Methodology

Methods development update

Proposed new committee

On March 24, 1986, a meeting of an AOCS ad hoc Industrial Edible Oil Committee was held at the O'Hare Hilton in Chicago. Approximately 15 major oil supplying and oil purchasing companies were represented. The meeting was organized by Ron Sleeter of Archer Daniels Midland Co. (ADM).

The ad hoc committee evolved from a January 20 meeting between ADM personnel and the AOCS technical director, at which time the need for identifying standardized methods required by the edible oil industry was expressed. At the January 20 meeting, the consensus was that the best mechanism for identifying methods needed by industry would be an AOCS advisory committee made up of representatives of the edible oil industry.

At the March 24 meeting, the ad hoc committee formulated its purpose and goals and addressed other topics such as membership, mechanics, financing and international ramifications. It was noted by those present that while the committee's main goal would be to identify and study methods needed by industry, this activity should in no way duplicate the methods development mechanism already in place; rather, it should complement both the methods development process and technical committee activities. It was suggested that liaison between the ad hoc industrial committee and the Uniform Methods Committee (UMC) could be accomplished by having a member of the industrial committee participate on the UMC as a nonvoting member. Coordination of the activities among the UMC, technical committees and the industrial committee, ensuring that there is no duplication of effort, would occur through the AOCS technical director, who would serve as chairman of the industrial committee.

A list of 22 methods of concern was generated at the ad hoc committee meeting. Of these, seven are currently under evaluation, with four having priority status. The committee identified two additional methods that should have priority status. The committee stressed the need for a practical and centralized approach to statistical analysis of collaborative studies. The committee agreed to take action on the following projects: initiate a collaborative study to improve the cold test; propose the adoption of the Dropping Point Method in lieu of the Wiley Melting Point; offer technical assistance to the appropriate technical committees for updating the chlorophyll in oils and the automated color in oils methods.

The next committee meeting is planned for either September or November, 1986.

Projections for 1986

Currently, there are 20 methods pending approval for the 1986 Additions and Revisions to AOCS Official Methods and Recommended Practices. Of the 20 methods, 15 are new methods and five are revised versions of older methods. Minor revisions have been proposed for an additional 10 methods.

Dave Berner
AOCS Technical Director

Publications

Book reviews

Handbook of Toxic and Hazardous Chemicals and Carcinogens, 2nd ed., by Marshall Sittig (Noyes Publications, Park Ridge, NJ 07656, 1985, 950 pp., $96).

Implementation of the OSHA Hazard Communication standard (November 1985) and the requirement therein for training programs (May 1986) has led to a proliferation of new books and new editions of old books on chemical hazards. This particular handbook provides data on nearly 800 compounds.

A primary criterion for selection of compounds for inclusion is citation in certain lists, i.e., EPA priority pollutants, ACGIH TLVs and compounds identified as carcinogens by the U.S. National Toxicology Program. While some of these compounds are obviously flammable, explosive or corrosive and this information is carefully documented, the author is particularly concerned with acute and chronic health hazards. With approximately one page of text per compound, there is space for a terse but comprehensive and systematic summary of quite a bit of useful information.

This is clearly one of the better books around on hazardous chemicals. The OSHA standard and various states' right-to-know laws are certain to increase the dissemination of this type of hazardous material information. Frequently the spread of complex technical information to a nontechnical audience is accompanied by some degree of misinterpretation or distortion of technical accuracy. Sittig's book is an excellent source of accurate information on most of the "bad actors" in the news. A reference copy should be available in every chemical plant and laboratory.

Lloyd A. Witting

Regulatory Chemicals of Health and Environmental Concern, by William H. Lederer (Van Nostrand-Reinhold Co., 135 West 50th St., New York, NY 10020, 1985, 304 pp., $38.50).

This seems to be another of the new books appearing in response to the OSHA standard and environmental issues in general. Rather than listing detailed information for each chemical, the author has compiled relevant regulatory references for each chemical. The listings follow a