New Feature in Xspec® 4.0

One of the biggest features added to Xspec 4.0 is the Ingredient Line Generation. The Ingredient Line Generation Tool enables your company to generate the ingredient statement that appears on labels and packages. This tool consists of a worksheet that you can edit to achieve the desired ingredient statement. Creating an accurate ingredient statement is crucial, since some people are allergic to certain ingredients. 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.

How it Works!!!

The Ingredient Line Generation Tool consists of a worksheet that a user can edit to achieve the desired ingredient statement. In order to use the Ingredient Line Generation Tool, you must setup some ingredient data in the new Ingredient Maintenance screen. The Ingredient Maintenance screen enables you to name all the ingredients that a user can choose. Figure 1 on the right displays a list of ingredients. You simply type in the names of all your ingredients.

There are several tabs in the Ingredient Maintenance screen that your company will use only once. Two such tabs are the Types and Styles tabs. Ingredient types include USDA, FDA, and French Canadian. You may need to create different worksheets for different styles of ingredient statements for other countries. Once you enter all your types of ingredient lines, you design the worksheets. Worksheets determine how the ingredients are displayed. For example, the In Order of Predominance worksheet displayed in figure 3, would list ingredients from highest percentage to lowest percentage. You only need to enter the type and style information once, and chances are you will never delete or change this data.
You also assign alternates to ingredients on the Ingredient Maintenance-Alternates screen. Your manufacturing facilities will need to know all the possible alternates for ingredients in case of shortages of the main ingredient. You can also set the alternates to specific types of ingredient statements. In figure 4 for example, the ingredient, Olestra, may be a substitute for Olive Oil only for a USDA ingredient line.

You add the footnotes on the Ingredient Maintenance-Footnotes screen. Your company may need to list important information about an ingredient on packaging labels. The Ingredient Maintenance-Footnotes screen enables you to enter short statements about ingredients such as, "Not a significant source of Vitamin A and C."

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 chooses 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. The Ingredient Maintenance Assignments screen enables you to assign each ingredient with an allergen. For example in figure 6, Macadamia Nuts has been assigned with the Nuts allergen.

After the setup, you create ingredient and formula specifications. Once you add all the necessary ingredients to the formula specification, you can create an ingredient line. With the specification opened, choose Utilities/Create Ingredient Line from the Xspec menu bar. The system displays the Ingredient Line Worksheet screen.

You use the worksheet before generating your actual ingredient line statement. For example, if a plant uses an alternate ingredient, the alternate must appear on the ingredient statement. In figure 7, the original component for the flour ingredient was plain flour without bleach. An extra bleaching agent was added later. But the plant used the alternate which was Bleached Flour. An employee, using the right mouse button menu, changed the worksheet to use the alternate, Bleached Flour. Since the flour was already bleached, there was no need for an extra bleach agent. The employee clicked on the Bleaching Agent ingredient and chose Not Used from the right mouse button menu. As a result, the icon turned yellow. Although the ingredient line for this plant has changed to print the alternate ingredient, the actual formula REMAINS THE SAME!
You can also create more difficult ingredient line statements. For example, you can insert another ingredient line into the current ingredient line. If an ingredient in a product has its own ingredient line, you can incorporate it into the product ingredient line. Xspec will enter the information from both worksheets on the product label. This activity works well when you have a package meal that contains several items.

The Result!!!

Once you are finished with the worksheet, you click on the Generate button. The system displays the Ingredient Line View screen (figure 8). Click on the OK button to save the ingredient line. You can make several statements for each formula or product. Xspec enables you to produce accurate ingredient statements for all your consumer goods!

How Do I Get More Information?

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