

USDA Plans to Increase Coliform Count Standards for Instant Nonfat Dry Milk

Bacteria limit would be lowered in a proposed revision of the U.S. Standards for Instant Nonfat Dry Milk announced recently by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

To meet the requirements for U.S. Extra Grade under the proposed instant nonfat dry milk could have a plate count bacteria level of no more than 30,000 per gram and a coliform count of no more than 10 per gram. Previous limits were 35,000 and 90 respectively.

USDA's Consumer and Marketing Service, the agency responsible for issuance of the grade standards reported that most of the instant nonfat dry milk now being produced meets these requirements.

The changes in bacteria limit its agency officials said, would mean that the "coliform count" would assume more significance as an indicator of possible post-pasteurization contamination.

The proposal would make the

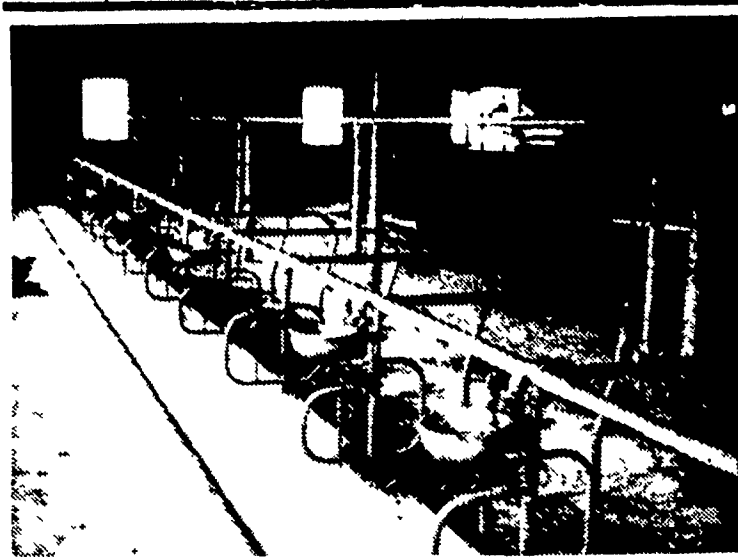
phosphatase test (a method for measuring the efficiency of pasteurization) optional at the discretion of USDA or at the request of an applicant for official grading service.

The proposed revision of the grade standards also provides for a new method of determining the dispersability of nonfat dry milk. This method, the Modified Moats Dabbah method, has been tested by USDA, the

American Dry Milk Institute, and dry milk industry members. Under the proposed revision, to be classified as U.S. Extra Grade, instant nonfat dry milk would be required to have at least an 85 per cent dispersability level, as determined by the Modified Moats Dabbah method.

U.S. Standards for Instant Nonfat Dry Milk are issued under the authority of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 and may be applied by the C&MS Dairy Division's grading service at the request of applicants on a fee-for service basis.

A notice concerning the proposed changes in the standards was scheduled for publication in the May 20, 1970 issue of the Federal Register. Comments, in duplicate, may be submitted until June 18, 1970 to the Hearing Clerk, Room 112, Administration Building, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250. Comments will be available for public examination.



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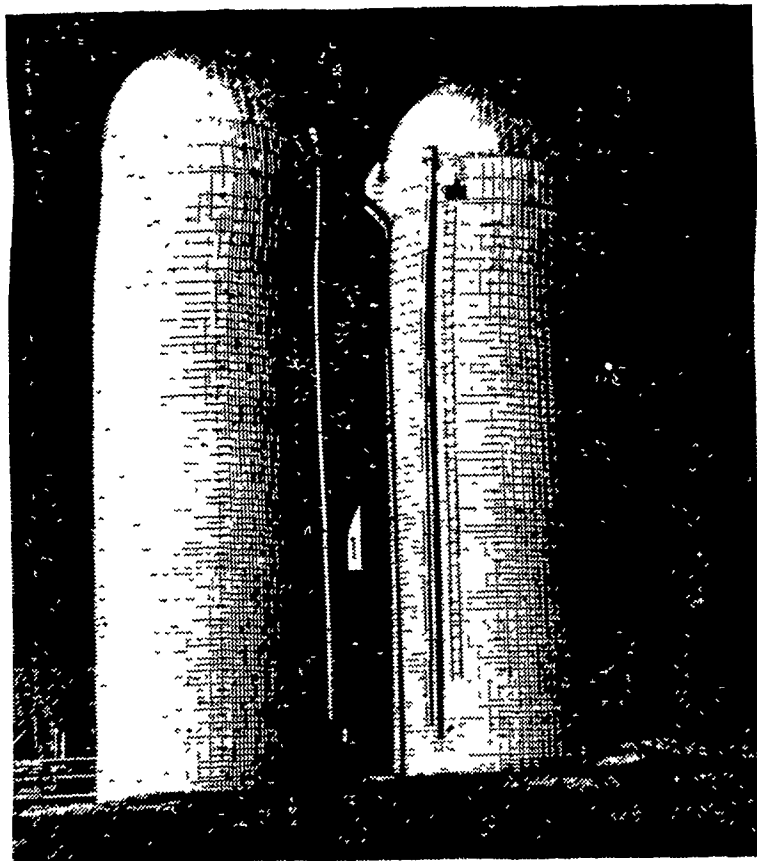
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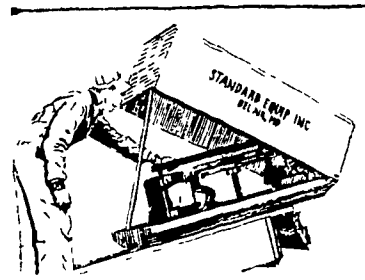
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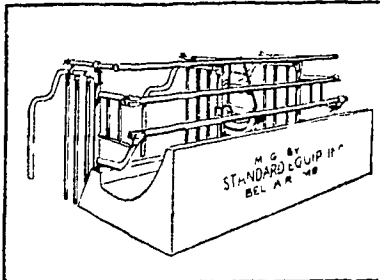


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