Isomerized Pellets (Type 90 and Type 45)

❖ Overview

- **Iso-Pellets** are a hop product added to the wort kettle during the boiling process. They offer a higher yield as a result of pre-isomerization of the alpha acids during the production process. Isomerization is induced by adding a small amount of food-grade MgO during processing followed by warm storage of the packaged pellets.

- **Iso-Pellets** can replace conventional bittering and aroma products without impacting beer quality. Substantial cost savings are possible with pre-isomerized hop products. In addition, isomerized pellets have a long shelf life.

❖ Specifications

- **Description:** cylindrical pellets made from dried, milled and pressed leaf hops; most of the alpha acids in these pellets have been converted to iso-alpha acids
- **Color**: dull green
- **Iso-alpha acids**: 1 – 25%, a minimum of 90% of the original alpha acids are converted to iso-alpha acids
- **Beta acids**: 1 – 14%
- **Hop oil**: 0.2 – 7.0 ml/100g
- **Moisture content**: 7 – 9%

*dependent on variety and crop year
Product Use

Iso-Pellets are used in a similar way to standard pellets, contributing bitterness and hop aroma to beer.

Dosage

The quantity of Iso-Pellets in an addition can be calculated using the iso-alpha acids content of the pellets and the assumption that utilization, due to pre-isomerization of the alpha acids, is likely to be approximately 50 % higher than that achieved with standard pellets.

Late kettle additions of Iso-Pellets (typically 5 – 20 min prior to the end of the boil) result in the same utilization, but increase hop aroma and flavor.

Addition

Iso-Pellets can be added directly to the wort kettle or hop dosing vessel. Alternatively, owing to their free-flowing nature, additions of Iso-Pellets can be automated. However, measures should be taken to avoid prolonged exposure to air in any bulk handling system. A contact time of about 10 minutes in boiling wort is sufficient to achieve maximum utilization.

Properties

- **Appearance**
  
  Iso-Pellets are dull green pellets, approximately 6 mm x 10 – 15 mm in size (diameter x length). Iso-Pellets are slightly harder than standard pellets, but bulk pellets should break apart easily when the package is opened.

- **Standardization**
  
  The alpha acid content of Iso-Pellets Type 45 can be standardized to specific concentrations during pellet production.

- **Utilization**
  
  Utilization of Iso-Pellets (including late kettle additions) normally falls within a range of 45 –55 % as determined by HPLC.

- **Flavor**
  
  Brewing trials comparing the two types of pellets and backed up by extensive practical experience, demonstrate that beers with identical flavor profiles can be produced when Iso-Pellets are used in place of standard pellets. The flavor depends on the variety, quantity and time of addition. For further information, please refer to the hop variety data sheets.

- **Quality**
  
  All Hopsteiner® products are processed in facilities which fulfill internationally recognized quality standards.

- **Packaging**
  
  Iso-Pellets are packaged in metallized five-layer foil bags which are then packed in boxes. These are available ‘soft’ packs flushed with inert gas (N₂ and/or CO₂) at atmospheric pressure. Pack sizes range from 5 kg (22 lb) to 18 kg (44 lb).
Technical Support

We are pleased to offer assistance and advice on the full range of Hopsteiner® products:

- copies of all relevant analytical procedures
- Safety Data Sheets (SDS)
- assistance with pilot or full-scale brewing trials
- special analytical services

Disclaimer: The information provided in this document is believed to be correct and valid. However, Hopsteiner® does not guarantee that the information provided here is complete or accurate and thus assumes no liability for any consequences resulting from its application.

Analytical Methods

Concentration of Bitter Substances

Iso-alpha, beta and residual alpha acids can be measured using the following methods:
- HPLC according to Analytica-EBC 7.11 or ASBC Hops-15 with the current ICS and ICE standards

Concentration of Hop Oil

The hop oil concentration can be measured using the following methods:
- Analytica-EBC 7.10
- ASBC Hops-13

Storage

Iso-Pellets should be stored at low temperatures (< 5 °C or < 41 °F). Pellets in opened foil packs should be used quickly to avoid deterioration of the bitter acids and essential oils.

Best Before Date

Iso-Pellets are stable for six years from the date they were produced / packaged if stored under the recommended conditions.

Safety

When handling this product, it is advisable to wear a dust mask. Hop pellets are combustible.

For full safety information, please refer to the relevant Hopsteiner® safety data sheet.