

**Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA**

**§ 58.715**

other equipment the following requirements shall be met.

**§ 58.707 Conveyors.**

Conveyors shall be constructed of material which can be properly cleaned, will not rust, or otherwise contaminate the cheese, and shall be maintained in good repair.

**§ 58.708 Grinders or shredders.**

The grinders or shredders used in the preparation of the trimmed and cleaned cheese shall be of corrosion-resistant material, and of such construction as to prevent contamination of the cheese and to allow thorough cleaning of all parts and product contact surfaces.

**§ 58.709 Cookers.**

The cookers shall be the steam jacketed or direct steam type. They shall be constructed of stainless steel or other equally corrosion-resistant material. All product contact surfaces shall be readily accessible for cleaning. Each cooker shall be equipped with an indicating thermometer, and shall be equipped with a temperature recording device. The recording thermometer stem may be placed in the cooker if satisfactory time charts are obtained, if not, the stem shall be placed in the hotwell or filler hopper. Steam check valves on direct steam type cookers shall be mounted flush with cooker wall, be constructed of stainless steel and designed to prevent the backup of product into the steam line, or the steam line shall be constructed of stainless steel pipes and fittings which can be readily cleaned. If direct steam is applied to the product only culinary steam shall be used (see § 58.127(d)).

**§ 58.710 Fillers.**

A strainer should be installed between the cooker and the filler. The hoppers of all filters shall be covered but the cover may have sight ports. If necessary, the hopper may have an agitator to prevent buildup on side wall. The filler valves and head shall be kept in good repair and capable of accurate measurements. Product contact surfaces shall be of stainless steel or other corrosion resistant material.

**QUALITY SPECIFICATIONS FOR RAW MATERIAL**

**§ 58.711 Cheddar, colby, washed or soaked curd, granular or stirred curd cheese.**

Cheese, used in the manufacture of pasteurized process cheese products should possess a pleasing and desirable taste and odor consistent with the age of the cheese; should have body and texture characteristics which will impart the desired body and texture characteristics in the finished product; and should possess finish and appearance characteristics which will permit removal of all packaging material and surface defects. The cheese should at least meet the requirements equivalent to U.S. Standard Grade for Bulk American Cheese for Manufacturing provided the quantity of the cheese with any one defect as listed for U.S. Standard Grade is limited to assure a satisfactory finished product.

**§ 58.712 Swiss.**

Swiss cheese used in the manufacture of pasteurized process cheese and related products should be equivalent to U.S. Grade B or better, except that the cheese may be blind or possess finish characteristics which do not impair the interior quality.

**§ 58.713 Gruyere.**

Gruyere cheese used in the manufacture of process cheese and related products should be of good wholesome quality and except for smaller eyes and sharper flavor shall meet the same requirements as for Swiss cheese.

**§ 58.714 Cream cheese, Neufchatel cheese.**

These cheeses when mixed with other foods, or used for spreads and dips should possess a fresh, pleasing and desirable flavor.

**§ 58.715 Cream, plastic cream and anhydrous milkfat.**

These food products shall be pasteurized, sweet, have a pleasing and desirable flavor and be free from objectionable flavors, and shall be obtained from milk which complies with the quality requirements as specified in §§ 58.132 through 58.138 of this subpart.