Full Paper

Quality control of milk powder with near-infrared spectroscopy

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Abstract

Milk is one of the most widely consumed food products in the world and is often used in the manufacture of various food products. To reduce the cost of transportation and storage, as well as extend the shelf life of milk, it is dried. It retains most of the nutritional and organoleptic properties of liquid milk. Currently, at least 20-30% of the produced whole milk and fermented milk products are falsified. Flour, starch, chalk, lime, and even gypsum are mixed into milk powder. Classical methods of analysis of milk powder (gravimetric, titrimetric, acidic, etc.) do not allow assessing the qualitative composition of milk powder, while chromatographic and other methods require time and sample preparation. Therefore, to assess the quality of milk, methods of spectrometry in the near infrared region (NIR spectrometry) are becoming very popular. The objects of research were whole milk powder and skimmed milk powder, which were received for research at the Test Center of the FSBSI «Federal Center for Toxicology, Radiation and Biological Safety» from various manufacturers of the Russian Federation. We studied 22 samples of dried whole and skim milk using an IR spectrometer. According to the results of studies, it was found that, on average, samples of skimmed milk powder for all studied indicators corresponded to standards. In 54.5% of the samples of dried whole milk, a reduced fat content was revealed and in 81.8%, an increased content of lactose.

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