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Revision of EBC Method 4.12 for Diastatic Power (DP)

Submitted on behalf of the Analysis Committee of the European Brewery Convention

Descriptors: EBC Method 4.12, Diastatic Power

This method for Diastatic Power has been revised to correct an error in the equation for conversion between DP (WK) and DP (°IoB) that had previously been published in IoB method 2.7 (January 1997). It is an important change because a close study of some inter-laboratory ring check schemes revealed that some laboratories were using the equation quoted in the recommended methods to convert, some were using their own correct conversion and others were measuring by both analytical methods without conversion equations. This led to a greater spread of DP results between laboratories and some laboratories with a 10 % offset to others.

The error in the equation to convert DP (WK) units to DP (IoB) units is incorrect by approximately 10 % due to a transcription error in the formula that wrongly showed DP °IoB = (DP[WK] + 16) / 3,5.

In fact that equation should read

DP °Lintner = (DP[WK] + 16) / 3,5.

Converting °Lintner to °IoB uses the equation
DP °L / 1,1 = DP (°IoB).

Therefore the correct equation to convert DP (WK) to DP (°IoB) reads

DP (°IoB) = (DP[WK] +16) / 3,85.

The error was uncovered by analysts at Muntons plc, UK., and in collaboration with the Maltsters Association of Great Britain (MAGB), and the IoB and EBC Analysis Committees, confirmed that the method had to be amended. The revised method was inserted in the 2006 update of Analytica-EBC (published in February 2007) to supersede the anomalous conversion.