

# A day in the life of the Araltuz salt facility: high quality iodized salt for Kazakhstan

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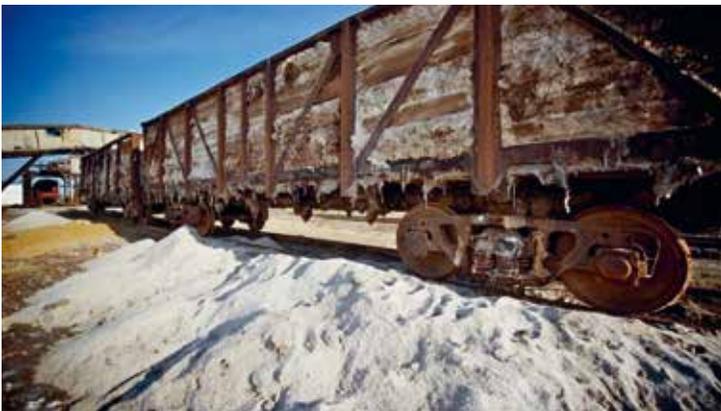
In former times of the USSR, the production volume of Araltuz salt reached 600,000 tons annually. This amount was enough to provide many of the 15 republics of the Soviet Union. Now it's only 250,000 tons which are sold exclusively in Kazakhstan. Times have changed and even its salt has become different...



Salt reserves in the southern basin contain 11 million tons. It'll be enough for another 40-50 years. The lake needs about 35-45 years to completely restock itself. The thickness of the salt layer is about 1.5 meters. Its extraction is held every two years: from May to November. Salt is formed after the evaporation of highly concentrated salt brine.



In 6 months, rubber boots are so corroded by salt, they have to be changed. The salt is located 10 km from a nearby village of 6,000 people. About 100 people work on salt production and transportation. About 700 more work at the Araltuz plant. The monthly wage is about USD\$ 205-235.



Once the salt is extracted, it is put into train cars and transported to a central salt mountain for storage.



The height of the salt mountain reaches 25 meters.



The raw salt goes to the receiving hopper for processing. Then it heads to the shop for grinding and enrichment. Some time ago, when there was no special equipment, salt had a grayish tint. Now it is white.



After that, the salt goes to the drying room, where it's dried by means of hot air.



The salt is iodized.



Every two hours the laboratory checks the salt for iodine content.



The iodized salt is put into polypropylene bags of 10, 30 and 50 kg.



The warehouse of Araltuz accommodates 750 tons. Daily, the plant sends 4-5 railroad cars of salt all over Kazakhstan.