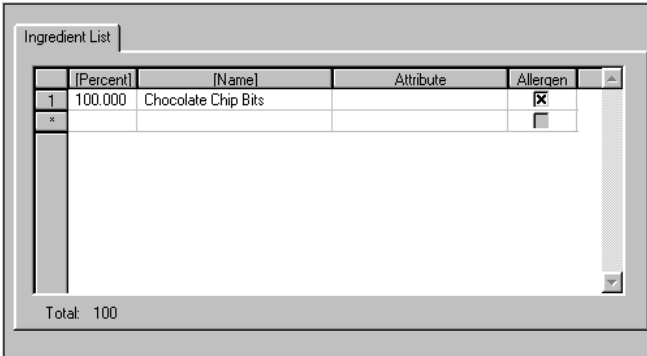

Allergens

Comparing Xspec® 3.1 to Xspec® 4.0

One of the biggest features added to Xspec 3.1 was the allergen information. This feature enabled you to mark an ingredient as containing an allergen. Once a company used that ingredient in a formula specification, the formula specification was also marked as containing an allergen. As a result of the allergen capability, the Ingredient section contained the Allergen field. All a user had to do to was click on the Allergen field for the ingredient's component item that contained an allergen.

The allergen feature in Xspec 3.1 worked great if the ingredient was new and not used in any existing formulas. However, if you changed an ingredient that was used in other formulas, you had to ensure the formulas were also marked as containing an allergen. Xspec 3.1 contains two menu options, *Utilities/Update Allergens* and *Utilities/Check for Allergens*, to help you find and mark the formulas. But what if a user forgot to use one of the update options? How would the formulas be updated? The answer - they wouldn't.



	[Percent]	[Name]	Attribute	Allergen	
1	100.000	Chocolate Chip Bits		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
*				<input type="checkbox"/>	

Total: 100

While creating our new Ingredient Line Statement module for Xspec 4.0, we discovered how important it was that the formula be updated with the allergen information. Our clients wanted to be sure that the ingredient statement on all labels listed all the ingredients that contained allergens. If a label is missing allergen information, then the product will be recalled, costing our clients hundreds of thousands of dollars. And it would cost us our clients.

For Xspec 4.0, we designed a way for companies to mark the individual ingredient components that contained allergens in the database. As a result, every time a user choose that component in the Ingredient section, Xspec marks the ingredient specification as containing an allergen. Xspec also **automatically** marks all formulas that use the ingredient as containing an allergen.

How it Works!!!

The Dataflex Configurator in version 4.0 contains a new module called Ingredients Maintenance. With the Ingredients Maintenance screen (Figure 1 on the right), an administrator enters the names of all the base ingredients and allergens, then links the allergen to the correct ingredients. The screen on the right displays the ingredient *Milk and Skim Milk* being marked with the allergen *Dairy*. By using the Dataflex Configurator to enter allergen information, the system automatically marks the ingredient as containing an allergen in the database.

Once you change information in the Ingredients Maintenance screen, you have the option to view which specifications will be affected by the change. The Ingredients Where Used screen (Figure 2 on the right) lists all the specifications that contain the ingredient you changed. For example, the screen on the right lists all the specifications that contain the ingredient *Milk and Skim Milk*. As a result, you can determine if you want to proceed with the changes or cancel the changes.

Because of the new Ingredients Maintenance module, the Ingredients Section (Figure 3 on the right) has changed. The Ingredients screen is no longer a grid screen. It now contains a hierarchy list of all the base components that make up the ingredient. Although the screen looks dramatically different, the concept is still the same. You now click on the *Add* or *Modify* button and the system displays a pop-up screen. You choose the base component and enter the percentage of the component in this screen, as you did in Xspec 3.1. However, if the base component contains an allergen, the system marks the ingredient icon with a red letter A. For example, the base ingredient *Milk and Skim Milk* in Figure 3 contains a red letter A. Since the system marks the allergen information, you decrease the amount of human error. Also, the system automatically updates all the formulas that use the ingredient. For example, Figure 4 on the contains the *Skim Milk* ingredient which is marked as an allergen.

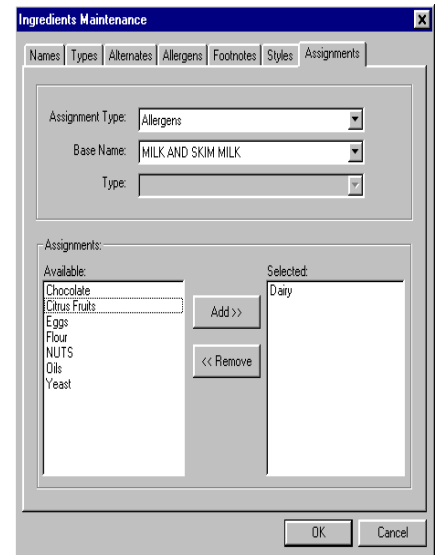


Figure 1: Ingredients Maintenance Screen

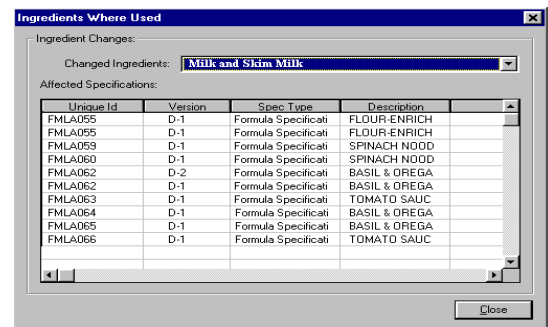


Figure 2: Ingredients Where Used Screen

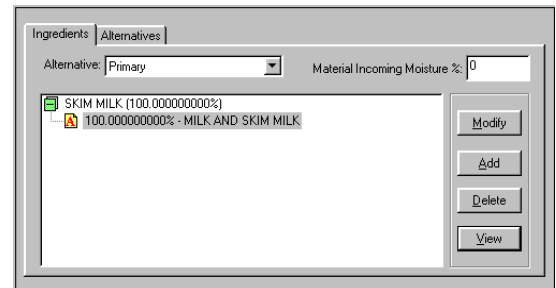


Figure 3: Ingredients Section

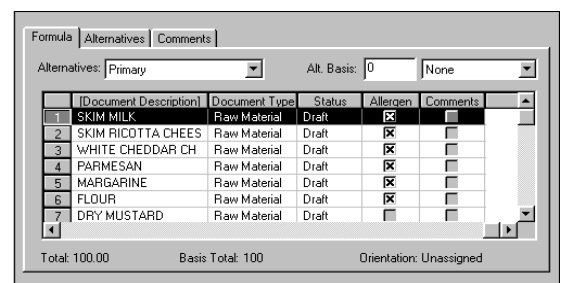


Figure 4: Formula Section

Also in 4.0 is a new Allergen section added to every specification type by Xspec. This section lists all the allergens in the specification as shown in Figure 5.

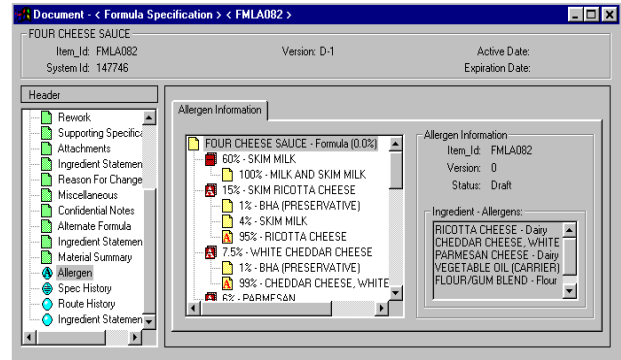


Figure 5: Allergen Section

How Do I Get More Information?

If you would like more information on Xspec version 3.1 or 4.0, please contact your IMAS sales representative at 800-977-3248.

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