

The International Fat Commission

THE International Fat Commission performs a function for the Fat and Oil Industry of Europe similar to one of the functions of the American Oil Chemists' Society in the United States. This function is the selection and standardization of methods for the analysis of fats, oils, and allied products. The Commission was organized at Geneva, Switzerland, in 1930. It became attached to the International Union of Chemistry as a Commission affiliate in 1936, and in 1949 it was integrated into the Union as the division of fatty materials, which is a subgroup of the section of Pure and Applied Chemistry. The president of the Commission is J. Vizern, Marseilles, France.



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The Commission may include up to three members from each participating country although only a total of 10 members is allowed to represent the Commission in the Union. Countries currently represented on the Commission are Belgium, Denmark, England, France, Italy, Argentina, Switzerland, Holland, Austria, Spain, Czechoslovakia, and the United States. Germany was an active participant prior to World War II.

The method of operation of the Commission is similar to that of the committees of the American Oil Chemists' Society. Meetings are held annually in different countries, at which time the year's program is planned. Collaborative samples are distributed to the participating members. The selection of methods is dependent upon the concordance of results obtained in the collaborative investigation.

THE Commission has just recently published the approved methods in book form, including both French and English translations in the same volume. The methods included are those most commonly used for fats and oils, oil seeds, and soaps. There are tentative plans to distribute these methods through the national office of the American Oil Chemists' Society, Chicago, Ill.

Approved Methods of the International Fat Commission:

Oil Seeds—various	Thiocyanogen Value
Impurities	Soluble and Insoluble Volatile Acids
Moisture	Number A and B
Oil Content	Oxidized Acids
Oils and Fats	Polybromide Number
Moisture	Peroxide Value
Impurities	Characterization of Sterols
Ash	Sterols
Acidity	Soaps
Neutral Oil	Moisture
Unsaponifiable Matter	Foreign Matter Insoluble in Alcohol
Density	Total Fatty Acids
Refractive Index	Total Alkali
Insoluble Fatty Acids	Total Free Alkali
Titer	Free Caustic Alkali
Saponification Value	Chloride
Iodine Value	Rosin (Qualitative)
Hydroxyl Number	Rosin (Quantitative)

THE I.F.C. methods are in many cases similar to A.O.C.S. methods. However the latter are written in more detail with less tolerance of variation.

The useful purpose of the work of the International Fat Commission is obvious. It is essentially the same as the goal of the American Oil Chemists' Society, which is to provide the industry with reliable methods of analysis for research, control, and commercial trading.

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