

the product (generally the liquid surface) in the upright rigid container and the inside surface of the lid.

(j) *Hermetically sealed container* means a container that is designed and intended to be secure against the entry of microorganisms and thereby to maintain the commercial sterility of its contents after processing.

(k) *Incubation* means the holding of a sample(s) at a specified temperature for a specified period of time for the purpose of permitting or stimulating the growth of microorganisms.

(l) *Initial temperature* means the average temperature of the contents of the coldest container to be processed at the time the thermal processing cycle begins, as determined after thorough stirring or shaking of the filled and sealed container.

(m) *Lot* means that amount of a product produced during a period of time indicated by a specific code.

(n) *Low-acid foods* means any foods, other than alcoholic beverages, with a finished equilibrium pH greater than 4.6 and a water activity ( $a_w$ ) greater than 0.85. Tomatoes and tomato products having a finished equilibrium pH less than 4.7 are not classed as low-acid foods.

(o) *Minimum thermal process* means the application of heat to food, either before or after sealing in a hermetically sealed container, for a period of time and at a temperature scientifically determined to be adequate to ensure destruction of microorganisms of public health significance.

(p) *Operating process* means the process selected by the processor that equals or exceeds the minimum requirements set forth in the scheduled process.

(q) *Retort* means any closed vessel or other equipment used for the thermal processing of foods.

(r) *Scheduled process* means the process selected by the processor as adequate under the conditions of manufacture for a given product to achieve commercial sterility. This process may be in excess of that necessary to ensure destruction of microorganisms of public health significance, and shall be at least equivalent to the process established by a competent processing au-

thority to achieve commercial sterility.

(s) *Shall* is used to state mandatory requirements.

(t) *Should* is used to state recommended or advisory procedures or to identify recommended equipment.

(u) *Vacuum-packed products* means those products that are sealed in a container under the vacuum specified in the scheduled process, the maintenance of which vacuum is critical to the adequacy of the scheduled process.

(v) *Vents* means openings through the retort shell, controlled by gate, plug cock, or other adequate valves used for the elimination of air during the venting period.

(w) *Water activity* ( $a_w$ ) is a measure of the free moisture in a product and is the quotient of the water vapor pressure of the substance divided by the vapor pressure of pure water at the same temperature.

#### § 113.5 Current good manufacturing practice.

The criteria in §§ 113.10, 113.40, 113.60, 113.81, 113.83, 113.87, 113.89, and 113.100 shall apply in determining whether the facilities, methods, practices, and controls used by the commercial processor in the manufacture, processing, or packing of low-acid foods in hermetically sealed containers are operated or administered in a manner adequate to protect the public health.

#### § 113.10 Personnel.

The operators of processing systems, retorts, aseptic processing and packaging systems and product formulating systems (including systems wherein water activity is used in conjunction with thermal processing) and container closure inspectors shall be under the operating supervision of a person who has attended a school approved by the Commissioner for giving instruction appropriate to the preservation technology involved and who has been identified by that school as having satisfactorily completed the prescribed course of instruction. This person shall supervise only in those areas for which a school approved by the Commissioner identifies the person as having satisfactorily completed training.

**Subpart B [Reserved]****Subpart C—Equipment****§ 113.40 Equipment and procedures.**

(a) *Equipment and procedures for pressure processing in steam in still retorts—*

(1) *Indicating mercury-in-glass thermometer.* Each retort shall be equipped with at least one mercury-in-glass thermometer whose divisions are easily readable to 1 °F and whose temperature range does not exceed 17 °F per inch of graduated scale. Thermometers shall be tested for accuracy against a known accurate standard thermometer upon installation and at least once a year thereafter, or more frequently if necessary, to ensure their accuracy. Records of thermometer accuracy checks that specify date, standard used, method used, and person performing the test should be maintained. Each thermometer should have a tag, seal, or other means of identity that includes the date on which it was last tested for accuracy. A thermometer that has a divided mercury column or that cannot be adjusted to the standard shall be repaired or replaced before further use of the retort. Thermometers shall be installed where they can be accurately and easily read. Bulbs of indicating thermometers shall be installed either within the retort shell or in external wells attached to the retort. External wells or pipes shall be connected to the retort through at least a 3/4-inch diameter opening and equipped with a 1/16-inch or larger bleeder opening so located as to provide a full flow of steam past the length of the thermometer bulb. The bleeders for external wells shall emit steam continuously during the entire processing period. The mercury thermometer—not the recorder chart—shall be the reference instrument for indicating the processing temperature.

(2) *Temperature-recording device.* Each still retort shall have an accurate temperature-recording device. Graduations on the temperature-recording devices shall not exceed 2 °F within a range of 10 °F of the processing temperature. Each chart shall have a working scale of not more than 55 °F per inch within a range of 20 °F of the processing temperature. The temperature chart shall

be adjusted to agree as nearly as possible with, but to be in no event higher than, the known accurate mercury-in-glass thermometer during the process time. A means of preventing unauthorized changes in adjustment shall be provided. A lock, or a notice from management posted at or near the recording device which provides a warning that only authorized persons are permitted to make adjustments, is a satisfactory means for preventing unauthorized changes. The recorder may be combined with the steam controller and may be a recording-controlling instrument. The temperature-recorder bulb shall be installed either within the retort shell or in a well attached to the shell. Each temperature-recorder bulb well shall have a 1/16-inch or larger bleeder which emits steam continuously during the processing period. Air-operated temperature controllers should have adequate filter systems to ensure a supply of clean, dry air.

(3) *Pressure gages.* Each retort should be equipped with a pressure gage that should be graduated in divisions of 2 pounds or less.

(4) *Steam controller.* Each retort shall be equipped with an automatic steam controller to maintain the retort temperature. This may be a recording-controlling instrument when combined with a recording thermometer. The steam controller may be air-operated and actuated by a temperature sensor positioned near the mercury-in-glass thermometer in the retort; a steam controller activated by the steam pressure of the retort is acceptable if it is carefully maintained mechanically so that it operates satisfactorily.

(5) *Steam inlet.* The steam inlet to each still retort shall be large enough to provide sufficient steam for proper operation of the retort. Steam may enter either the top portion or the bottom portion of the retort but, in any case, shall enter the portion of the retort opposite the vent; for example, steam inlet in bottom portion and vent in top portion.

(6) *Crate supports.* A bottom crate support shall be used in vertical still retorts. Baffle plates shall not be used in the bottom of still retorts.

(7) *Steam spreaders.* Steam spreaders are continuations of the steam inlet