than 40 °F. or not to exceed 24 hours at a room temperature above 40 °F.: *Provided,* That no portion of the defrosted liquid shall exceed 50 °F. while in or out of the container.

(1) Frozen eggs packed in metal or plastic containers may be placed in running tap water (70 F° or lower) without submersion to speed defrosting.

(2) The defrosted liquid shall be held at 40 °F. or less, except for product to be pasteurized or stabilized by glucose removal as provided in §59.530. Defrosted liquid shall not be held more than 16 hours prior to processing or drying.

(e) Sanitary methods shall be used in handling containers and removing egg product.

(f) Crushers and other equipment used in defrosting operations shall be dismantled at the end of each shift and shall be washed, rinsed, and sanitized.

(1) Where crushers are used intermittently, they shall be flushed after each use and again before being placed in use.

(2) Floors and work tables shall be kept clean.

[36 FR 9814, May 28, 1971. Redesignated at 42 FR 32514, June 27, 1977, and amended at 43 FR 60138, Dec. 26, 1978. Redesignated at 46 FR 63203, Dec. 31, 1981; and amended at 60 FR 49170, Sept. 21, 1995]

§59.540 Spray process drying facilities.

(a) Driers shall be of a continuous discharge type and so constructed and equipped to prevent an excess accumulation of powder in the drier, bags, and powder conveyors.

(b) Driers shall be of approved construction and materials, with welded seams, and the surfaces shall be smooth to allow for thorough cleaning.

(c) Driers shall be equipped with approved air intake filters.

(d) Air shall be drawn into the drier from sources free from foul odors, dust, and dirt.

(e) Indirect heat or the use of an approved premixing device or other approved devices for securing complete combustion in direct-fired units is required. A premix-type burner, if used, shall be equipped with approved air filters at blower intake.

(f) High-pressure pump heads and lines shall be of stainless steel construction or equivalent which will allow for thorough cleaning.

(g) Preheating units, if used, shall be of stainless steel construction, or equivalent which will allow thorough cleaning.

(h) Powder conveying equipment shall be so constructed as will facilitate thorough cleaning.

(i) Sifters shall be constructed of an approved metal or metal lined interior. The sifting screens and frames shall be of an approved metal construction. Sifters shall be so constructed that accumulations of large particles or lumps of dried eggs can be removed continuously while the sifters are in operation.

[36 FR 9814, May 28, 1971; 36 FR 10841, June 4, 1971. Redesignated at 42 FR 32514, June 27, 1977, and at 46 FR 63203, Dec. 31, 1981]

§59.542 Spray process drying operations.

(a) The drying room shall be kept in a clean condition and free of flies, insects, and rodents.

(b) Low-pressure lines, high-pressure lines, high- and low-pressure pumps, homogenizers, and pasteurizers shall be cleaned by acceptable inplace cleaning methods or dismantled and cleaned after use or as necessary when operations have been interrupted.

(1) Spray nozzles, orifices, cores, or whizzers shall be cleaned immediately after cessation of drying operations.

(2) Equipment shall be sanitized within 2 hours prior to resuming operations.

(c) Drying units, conveyors, sifters, and packaging systems shall be cleaned whenever wet powder is encountered or when other conditions occur which would adversely affect the product. The complete drying unit, including sifters, conveyors, and powder coolers shall be either wet washed or dry cleaned. A combination of wet washing and dry cleaning of the complete drying unit shall not be permitted unless that segment of the unit to be cleaned in a different manner is completely detached or disconnected from the balance of the drying unit.

(1) Sifters and conveyors used for other than dried albumen shall be cleared of powder when such equipment