

CODEx ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda Item 3.1

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Original language only

**JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME
CODEX COMMITTEE ON SPICES AND CULINARY HERBS
Fifth Session
Virtual, 20 - 29 April 2021**

Comments from United States of America

Oregano US comments (updated based on recent scientific information):

1. We cannot combine whole and crushed/rubbed into one category, some defects/methods do not apply to both (therefore separated). For example, insect fragments provision does not apply to whole oregano, but applies to crushed and ground. Similarly, visible mold, mammalian/other excreta applies to the whole but not to crushed/ground
2. The defects in whole do not disappear when the product is pulverized into crushed or ground/powdered styles- they are pulverized also. Therefore, zero tolerance for broken styles in ground/powdered style is not feasible. Therefore, we added clarifying language to define N/A so that it will not be misinterpreted as 'zero'

Physical Characteristics/Tolerances for Defects Allowed

Provision	Whole			<u>Crushed/Rubbed Oregano (Class/Grade II)</u>	Ground/Powdered Oregano
	Extra	Class/Grade I	Class/Grade II		
Extraneous matter (maximum % mass fraction)	0.5	2	2	<u>1.0</u>	<u>1.0</u>
Foreign matter (maximum % mass fraction)	0.1	0.1	0.1	<u>0.1</u>	<u>0.1</u>
Tolerance for oregano powder among non-powder styles (% smaller than the particle size indicated) *	5	10	20	<u>20</u>	N/A
Whole Dead insects (maximum number/100 g)	3	3	3	<u>0</u>	0
Insects fragments (maximum number/10 g)**	<u>N/A 300</u>	<u>300 N/A</u>	<u>N/A 300</u>	<u>300</u>	1250
Visible mold/insect damage (maximum % m/m)	1	3	5	<u>N/A</u>	<u>N/A</u>
Live insects	0	0	0	<u>0</u>	0
Mammalian excreta maximum (mg/Kg)	1.0	2.2	2.2	<u>N/A</u>	<u>N/A</u>
Other excreta (maximum mg/Kg) (4)	10	10	22	<u>N/A</u>	<u>N/A</u>

* Particle size is evaluated only upon request accompanied by supporting documents.

Insect fragments is measured by the number of pieces/fragments per 10gm. **The insect related filth refers to 'natural and unavoidable' defects (field pests), not storage pests or other defects/filth as a result of poor cGMPS (current good manufacturing practices).

N/A: Not applicable, means that this form of the above product has not been evaluated for this provision, and currently we do not have values. N/A does not refer to zero.