

# Analytical Q&A

The following column is based on questions sent to the AOCS technical director. If you have a question concerning analytical methodology of fats and oils or related products, please send your question to Dave Berner, AOCS Technical Director, PO Box 5037, Station A, Champaign, IL 61820 USA.

**Q. Where can I find a copy of AOCS Method Ka 6-59?**

Method Ka 6-59 (viscosity of castor oil by the Gardner-Holdt method) is now method Tq 1a-64. In 1964, Section K—Drying Oils was eliminated from the Official Methods. Appropriate methods in Section K were placed in other sections of methods. Method Ka 6-59 was transferred to Section T and renumbered as method Tq 1a-64, with the notation "Replaces Method Ka 6-59."

**Q. What is being done to eliminate asbestos from AOCS Methods?**

A ceramic fiber substitute for asbestos was incorporated into the crude fiber method in 1985. In the 1987 *Additions and Revisions*, the ceramic fiber will be proposed as an alternative to asbestos in the remaining five methods that use asbestos as a filter medium. There are about 25 methods that call for the use of asbestos cloth as an insulating material. There is currently a search for a suitable alternative; the recommendation for the alternative should also appear in the 1987 revisions to methods.

**Q. Are there any new technical committees?**

Currently, there are 14 technical committees and 5 subcommittees. The last new committee was organized in early 1986 and was recently given official status as the Industrial Edible Fats and Oils Analysis Committee. Chairman is Ron Sleeter of Archer Daniels Midland. Some inquiries and suggestions have been made about the possibility of establishing a biochemical/biotech-

nology committee (to assess the potential of related methodology in AOCS methods) and an instrumentation committee (to assess the potential of multifunctional and automated instruments in AOCS methods). Interest in forming these committees will need to be determined in the next few months.

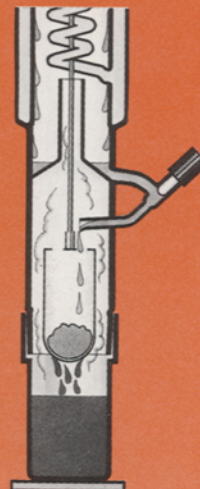
**Q. What is the status of the Jojoba Oil Subcommittee?**

The committee has been reorganized under the chairmanship of Frank Flider, JMC Technologies. A committee meeting was scheduled during the 1987 national meeting in New Orleans. The chairman has proposed that the Jojoba Committee be an independent committee, i.e., no longer a subcommittee of the Seed and Meal Analysis Committee. Reports of technical committee activities and proposed collaborative studies will appear in the July *JAACS*.

**Q. Why doesn't the AOCS provide lipid reference standards?**

This question has come up on more than one occasion. Some lipid reference materials exist on the market now for such things as fatty acids, fatty amines and glycolipids. For lipid standards, a cost factor (most likely a high one) would be involved in their development. Once such standards were developed, there would be a concern about protecting the quality of the standards, during both storage and shipment. While it would be worthwhile to have a wide range of lipid standards, it appears impractical to attempt such a project because of the cost and stability problems.

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