Joint Committee Issue Paper

NSF Standard(s) Impacted: NSF/ANSI/3-A 14159-3 - 2010

Background:
Provide a brief background statement indicating the cause and nature of concern, the impacts identified relevant to public health, public understanding, etc, and any other reason why the issue should be considered by the Committee. Reference as appropriate any specific section(s) of the standard(s) that are related to the issue.

I have been working for the USDA Dairy Grading Branch for the past 20 year and have coordinated their equipment review program during this time. More recently I have been tasked with coordinating the Equipment Review Program for Meat & Poultry Equipment. It has come to my attention that there is a need to make a change in the cleaning procedures for modular type belt (belts with modular section used to make up the belt width and length using rods to assemble these sections).

One company that manufactures these types of belts has informed me that they have submitted the same section of belt at different times and has gotten different test results doing so. One time it would clean and pass but the next time it would not. They told me they did this to see if there was repeatability with the current test when it comes to modular belting. Their finding was; there was not.

The current standard only allow for, as I call it, the dip test (section 6 Assessment for cleanability of belting materials). Modular belts have been and continue to be used in the dairy and meat & poultry industries, therefore there needs to be a better method of testing the cleanability of these styles of belt.

Recommendation:
Clearly state what action is needed: e.g., recommended changes to the standard(s) including the current text of the relevant section(s) indicating deletions by use of strike-out and additions by highlighting or underlining; e.g., reference of the issue to a Task Group for detailed consideration; etc.

The USDA Dairy Grading Branch has found that if there is dedicated spray cleaning devices used to impinge the belt's surfaces, joints, and sockets the belts can be cleaned. Here is my suggested wording that can be added just before Section 6.

Open belting and modular belting shall be provided with an integral mechanical cleaning device that is located so all exposed surfaces of the belting and sprockets are automatically cleaned. Cleaning solution catch pans or trays shall be designed to be self-draining and cleanable. All Belt surfaces, sprockets, catch pans and trays shall be accessible for inspection, except that:

If the belt is of a size manageable by one person, is readily accessible and readily removable, it may be cleaned in a COP tank.

It also looks like a definition will need to be added for Cleaning Out of Place (COP).

Clean Out of Place (COP): Removal of soil when the equipment is partially or totally disassembled. Soil removal is effected by circulating chemical solutions and water rinses in a wash tank, which is fitted with circulating pump(s).

Supplementary Materials (photographs, diagrams, reports, etc.):
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Signature*: Rocklyn R. Bates
Company: USDA Dairy Grading Branch
Telephone Number: 202-720-1671         E-mail: Rocklyn.bates@ams.usda.gov
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Please submit to: Al Rose, arose@nsf.org

*Type written name will suffice as signature