

(c) *Condensed skim milk.* Condensed skim milk, if used, shall be prepared from raw milk or skim milk that meets the same quality requirements outlined above for raw milk or skim milk. It shall be cooled promptly after drawing from the vacuum pan or evaporator and shall have been pasteurized before concentrating or during the manufacture. The standard plate count of the concentrated milk shall not exceed 30,000 per ml. at time of use.

(d) *Cream.* Any cream used for preparing the dressing for creamed cottage cheese shall be separated from milk meeting at least the same quality requirements as the skim milk used for making the curd. The flavor of the cream shall be fresh and sweet. Cream obtained from a secondary source shall meet the same requirements. The creaming mixture prepared from this cream, after pasteurization, shall have a standard plate count of no more than 30,000 per ml.

#### § 58.520 Nondairy ingredients.

(a) *Calcium chloride.* Calcium chloride, when used, shall be of food grade quality and free from extraneous material.

(b) *Salt.* Salt shall be free flowing, white refined sodium chloride and shall meet the requirements of The Food Chemical Codex.

(c) *Other ingredients.* Other ingredients such as fruits, nuts, chives or other vegetables used or blended with cottage cheese shall be reasonably free of bacteria so as not to appreciably increase the bacterial count of the finished product. The various ingredients in kind shall be consistent in size and color so as to produce the desired appearance and appeal of the finished product. The flavor of the ingredients used shall be natural and represent the intended flavor and intensity desired in the finished product. Such ingredients shall be clean, wholesome, of uniformly good quality, free from mold, rancid or decomposed particles. Vegetables used in cottage cheese may first be soaked for 15 to 20 minutes in a cold 25 to 50 ppm chlorine solution to appreciably reduce the bacterial population. After soaking, the vegetables shall be drained and used soon thereafter.

#### OPERATIONS AND OPERATING PROCEDURES

#### § 58.521 Pasteurization and product flow.

(a) The skim milk used for the manufacture of cottage cheese shall be pasteurized not more than 24 hours prior to the time of setting by heating every particle of skim milk to a temperature of 161 °F. for not less than 15 seconds or by any other combination of temperature and time giving equivalent results. All skim milk must be cooled promptly to setting temperature. If held more than two hours between pasteurization and time of setting, the skim milk shall be cooled and held at 45 °F. or lower until set.

(b) Cream or cheese dressing shall be pasteurized at not less than 150 °F. for not less than 30 minutes or at not less than 166 °F. for not less than 15 seconds or by any other combination of temperature and time treatment giving equivalent results. Cream and cheese dressing shall be cooled promptly to 40 °F. or lower after pasteurization to aid in further cooling of cottage cheese curd for improved keeping quality.

(c) Reconstituted nonfat dry milk for cottage cheese manufacture need not be re-pasteurized provided it is reconstituted within two hours prior to the time of setting using water which is free from viable pathogenic or otherwise harmful microorganisms as well as microorganisms which may cause spoilage of cottage cheese. Skim milk separated from pasteurized whole milk need not be re-pasteurized provided it is separated in equipment from which all traces of raw milk from previous operations have been removed by proper cleaning and sanitizing.

#### § 58.522 Reconstituting nonfat dry milk.

Nonfat dry milk shall be reconstituted in a sanitary manner.

#### § 58.523 Laboratory and quality control tests.

(a) Quality control tests shall be made on samples as often as necessary to determine the shelf-life and stability of the finished product. Routine analyses shall be made on raw materials and finished product to assure

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satisfactory composition, shelf-life and stability.

(b) *Frequency of sampling*—(1) *Microbiological*. Samples of raw milk for testing shall be taken as prescribed in § 58.135. Representative samples shall be taken of finished cottage cheese and from each lot or batch of product used as an ingredient. For keeping quality tests representative samples shall be taken of finished cottage cheese;

(2) *Chemical*—(i) *Milkfat and Moisture*. Representative samples shall be taken of cottage cheese; dry cottage cheese shall be tested for moisture only.

(ii) *pH*. Representative samples shall be taken of finished cottage cheese.

(c) *Test methods*—(1) *Microbiological*. Microbiological determinations shall be made for coliform, psychrotrophic and yeasts and molds. These tests shall be made in accordance with the methods described in the latest edition of Standard Methods for the Examination of Dairy Products, published by the American Public Health Association.

(2) *Chemical*. Chemical analysis shall be made in accordance with the methods described in the latest edition of Official Methods of Analysis of the Association of Official Analytical Chemists, published by the Association of Official Analytical Chemists, the latest edition of Standard Methods for the Examination of Dairy Products, or by other methods giving equivalent results.

**§ 58.524 Packaging and general identification.**

(a) *Containers*. Containers used for packaging cottage cheese shall be any commercially acceptable multiple use or single service container or packaging material which will satisfactorily protect the contents through the regular channels of trade without significant impairment of quality with respect to flavor, or contamination under normal conditions of handling. Caps or covers which extend over the lip of the container shall be used on all cups or tubs containing two pounds or less, to protect the product from contamination during subsequent handling.

(b) *Packaging*. The cheese shall be packaged in a sanitary manner and automatic filling and capping equipment shall be used on all small sizes.

The containers shall be checked weighed during the filling operation to assure they are filled uniformly to not less than the stated net weight on the container. Also care shall be taken that the cottage cheese be of uniform consistency at the time of packaging to assure legal composition in all packages.

(c) *General identification*. Bulk packages containing cottage cheese shall be adequately and legibly marked with the name of the product, net weight, name and address of the manufacturer, lot number, code or date of packaging and any other identification as may be required. Consumer size packaged products shall meet the applicable regulations of the Food and Drug Administration.

**§ 58.525 Storage of finished product.**

Cottage cheese after packaging shall be promptly stored at a temperature of 45 °F. or lower to maintain quality and condition until loaded for distribution. During distribution and storage prior to sale the product should be maintained at a temperature of 45 °F. or lower. The product shall not be exposed to foreign odors or conditions such as drippage or condensation that might cause package or product damage. Packaged cottage cheese shall not be placed directly on floors.

**REQUIREMENTS FOR COTTAGE CHEESE BEARING USDA OFFICIAL IDENTIFICATION**

**§ 58.526 Official identification.**

(a) Only cottage cheese manufactured and packaged in accordance with the requirements of this part and with the applicable requirements in subpart A of this part which has been officially inspected in process and found to be in compliance with these requirements may be identified with the official USDA Quality Approved Inspection Shield.

(b) *Nonfat dry milk*. Nonfat dry milk, when used in cottage cheese bearing official identification, shall meet the requirements for U.S. Extra Grade (Spray Process), at time of use, and should be of U.S. Low Heat Classification (not less than 6.0 mg. undenatured