

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda Item 2

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ORIGINAL LANGUAGE

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME
CODEX COMMITTEE ON PROCESSED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES
28th Session
Washington DC, United States of America,
12 – 16 September 2016

Comments on:

**Matters referred to the Committee by the Codex Alimentarius Commission
and/or its subsidiary bodies
(Matters for Action for the sampling plan of Standard for Ginseng Products)**

Submitted by:

Republic of Korea

Regarding the request of CCMAS, the Republic of Korea would like to suggest the following options to be considered by this Committee for the sampling plan of Codex Standard for Ginseng Products.

Option 1.

The Committee does not provide a sampling plan for the Standard for Ginseng Products.

Rational:

Ginseng products are traded in various units of weight and in many different forms of package including bulk form. So, it is not appropriate to select one plan among the sampling plans described in the General Guidelines on Sampling (CAC/GL 50-2004). If no sampling plan is provided, then one could conclude that it would be up to countries to decide on their own sampling plans.

Option 2.

The Committee could select a variable sampling plan as suggested by CCMAS. In this case, the Committee is recommended to request CCMAS to develop the values of table for the sampling plan.

Rational:

The physical working group of CCMAS36 proposed that a revised sampling plan should be provided by CCMAS for consideration by CCPFV and mentioned that such a plan may be better based on a variables rather than an attribute approach.

Option 3.

The Committee could select different sampling plan for each type of Ginseng Products and insert the section 8.2 in the Standard as below.

Section 8.2

Commodity Category	Method of Sampling	Notes
Dried Ginseng and Dried Steamed Ginseng (main root only)	ISO 2859	Inspection by attributes
Ginseng Extract and Steamed Ginseng Extract incl. lateral root, powdered and sliced type of Dried (Steamed) Ginseng	ISO 3951	Inspection by variables

Rational:

In the *General Guidelines on Sampling* (CAC/GL 50-2004), ISO 2859/1-1985 method is suggested for an attribute sampling plan and ISO 3951/1-1989 for a variable sampling plan. Also, Section 2.5.1.3 (*Compared effectiveness of an inspection for a given defective rate by attributes and by variables*) in the same guideline describes that 'when the quantitative controlled characteristic is normally distributed, it is preferable to select a variable sampling plan in terms of efficacy.

However, Section 2.5.1.4 (*Decision tree for the selection of an attributes or a variables sampling plan*) in the same guideline describes that an attribute sampling plan should be selected when the values of the measurable variable are not distributed in Normal Law or it is hard to judge with certitude that the values of the measurable variable are distributed in Normal Law.

The Standard for Ginseng Products defines largely two types of product, Dried Ginseng and Ginseng Extract, for which compositional criteria differ. The compositional criteria for Dried Ginseng include moisture, ash, and water-saturated n-butanol extracts, while the compositional criteria for Ginseng Extract are solids, water-insoluble solids, and water-saturated n-butanol extracts. Dried Ginseng is the product made from simply drying ginseng roots and its components change depending on the growing condition of ginseng roots. Thus, the quantitative controlled characteristics of Dried Ginseng hardly follow a normal distribution. Besides the compositional criteria, defects for insect-damaged ginseng and moldy ginseng are also considered as quality factors for Dried Ginseng (Section 3.3 of the Standard).