

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of
the United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda Item 5

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME CODEX COMMITTEE ON SPICES AND CULINARY HERBS

Second Session

Goa, India, 14 – 18 September 2015

PROPOSED DRAFT STANDARD FOR CUMIN

Comments at Step 3

Prepared by an electronic Working Group led by the European Union and India with the assistance of Argentina, Australia, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Iran, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Morocco, Norway, Russia, Thailand, United States, FoodDrinkEurope, IADSA, IOSTA.

Governments and international organizations in Observer status with the Codex Alimentarius Commission wishing to submit comments at Step 3 on the Proposed Draft Standard (**Annex I**) are invited to do so not later than **31 July 2015**. Comments should be sent to CCSCS Secretariat, Spices Board (Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India), Email: ccsch@indianspices.com, with a copy to the Codex Contact Point of India, (Food Safety and Standards Authority of India), Email: codex-india@nic.in and to the Secretariat, Codex Alimentarius Commission, Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme, e-mail: codex@fao.org.

Format for submitting comments: In order to facilitate the compilation of comments and prepare a more useful comments document, Members and Observers, which are not yet doing so, are requested to provide their comments in the format outlined in the Annex 2 to this document.

Background

1. The 1st session of the Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH) which met in Kochi, India, 11-14 February 2014, agreed to establish an electronic working group, led by the European Union and co-chaired by India and working in English only to prepare a proposed draft standard for cumin.
2. A first proposal for the proposed draft standard for cumin was circulated to the eWG on 21 May 2014. On the basis of comments received from the eWG members, the chairs prepared a second proposal which was circulated to the eWG on 26 September 2014.
3. Based on further eWG comments, the chairs prepared a final proposal for the proposed draft standard for cumin which attached to this report.

Recommendations

4. The Committee is invited to consider the proposed draft Standard for Cumin attached in Annex I.
5. The attention of the Committee is drawn to certain physical requirements in Table 1 in section 3.2.4 and to certain chemical requirements in Table 2 in section 3.2.5 which remain in square brackets indicating that the eWG could not conclude them.

PROPOSED DRAFT STANDARD FOR CUMIN**N05-2014****(At Step 3 of the Procedure)****1 SCOPE**

This Standard applies to the dried fruits of *Cuminum cyminum* L. of the Apiaceae family offered for industrial food production and for direct consumption, including for catering purposes or for repackaging if required. It does not apply to the product when indicated as being intended for further processing.

2 DESCRIPTION**2.1 PRODUCT DEFINITION**

Cumin is the product:

- (a) prepared from fruits of *Cuminum cyminum* L. having reached appropriate development for processing; and
- (b) processed in an appropriate manner, undergoing operations such as drying, grinding, sifting and cleaning.

2.2 STYLES

Cumin may be offered in one of the following styles:

- a) Whole
- b) Ground
- c) Cracked

2.3 VARIETAL TYPES

Any cultivated variety (cultivar) of *Cuminum cyminum* L. suitable for processing.

3 ESSENTIAL COMPOSITION AND QUALITY FACTORS**3.1 COMPOSITION**

Product as defined in Section 2.

3.2 QUALITY FACTORS**3.2.1 Odour, flavour and colour**

Cumin shall have a characteristic odour and flavour, strong and aromatic according to cumin aldehyde which can vary depending on geo-climatic factors/conditions. Cumin shall be free from any foreign odour or flavour and especially from mustiness. Cumin shall have a characteristic colour varying from ocher gray to light brown.

3.2.2 Infestation

Cumin shall be free from live insects and practically free from dead insects, insect fragments and rodent contamination visible to the naked eye (corrected, if necessary, for abnormal vision).

3.2.3. Classification

Whole cumin may be classified in three classes/grades according to physical and chemical requirements as specified in Tables 1 and 2.

3.2.4 Physical Characteristics

Whole cumin shall comply with the physical requirements as specified in Table 1.

Class/Grade	Extraneous matter ¹ content, max. % mass fraction	Foreign matter ² content, max. % mass fraction	Proportion of damaged/defective fruits ³ , max. % mass fraction	Insect-damaged matter ⁴ , max. % mass fraction	[Fruits with stalks] [% mass fraction]
I	[0,5] [1]	[practically absent] [0,5]	[2] [3] [5]	[0,5] [1]	[8]
II	[1] [2]	0,5	[2] [5]	[0,5] [1]	[8]
III	[2] [3]	[0,5] [0,7]	[2] [5]	[0,5] [1]	[8]

Table 1. Physical requirements for whole cumin.

3.2.5 Chemical Characteristics

Whole and ground cumin shall comply with the chemical requirements as specified in Table 2.

Parameter	Requirement for grade, whole cumin			Requirement for ground or cracked cumin
	I	II	III	
Moisture, % mass fraction, max.	9	[9] [10]	[9] [12]	[9] [12]
Total ash, % mass fraction (dry basis), max.	8,5	10	12	9,5
Acid-insoluble ash, % mass fraction (dry basis), max.	1,5	3	4	1,5
Non-volatile ether extract, % mass fraction (dry basis), min.	15	15	12	15
Volatile oils, ml/100 g (dry basis), min.	2	1,5	1,5	1,3
[Cumin aldehyde content (rel % in volatile oil) min.]	[12]	[8]	[3]	

Table 2. Chemical requirements for whole and ground cumin.

3.3 CLASSIFICATION OF “DEFECTIVES”

A container that fails to meet one or more of the applicable quality requirements, as set out in Section 3.2 (except those based on sample averages), should be considered as a “defective”.

3.4 LOT ACCEPTANCE

A lot should be considered as meeting the applicable quality requirements referred to in Section 3.2 when the number of “defectives”, as defined in Section 3.3, does not exceed the acceptance number (c) of the appropriate sampling plan, as described in Section 10. For factors evaluated on a sample average, a lot will be considered acceptable if the average meets the specified tolerance, and no individual sample is excessively out of tolerance.

4 FOOD ADDITIVES

No food additives and flavourings are permitted in the products covered by this standard.

5 CONTAMINANTS

5.1 The products covered by this Standard shall comply with the maximum levels of the Codex General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed (CODEX STAN 193-1995).

5.2 The products covered by this Standard shall comply with the maximum residue limits for pesticides and/or veterinary drugs established by the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

6 FOOD HYGIENE

6.1 It is recommended that the products covered by the provisions of this Standard be prepared and handled in accordance with the appropriate sections of the Recommended International Code of Practice – General Principles of Food Hygiene (CAC/RCP 1-1969), the Code of Hygienic Practice for Spices and Dried Aromatic Herbs (CAC/RCP 42-1995) and other relevant Codex texts such as codes of hygienic practice and

¹ All vegetable matter from the specific plant other than the required part.

² Any visible and/or apparent matter or material not usually associated with the product.

³ Damaged, Discolored, Shriveled and Immature seeds.

⁴ Cumin seed that are damaged or discoloured so as to affect the quality of the materials and also included seeds showing signs of bores in the seeds as a result of their having been eaten by weevils or insects.

codes of practice.

6.2 The products should comply with any microbiological criteria established in accordance with the Principles for the Establishment and Application of Microbiological Criteria for Foods (CAC/GL 21-1997).

7 WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

Containers shall be as full as practicable without impairment of quality and shall be consistent with a proper declaration of contents for the product.

8 LABELLING

8.1 The products covered by the provisions of this Standard shall be labelled in accordance with the Codex General Standard for the Labelling of Pre-packaged Foods (CODEX STAN 1-1985). In addition, the following specific provisions apply:

8.2 NAME OF THE PRODUCT

8.2.1 The name of the product shall be "cumin".

8.2.2 The name of the product may include an indication of the varietal types and of the style as described in Section 2.2.

8.2.3 The crop year may be indicated.

8.3 LABELLING OF NON-RETAIL CONTAINERS

Information for non-retail containers shall be given either on the container or in accompanying documents, except that the name of the product, lot identification, and the name and address of the manufacturer, packer, distributor or importer, as well as storage instructions, shall appear on the container. However, lot identification, and the name and address of the manufacturer, packer, distributor or importer may be replaced by an identification mark, provided that such a mark is clearly identifiable with the accompanying documents.

9. METHODS OF ANALYSIS AND SAMPLING

Provision	Method	Principle	Type
Moisture	ISO 760:1978 AOAC 2001.12	Gravimetry	I
Total ash	ISO 928:1997 AOAC 950.49	Gravimetry	I
Acid-insoluble ash	ISO 930:1997 AOAC 941.12	Gravimetry	I
Non-volatile ether extract	ISO 1108:1992	Gravimetry	I
Volatile oils	ISO 6571:2008 AOAC 962.1	Gravimetry	I
Extraneous matter	ISO 927:2009	Visual examination	IV
Foreign matter	ISO 927:2009	Visual examination	IV

Sampling Plans

The appropriate inspection level is selected as follows:

Inspection level I - Normal Sampling

Inspection level II - Disputes, (Codex referee purposes sample size), enforcement or need for better lot estimate

SAMPLING PLAN 1 (Inspection Level I, AQL = 6.5)

NET WEIGHT IS EQUAL TO OR LESS THAN 1 KG (2.2 LB)		
Lot Size (N)	Sample Size (n)	Acceptance Number (c)
4,800 or less	6	1
4,801 - 24,000	13	2
24,001 - 48,000	21	3
48,001 - 84,000	29	4
84,001 - 144,000	38	5
144,001 - 240,000	48	6
more than 240,000	60	7
NET WEIGHT IS GREATER THAN 1 KG (2.2 LB) BUT NOT MORE THAN 4.5 KG (10 LB)		
Lot Size (N)	Sample Size (n)	Acceptance Number (c)
2,400 or less	6	1
2,401 - 15,000	13	2
15,001 - 24,000	21	3
24,001 - 42,000	29	4
42,001 - 72,000	38	5
72,001 - 120,000	48	6
more than 120,000	60	7
NET WEIGHT GREATER THAN 4.5 KG (10 LB)		
Lot Size (N)	Sample Size (n)	Acceptance Number (c)
600 or less	6	1
601 - 2,000	13	2
2,001 - 7,200	21	3
7,201 - 15,000	29	4
15,001 - 24,000	38	5
24,001 - 42,000	48	6
more than 42,000	60	7

SAMPLING PLAN (Inspection Level II, AQL = 6.5)

NET WEIGHT IS EQUAL TO OR LESS THAN 1 KG (2.2 LB)		
Lot Size (N)	Sample Size (n)	Acceptance Number (c)
4,800 or less	13	2
4,801 - 24,000	21	3
24,001 - 48,000	29	4
48,001 - 84,000	38	5
84,001 - 144,000	48	6
144,001 - 240,000	60	7
more than 240,000	72	8
NET WEIGHT IS GREATER THAN 1 KG (2.2 LB) BUT NOT MORE THAN 4.5 KG (10 LB)		
Lot Size (N)	Sample Size (n)	Acceptance Number (c)
2,400 or less	13	2
2,401 - 15,000	21	3
15,001 - 24,000	29	4
24,001 - 42,000	38	5
42,001 - 72,000	48	6
72,001 - 120,000	60	7
more than 120,000	72	8
NET WEIGHT GREATER THAN 4.5 KG (10 LB)		
Lot Size (N)	Sample Size (n)	Acceptance Number (c)
600 or less	13	2
601 - 2,000	21	3
2,001 - 7,200	29	4
7,201 - 15,000	38	5
15,001 - 24,000	48	6
24,001 - 42,000	60	7
more than 42,000	72	8

GENERAL GUIDANCE FOR THE PROVISION OF COMMENTS

In order to facilitate the compilation and prepare a more useful comments' document, Members and Observers, which are not yet doing so, are requested to provide their comments under the following headings:

- (i) General Comments
- (ii) Specific Comments

Specific comments should include a reference to the relevant section and/or paragraph of the document that the comments refer to.

When changes are proposed to specific paragraphs, Members and Observers are requested to provide their proposal for amendments accompanied by the related rationale. New texts should be presented in underlined/bold font and deletion in ~~strikethrough font~~.

In order to facilitate the work of the Secretariats to compile comments, Members and Observers are requested to refrain from using colour font/shading as documents are printed in black and white and from using track change mode, which might be lost when comments are copied / pasted into a consolidated document.

In order to reduce the translation work and save paper, Members and Observers are requested not to reproduce the complete document but only those parts of the texts for which any change and/or amendments is proposed.