OF SAMPLING AND ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Regarding the development of European standards for methods of analysis and sampling of milk and milk products.

Business Environment

- The EU is the biggest milk producer worldwide representing about a quarter of the total world milk producer market;
- The EU dairy industry is an important sector in the European food industry;
- The EU dairy market is in a time of change, where dynamics in production as well as in consumer demands put constantly new challenges to the dairy production chain;
- Laboratories and other stakeholders need reliable European and/or worldwide adopted standards for methods of analysis and sampling for milk and milk products rather than only national related ones;
- Parties involved in the standardization work are:
  ♦ Milk producers;
  ♦ Dairy processors;
  ♦ Purchasers/users of milk and milk products;
  ♦ The industry related to different fields of application of milk or dairy-based ingredients, e.g. the food industry;
  ♦ Laboratories, universities, research institutes, equipment and testkit manufacturers;
  ♦ Governmental bodies.

Benefits of standardization

To promote interoperability in Europe and globally:

- Since the setting up of CEN/TC 302 in 1992, over 50 new or revised standards for methods of analysis and sampling for milk and milk products have been adopted;
- The European Commission can introduce commonly supported and reliable standards in their directives/regulations;
- Confidence of users in respect of the quality and the reliability of adopted standards;
- Availability of harmonized methods for analysis and sampling for stakeholders, transparency and reduction of trade barriers.

Priorities of standardization

- Addressing the need of stakeholders (dairy chain parties, laboratories, competent authorities) involved within the European community;
- Maintaining confidence among users, taking into account requirements for parties with special needs;
- Supporting the application of standards in practice;
- Recruitment of experts and maintaining other resources for the standardization work.
1 BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT OF CEN/TC 302

1.1 Description of the business environment

The following political, economical, technical, regulatory, societal and international dynamics describe the business environment of CEN/TC 302. They may, separately or combined, significantly influence the way the relevant standard development processes are conducted and the content of the resulting standards.

- The dairy industry represents one of the important sectors within the European food industry and covers activities related to the processing of milk for alimentary use and for producing of milk derived products and by-products. The dairy industry is a high value adding one in the European food sector, which is especially true for its still growing segments such as yoghurts and fresh and soft cheeses. New “innovative” dairy products, such as desserts or spreadable cheeses, products with bio-active compounds, special infant formula and adult nutritionals are gradually introduced both in existing and in new markets.

- National and EU agricultural policies and international trade agreements significantly influence the dairy sector.

- The EU demand for dairy products has been rather stable throughout recent years. Dairy demand has shown a low dynamism although gradual shifts occur within product categories. There is a constant but slow growth in consumption of cheeses, fresh dairy products and dairy ingredients in Europe. However, global opportunities for exports have expanded in the past years, especially in South East Asia.

- Handling, trading and consumption of milk and milk products is a worldwide business. Standards, therefore, are preferably developed at an international level, i.e. through the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), rather than on a national or European level.

- Health and food safety are key aspects, in the trading, handling and consumption of milk and milk products. The prime human-interest aspect of food and food safety implies very active concern of governmental bodies to ensure a safe food supply, on the international level e.g. through the United Nations and its Codex Alimentarius. Standards play a growing role in the food sector and the increasing importance of health and safety aspects call for new standards and amendment of existing ones.

- Developments in the field of quality assurance and quality management also call for new standards and upgrading of existing ones, in particular with respect to traceability of test results.

- Stakeholders, in particular those interested in methods of sampling and analyses for milk and milk products, are predominantly the following:
  - Milk producers;
  - Dairy processors;
  - Purchasers/users of milk and milk products;
  - The industry related to the different fields of application of milk or dairy-based ingredients, e.g. the food industry;
  - Laboratories, universities, research institutes, equipment and testkit manufacturers;
  - Governmental bodies.

1.2 Quantitative indicators of the business environment

The following quantitative indicators describe the business environment in order to provide adequate information on support actions of CEN/TC 302 on providing up-to-date European standards:

- The accession of 12 more member countries to the EU since 2004 is not only a challenge for most of the dairy industry of the new members but also creates new market-growth opportunities for others, hence more in- and export. The Union reached its current size of 33 member countries with the accession of Croatia on 1 July 2013.

- The former-mentioned EU enlargement underpins the need for reliable EU standards for milk and milk products to facilitate the national, regional and world-wide trade of milk and...
milk products by providing:
♦ Common sampling methods for milk and milk products;
♦ Common reference and alternative test methods for evaluating the safety, quality, and composition of milk and milk products.

The above-mentioned need is already fulfilled greatly by joint ISO-IDF International Standards developed through the co-operation of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the International Dairy Federation (IDF). Through CEN/TC 302, those joint International Standards of methods of analysis and sampling for milk and milk products, where applicable, are introduced into the system of the European Union.

1.3 EU Dairy market

The dairy sector is of great importance to the European Union (EU) in a variety of ways. Milk production takes place in all EU Member States and represents a significant proportion of the value of EU agricultural output. For some Member States it forms a very important part of the agricultural economy. The EU’s main producers are Germany, France, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Italy and Poland, which together account for more than 70% of the EU production. The quota system has ended in 2015. More information and statistics can be found at: http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/milk-market-observatory/latest-statistics/productions-stocks_en.htm

2 BENEFITS EXPECTED FROM THE WORK OF CEN/TC 302

Specific European benefits for standards for sampling and analyses of milk and/or milk products are the following:

- Common sampling methods for milk and milk products;
- Common reference and alternative test methods for evaluating the safety, quality, and composition of milk and milk products;
- Elimination of commercial trade barriers between the European countries;
- Harmonization of national standards into EU standards;
- The support of EU legislation, predominantly on safety, health and environmental issues.

3 PARTICIPATION IN CEN/TC 302

Each CEN national standardization member is entitled to nominate delegates to CEN Technical Committee meetings and experts to Working Groups, if and where required, while ensuring a balance of all interested parties. Participation as observer for recognized European or international organizations is also possible under certain conditions.

CEN/TC 302 maintains at present official liaisons with:
- International Dairy Federation (IDF);
- ISO/TC 34/SC 5 Milk and milk products;
- CEN/TC 275 Food analysis - Horizontal methods;
- AOAC INTERNATIONAL.

Another organisation that CEN/TC 302 cooperates with is:
- The Nordic Committee on Methods of Analysis of Foods (NMKL) (informal).

Those interested in participation in the activities of CEN/TC 302 can contact the national standardization organization in their country. Regarding the aforementioned participation in work, however, the TC 302 decision to work fully and solely in accordance with the procedures of the
CEN-ISO 'Vienna Agreement' should be taken into account. Experts will therefore be nominated to the concerned project in the ISO-IDF cooperation.

4 OBJECTIVES CEN/TC 302 AND STRATEGIES FOR THEIR ACHIEVEMENT

4.1 Defined objectives of CEN/TC 302

With respect to standards production, CEN/TC 302 has the following objectives:

- To supply adequate standards for methods of analysis and sampling for milk and milk products, requested by the EU in view of EU Directives and Regulations and other supporting EU documents;
- To supply standards eliminating commercial trade barriers between European countries, on the request of stakeholders;
- To supply EN-standards for new "European" subjects, when needed by enough CEN members and when it is more efficient to draft an EN rather than a national standard or even a worldwide one.

4.2 Identified strategies to achieve the CEN/TC 302's defined objectives

In light of these objectives CEN/TC 302 aims to provide a European platform for discussion between its national members on the following subjects:

- The objectives to have European Standards for a particular item;
- The relation between existing European standards and existing International Standards developed through the cooperative work of ISO and the International Dairy Federation (IDF);

CEN/TC 302 aims at safeguarding the relation between European standards and those from national, regional and global standardization organizations, e.g. with concern to each others needs, alignments, deviations, etc. In that, the focus is primarily on adoption of international reference standards and secondly on the development of standards for which there is a specific European need.

CEN/TC 302 decided, given the past resources, to handle a maximum workload of about 35 items. Its present and future activity is predominantly to consider which items and/or International Standards of the parallel ISO/TC 34/SC 5 Committee are priority needs for implementation on the European level, and then work on these within the framework of the available resources.

4.3 Environmental Aspects

Environmental issues that are associated with the projects within CEN/TC 302 are handled in the IDF Standing Committee on Environment. The objectives of this Standing Committee are:

- To consider energy efficiency and greenhouse gase emissions quantification and mitigation, including renewable energy generation;
- To assess water quality, efficiency and reuse;
- To consider biodiversity;
- To improve waste management and reduction;
- To review and adopt/promote best available technologies and practice;
- To contribute to work addressing the intersection of nutrition and environmental sustainability;
- To provide leadership on environmental sustainability issues in close liaison with other IDF Standing Committees and relevant third party organisations.

Additionally, maximum restrictiveness is excercised with the inclusion of hazardous materials and chemicals in the development process of standards for methods of analysis and sampling.
With respect to promoting protection of the health of staff working with the standards, the text of the standards should adequately communicate any risks linked to chemical products and reagent used (e.g. by adding CAS numbers or by noting risks associated to reagents or other chemical used in the standard). If appropriate CEN guide 4 should be considered.

5 STRATEGIES ADOPTED TO REACH THE OBJECTIVES

CEN/TC 302 was established in 1992. It decided in its first meeting to work in accordance with the "Vienna Agreement" of CEN and ISO with ISO lead.

Working in accordance with the procedures of the CEN-ISO "Vienna Agreement" means that CEN/TC 302 strives to channel its standardization work into the working structure of the existing cooperation of ISO TC 34/SC 5 with IDF. Through CEN/TC 302, those ISO(IDF) International Standards of methods of analysis and sampling for milk and milk products being important for the European Market are also brought into the CEN system. However, if necessary, CEN/TC 302 can decide to progress relevant work items on its own initiative. That may be appropriate where there is a specific European need in relation to EU Directives and supporting EU documents.

It is to be noted here that the secretariat of CEN/TC 302 is also the secretariat of ISO/TC 34/SC 5, which ensures efficiency in co-operation.

Based on the aforementioned, CEN/TC 302 does not establish Subcommittees (SC) or Working Groups (WG) through which work should be carried out, unless for any (group of) item(s) for which technical development work has to be done that cannot be done by ISO/TC 34/SC 5. For each of those items, which will be supported by a reference document, a project leader shall be appointed. Such WG(s) shall have a convenor, assisted by a secretary. Convenors and project leaders have professional Standardization support, provided by a CEN member body.

WG(s) may also be given the task to study the need for (a) standard(s) in a certain area, to advise CEN/TC 302 on which standards are needed and, on provisional support for any new work item(s), prepare the related formal new work item proposal(s) including (information on) a reference document. A WG, however, is not to embark on standards development work for any new item without prior approval of CEN/TC 302.

CEN/TC 302 has an ongoing work programme of new and maintenance work items. In view of overall limited resources, however, adequate prioritisation is needed to spread the TC 302 work evenly over time. CEN/TC 302 organizes its meetings once every two years.

6 FACTORS AFFECTING COMPLETION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORK PROGRAMME

6.1 Resources

All professional contributors in the standardization work shall preferably be experienced individuals, with both CEN and ISO knowledge. The available support can generally cope properly with the average annual workload of CEN/TC 302 for the organization and co-ordination. The decision of CEN/TC 302 to implement existing joint International ISO-IDF standards, if available, through parallel CEN voting means that CEN/TC 302 can refrain from having an Editing Committee. The editorial work on the English and French versions is mainly done by ISO-CS and AFNOR. The translation into German and additional editorial work on the German (draft)
standards are done by the editing department of DIN. However, the aforementioned capacity for translations by both organizations sometimes requires prioritization.

6.2 Risk analysis

The risk factors identified for CEN/TC 302 are in fact the rapid changes in the dairy sector. The factors mentioned below are influencing the standardization work both directly and indirectly.

6.2.1 Expertise

For certain items on the programme of work, both European as well as worldwide, less expertise is available. The availability of expertise is decreasing due to mergers, rationalisation of operations and reallocation of resources. Also the joint work of ISO and IDF is suffering from lack of experts especially for less common items. Therefore CEN/TC 302 urges its members to call on experts from all interested stakeholders, i.e. dairy industry, competent authorities and research institutes, and (independent) laboratories to participate in the work. Otherwise, these phenomena can lead to:

- Lack of validated methods;
- Limitations to the applicability of tests and test results;
- Lack of experts available doing the work;
- Lack of expertise in general.

6.2.2 Funds

Lack of funds is an increasing problem that might lead to:

- No allowance for experts to participate in the standardization work;
- Problems with the validation of methods;
- Less laboratories available to organize and/or to participate in interlaboratory studies;
- Less research capacity for the development of certain (difficult) work items.

To address the aforementioned problems, a further optimization of the relationship with the EU DG Agriculture and Rural Development (DG AGRI) and EU DG Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE) needs to be pursued further.