

# Amalgamation of IGB and EBC Methods

## The Methods

The IGB has had a long history of developing, collaboratively testing and publishing brewing methods of analysis for its membership and use by the International industry. The Institute has two volumes of over 200 methods spanning raw materials, malting, brewing and distilling. The methods cover the major raw materials – barley, malt, hops, yeast, water and brewing adjuncts, the process and the end products as well as hygiene, packaging and waste products.

The methods were last fully revised and published in 1997 and there have been revisions and updates since. The methods are administered by the Institute and Guild of Brewing Analysis Committee led by Professor Richard Sharpe.

## The Rationale for Amalgamation with EBC

The International world of brewing has seen major change over the last 10 years with closures, mergers, takeovers and harmonisation. There are now fewer major players and most of these players have global interests.

As the industry changes there is less room for duplication and in the field of brewing analytical methods there is only really room for one International methodology.

To date the industry has been very fortunate in the availability of methods from:

- the European Brewing Convention (EBC)
- the American Society of Brewing Chemists (ASBC)
- the Methodensammlung der Mitteleuropaischen Brautechnischen Analysenkommission (MEBAK)
- and, of course,
- the Institute and Guild of Brewing (IGB)

Administratively, it has become very time consuming and costly to support the continued improvement, updating and publication of any Methods compilation and in view of the major change in the industry the Institute has taken a strategic decision to amalgamate its methods with the EBC as a first step in creating a world methods compilation.

## Progress to Date

Amalgamation of the two methods books should take about three years. We have already been working on the task for 12 months and I can report excellent progress. As most of you will know, many of the IGB methods are not

that dissimilar from those in EBC and hence the task is more about minute detail rather than key decisions.

However, there are quite a few methods that are unique to the UK industry and the IGB and these methods are naturally being protected and included in the EBC compilation. Examples of these include:-

- the IGB extract method
- the test for glycosidic nitrile

The IGB also has many methods which are not present in the EBC book and hence we are integrating these and at the same time taking the opportunity to update and in some cases improve them. A particularly good example is the Institute's methods for package evaluation.

Microbiological methods are a particular key feature of the Institute's Methods and our team has spent many hours integrating the benefits of the IGB methods into the newly published EBC Microbiologica which is now available on CD. The urgency to publish the new EBC Microbiologica overrode the full integration task and there are still some 30 IGB methods under review and harmonisation.

In terms of overall progress the raw material methods harmonisation is close to completion as is the microbiological, packaging and statistics methods. Wort and beer methods have still a fair way to go but we hope to complete the task sometime in 2004.

In the meantime there is, of course, nothing wrong with the excellent IGB methods as they stand and I urge you to continue using them until the new EBC version is published. At that point I encourage you to buy the new harmonised EBC/IGB methods.

Those of you who have purchased an EBC Analytica will already be seeing a flavour of the harmonisation process in the updates periodically issued by EBC. However, when our task is finished, we will have a superb set of methods and I will encourage EBC to launch their new Analytica in CD version, as well as hard copy. If you would like to obtain the current EBC methods and recent updates these are available from the EBC's publishers as shown in the Appendix below.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the hard work of the Analysis Committee particularly Ann Mundy, Patricia McGeough and Philip Morrall.

Professor Richard Sharpe  
Chairman of the IGB Analysis Committee

## Appendix 1

### Analytica – EBC

Analytica – EBC contains the standardised beer, brewing and raw material methods written in ISO 78/2 format and tested to the same rigorous standards as IOB methods. The current 5th Edition includes more than 175 methods

and was published in 1998. Two updates have been issued since and the prices are shown below.

5th Edition, ring binder, 500+ pages with many illustrations

English language edition 251.00 Euros

First Update, May 1999 43.00 Euros

Second Update, May 2001 58.80 Euros

### **Analytica – Microbiologica – EBC**

Methods in four sections: microbiology, microbiological techniques, yeast analysis and detection of contaminants; hygiene legislation is added as an annex.

Available on CD-ROM only

1 user 99.00 Euros

5 users networked 398.00 Euros

10 users networked 742.50 Euros

25 plus users networked 1732.50 Euros

These publications can be ordered directly from the publishers:

Fachverlag Hans Carl

Postfach 990153, D – 90268 Nurnberg Germany

Tel: +49 (911) 95285-0

FAX: +49 (911) 95285-61

Email: [fachbuch@hanscarl.com](mailto:fachbuch@hanscarl.com)