



THE ROLE OF STANDARDIZATION IN TRADE AT THE CORE OF A JOINT SYMPOSIUM OF THE INTERNATIONAL DAIRY FEDERATION (IDF) AND THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR STANDARDIZATION (ISO)

Brussels, 22 May 2013- The IDF/ISO Symposium, taking place in Rotterdam on 5 June 2013, will focus on the role of standardization in trade. Given the increasing global demand for milk and milk products, standardization is ever more important to ensure food safety, food quality and fairness in international trade.

Standards are integral to ensuring safe and fair trade, as well as providing certain economic advantages. *"Standards are gaining a higher profile in trade, and a large volume of unglamorous but essential work in the WTO deals with this,"* says Bernard Kuiten, Head of External Relations, World Trade Organization (WTO) who will be moderating the event. *"Governments want to ensure traded products are safe or simply convenient for their consumers and producers to use. But standards can be also an excuse to be protectionist. They should therefore be crafted in a way that boosts trade by raising market confidence in the goods and services traded."*

A great deal of collaboration is necessary between the international organizations involved in setting standards. This enhances harmonization and avoids duplication of work, increasing efficiency and simplifying matters for the end user. The Symposium with high-level speakers from ISO, Codex Alimentarius and the dairy industry will further demonstrate this spirit of collaboration, providing an opportunity for speakers and participants to hear expert views and share experiences on the development and use of international standards.

IDF and ISO have a long history of collaboration through a joint programme of work on methods of analysis and sampling for milk and milk products. In June 2012, AOAC INTERNATIONAL and ISO signed a collaboration agreement regarding methods for infant formula and adult nutritionals with involvement of IDF, leading to a presentation on harmonization during the Symposium.

Representing the global dairy sector, ensuring that standards best address the needs of the dairy sector for the fair trade of safe, high quality milk and milk products is an important aspect of IDF's analytical programme of work. Collaboration is again at the heart of this activity, as Dr. Jaap Evers, Chair of the IDF Methods Standards Steering Group explains: *"IDF has a strategic objective to foster mutually beneficial partnerships with other organizations. Hence, IDF will continue to focus strongly*

on building synergistic collaborations with other international standardization organizations to deliver standards-based solutions that facilitate the international flow of dairy nutrition.”

Standardization is a voluntary, consensus-driven activity carried out by all interested parties. Creating awareness among all relevant stakeholders of the importance of being involved in standard-setting activities is crucial. Broad stakeholder involvement ensures an open and transparent process and also facilitates the implementation of standards.

ISO Deputy Secretary-General Kevin McKinley comments: *“The world is getting smaller as people and countries become more interconnected, so the need for International Standards has grown. ISO develops standards that provide a solid base for innovation and facilitate market access to products.”*

“Our long-standing cooperation with IDF supports the ‘ISO Strategic Plan 2011-2015’ objective of ‘fostering partnerships that further increase the value and efficient development of International Standards’ and our connection with IDF helps ensure the relevance of our work to the global dairy industry and research community. We are looking forward to a successful IDF/ISO symposium”.

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Note to editors:

About IDF

The International Dairy Federation (IDF) provides science-based information to its National Committees as well as to international organizations, governments and legislators. IDF places great emphasis and importance on ensuring that the work conducted by its Standing Committees and Task Forces is of the highest scientific quality and integrity and is relevant and applicable to the entire dairy sector and industry worldwide. For more information, www.fil-idf.org.

About the IDF/ISO Analytical Week

Each year, IDF and ISO organize the IDF/ISO Analytical Week, hosted by an IDF National Committee. During a week of business meetings, the members of Standing Committees and Project Groups network and progress the standardization of international IDF/ISO standards, and other related items. This week is articulated around an international symposium tackling topical subjects of interest in the field of methods of analysis and sampling, and comprises an exhibition of analytical providers. For more information, www.idf-iso-analytical-week.org.

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