

(d) *Swiss cheese, Emmentaler cheese.* The quality requirements for Swiss cheese, Emmentaler cheese shall be in accordance with the U.S. Standards for Grades for Swiss Cheese, Emmentaler Cheese.

(e) *Bulk American cheese for manufacturing.* The quality requirements for bulk American cheese for manufacturing shall be in accordance with the U.S. Standards for Grades of Bulk American Cheese for Manufacturing.

SUPPLEMENTAL SPECIFICATIONS FOR  
PLANTS MANUFACTURING AND PACK-  
AGING COTTAGE CHEESE

DEFINITIONS

§ 58.505 **Meaning of words.**

For the purpose of the regulations in this subpart, words in the singular form shall be deemed to impart the plural and vice versa, as the case may demand. Unless the context otherwise requires, the following terms shall have the following meaning:

(a) *Condensed skim.* Skim milk which has been condensed to approximately one-third the original volume in accordance with standard commercial practice.

(b) *Cottage cheese.* (1) The soft uncured cheese meeting the requirements of the Food and Drug Administration for dry curd cottage cheese (21 CFR 133.129).

(2) *Cottage Cheese.* The soft uncured cheese meeting the requirements of the Food and Drug Administration for cottage cheese (21 CFR 133.128).

(3) *Reduced Fat, Light, and Fat Free Cottage Cheese.* The products conforming to all applicable Federal Regulations including “Cottage cheese,” Food and Drug Administration (21 CFR 133.128), “Dry curd cottage cheese,” Food and Drug Administration (21 CFR 133.129), “Nutrient content claims for fat, fatty acid, and cholesterol content of foods,” Food and Drug Administration (21 CFR 101.62), and “Requirements for foods named by use of a nutrient content claim and a standardized term,” Food and Drug Administration (21 CFR 130.10).

(c) *Direct acidification.* The production of cottage cheese, without the use of bacterial starter cultures, through the use of approved food grade acids. This

product shall be labeled according to the requirements of the Food and Drug Administration, 21 CFR 133.128 or 133.129, as appropriate.

(d) *Cottage Cheese with fruits, nuts, chives, or other vegetables.* Shall consist of cottage cheese to which has been added fruits, nuts, chives, and other vegetables. The finished cheese shall comply with the requirements of the Food and Drug Administration for cottage cheese (21 CFR 133.128).

(e) *Cream.* The milkfat portion of milk which rises to the surface of milk on standing or is separated from it by centrifugal force and contains not less than 18.0 percent of milkfat.

(f) *Creaming mixture.* The creaming mixture consists of cream or a mixture of cream with milk or skim milk or both. To adjust the solids content, non-fat dry milk or concentrated skim milk may be added but not to exceed 3.0 percent by weight of the creaming mixture. It may or may not contain a culture of harmless lactic acid and flavor producing bacteria, food grade acid, salt, and stabilizers with or without carriers. The creaming mixture in its final form may or may not be homogenized and shall conform to the requirements of the Food and Drug Administration (21 CFR 133.128(b)).

[40 FR 47911, Oct. 10, 1975. Redesignated at 42 FR 32514, June 27, 1977, and further redesignated at 46 FR 63203, Dec. 31, 1981, as amended at 67 FR 48976, July 29, 2002]

ROOMS AND COMPARTMENTS

§ 58.510 **Rooms and compartments.**

(a) Processing operations with open cheese vats should be separated from other rooms or areas. Excessive personnel traffic or other possible contaminating conditions should be avoided. Rooms, compartments, coolers, and dry storage space in which any raw material, packaging or ingredients supplies or finished products are handled, processed, packaged or stored shall be designed and constructed to assure clean and orderly operations.

(b) *Ventilation.* Processing and packaging rooms or compartments shall be ventilated to maintain sanitary conditions, preclude the growth of mold and air borne bacterial contaminants, prevent undue condensation of water

vapor and minimize or eliminate objectionable odors. To minimize air borne contamination in processing and packaging rooms a filtered air supply meeting the requirements of § 58.510(c) shall be provided. The incoming air shall exert an outward pressure so that the movement of air will be outward and prevent the movement of unfiltered air inward.

(c) *Starter facility.* A separate starter room or properly designed starter tanks and satisfactory air movement techniques shall be provided for the propagation and handling of starter cultures. All necessary precautions shall be taken to prevent contamination of the room, equipment and the air therein. A filtered air supply with a minimum average efficiency of 90% when tested in accordance with the ASHRAE Synthetic Dust Arrestance Test should be provided so as to obtain an outward movement of air from the room to minimize contamination.

(d) *Coolers.* Coolers shall be equipped with facilities for maintaining proper temperature and humidity conditions, consistent with good commercial practices for the applicable product, to protect the quality and condition of the products. Coolers shall be kept clean, orderly and free from mold, and maintained in good repair. They shall be adequately lighted and proper circulation of air shall be maintained at all times. The floors, walls, and ceilings shall be of such construction as to permit thorough cleaning.

**EQUIPMENT AND UTENSILS**

**§ 58.511 General construction, repair and installation.**

The equipment and utensils used for the manufacture and handling of cottage cheese shall be as specified in § 58.128. In addition for certain other equipment the following requirements shall be met.

**§ 58.512 Cheese vats or tanks.**

(a) Cheese vats or tanks shall meet the requirements of § 58.416. When direct steam injection is used for heating the milk, the vat or tank may be of single shell construction. The steam shall be culinary steam.

(b) Vats shall be equipped with valves to control the heating and cooling medium and a suitable sanitary outlet valve. Vats used for creaming curd should be equipped with a refrigerated cooling medium. A circulating pump for the heating and cooling medium is recommended.

**§ 58.513 Agitators.**

Mechanical agitators shall meet the requirements of § 58.417.

**§ 58.514 Container fillers.**

Shall comply with the 3-A Sanitary Standards for Equipment for Packaging Frozen Desserts and Cottage Cheese.

**§ 58.515 Mixers.**

Only mixers shall be used which will mix the cheese carefully and keep shattering of the curd particles to a minimum. They shall be constructed in such a manner as to be readily cleanable. If shafts extend through the wall of the tank below the level of the product, they shall be equipped with proper seals which are readily removable for cleaning and sanitizing. The mixer shall be enclosed or equipped with tight fitting covers.

**§ 58.516 Starter vats.**

Bulk starter vats shall meet the requirements of § 58.415.

**QUALITY SPECIFICATIONS FOR RAW MATERIAL**

**§ 58.517 General.**

Raw materials used for manufacturing cottage cheese shall meet the following quality specifications.

**§ 58.518 Milk.**

The selection of raw milk for cottage cheese shall be in accordance with §§ 58.132 through 58.138.

**§ 58.519 Dairy products.**

(a) *Raw skim milk.* All raw skim milk obtained from a secondary source shall be separated from milk meeting the same quality requirements for milk as outlined in § 58.518 above. Skim milk after being pasteurized and separated shall be cooled to 45 °F. or lower unless the skim milk is to be set for cheese