Peanut Pastes

Rick Boyce
Seabrook Enterprises, Inc.

On April 13, 1897 the first patent for making peanut butter was obtained by Dr. John H. Kellogg, director of the sanitarium at Battle Creek, Michigan (U.S. Patent 580,787). At the time, it was a recommended diet item for invalids in sanatoriums due to its high protein content, low carbohydrate content and palatability. Joseph Lambert, a former employee at the sanitarium, later began the manufacturing and marketing of equipment for producing peanut butter. This equipment included a small roaster, a blancher (to remove the skins from the peanuts) and a hand-operated nut-grinding mill.

From this very modest beginning, the manufacturing of peanut butter/peanut pastes has grown into a multimillion-pound-per-year industry consisting of processes with the capability of producing over 25,000 pounds per hour of very shelf stable, nutritious, high quality peanut butter. This peanut butter is available from consumer single-serving-size pouches up to 3,000-pound industrial bulk containers. In the near future, if not already, tanker trucks full of freshly produced peanut butter will be speeding down this nation's highways.

MANUFACTURING OF PEANUT PASTES/PEANUT BUTTER

The manufacturing process of peanut pastes involves seven basic steps:

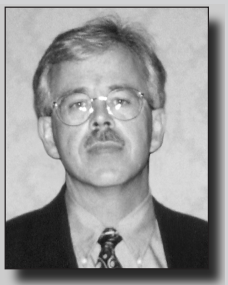
- Roasting and blanching
- Primary grinding
- Ingredient addition
- Refining
- Deaeration
- Cooling
- Packaging and tempering

Roasting and Blanching

Roasting of the shelled, raw redskin peanuts is typically accomplished via commercial gas-fired dry roasters. These roasters are most commonly sectioned into multiple roasting and cooling zones, allowing the operator better control over roast temperatures, hence more precise control of finished-product roast color. The raw

Currently Boyce is director of technical services at Seabrook Enterprises, a position he has held since 1996. He is responsible for process engineering, product specifications and technical sales for the organization.

He joined Pert Laboratories, a division of Seabrook, in 1981, and has worked as analytical chemist, manager of analytical services and director of R&D.



Rick Boyce