



## **IS 920: 1972- COMMON SALT AND CATTLE LICKS FOR ANIMAL CONSUMPTION**

**Dairy producers** require **salt and trace mineral products** that are palatable and can efficiently deliver consistent **nutrition** to their cattle. A **salt lick** is a deposit of **mineral salts** used by animals to **supplement their nutrition**, ensuring that they get enough minerals in their diets. Salt licks can help increase **feed intake**, resulting in improved **milk production** (1).

The Indian Standard **IS 920:1972**, specifies **quality requirements** for **common salt and cattle licks** intended for animal consumption, while also supporting **industrial use** of salt. This standard ensures that salt is suitable, defining it as **crystalline**, white or pale-pink, and **free from any harmful contaminants**. To maintain **quality**, the **moisture content** must not exceed 6%, with a minimum **chloride content** of 94% and no more than 1% **insoluble matter**.

For cattle licks, which are typically **solid blocks or bricks**, the standard requires that they be **durable** and **hygienic**, resisting crumbling while exposed to weather and animal use. **Mineralized cattle licks** must meet additional requirements, providing **essential minerals** such as **iron, iodine, copper, manganese, and cobalt**. The moisture level here is also restricted to 6%, which aids in **preserving** the lick's **integrity** and **nutrient profile**.

To meet **consumer expectations** for **quality** and **safety**, the standard outlines specific **packaging and labeling guidelines**, which include details such as **product name, manufacturer, weight, batch number, and packing date**. To maintain **quality** across batches, **sampling and testing protocols** are defined. These include methods for selecting and testing **composite samples**, ensuring that the product consistently meets set criteria for **nutritional** and **purity standards**.

### *References:*

1. IS 920:1972 – Indian Specification for Common Salt and Cattle Licks for Animal Consumption,
2. *J Kaur et al*, Journal of Animal Research: v.6 n.5, p. 915-919. October 2016.