

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda Item 5.3

CX/SCH 22/6/7 Add.1

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

Sixth Session

Virtual

26-30 September and 3 October 2022

PROPOSED DRAFT STANDARD FOR SPICES DERIVED FROM DRIED FRUITS AND BERRIES (ALLSPICES, JUNIPER BERRY, STAR ANISE AND VANILLA)

Comments in reply to CL 2022/29/OCS-SCH

*Comments of Canada, Cuba, Egypt, India, Madagascar, Philippines, Saudi Arabia,
Syrian Arab Republic, Uganda, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and IOSTA*

Background

1. This document compiles comments received through the Codex Online Commenting System (OCS) in response to CL 2022/29/OCS-SCH issued in June 2022. Under the OCS, comments are compiled in the following order: general comments are listed first, followed by comments on specific sections.

Explanatory notes on the appendix

2. The comments submitted through the OCS are hereby attached as **Annex I** and are presented in table format.

GENERAL COMMENTS

COMMENT	MEMBER/ OBSERVER
Cuba, is grateful for the opportunity to submit its observations on the Proposed Draft Standard for Spices derived from Dried Fruits and Berries (Allspice, Juniper berry, Star anise and Vanilla) and in response to Circular Letter CL 2022/29/OCS-SCH. We support this document, as proposed.	Cuba
India supports the Proposed Draft Standard for Spices derived from Dried Fruits and Berries (Allspice, Juniper berry, Star anise and Vanilla).	India
Madagascar wishes to remove vanilla from this group standard	Madagascar
The Philippines supports the adoption of the text of the proposed draft's scope, description, essential composition and quality factors, food additives, contaminants, hygiene, weights and measures, labelling, and method of analysis and sampling. However, we are proposing minor revision to section 9.2 Sampling Plan.	Philippines

1. SCOPE

This Standard applies to spices derived from dried or dehydrated fruits and berries, as defined in Section 2.1 below, offered for direct human consumption, as an ingredient in food processing or for repackaging if required. This Standard does not apply to these products when intended for industrial processing. The exact species bought/sold may be defined by contractual specifications. (This comment refers to the text in Spanish and suggests interchanging the translation for the word processing (elaboración y procesamiento))	Cuba
Saudi Arabia suggests reconsidering the scope to clarify the intended use (e.g., whether it is used in food processing). It is indicated within the scope that while “this standard doesn’t apply to these products when intended for industrial processing”, it applies to spices “offered for direct human consumption, as ingredients in food processing”. We find these two statements contradictory and would appreciate further clarification.	Saudi Arabia

2. DESCRIPTION**Table 1: Variety of Dried Fruit and Berries covered by this standard**

1st - Insert column to the left to write down name of the Family: Plant Family Allspice Myrtaceae Juniper berry Cupressaceae Star anise Schisandraceae Vanilla Orchidaceae 2nd: replace Vanilla planifolia Andrews with : Vanilla fragrans (Salisbury) Ames. Syn.VanillaplanifoliaAndrews	Egypt
Madagascar wants the vanilla standard to be a full-fledged standard	Madagascar
Modify the title of Table 1: Scientific names of Berries and Dried Fruits	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
Has the committee considered including information about grades in the product descriptions? It is our understanding that not all these species for vanilla are allowable or used in food in some countries. Namely, Vanilla cribbiana may not be familiar to the food industry	IOSTA

2.2. Styles - Ground/powdered; processed into a powder. 2.3. Sizing The particle size of ground/powdered styles is determined by contractual agreement between buyer and seller.	Egypt
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3. ESSENTIAL COMPOSITION AND QUALITY FACTORS

<p>Uganda recommends deleting “1”</p> <p>JUSTIFICATION its already catered for in annex 1 before the brackets in the sentence “....characteristics- Table 1 and physical characteristics -Table 2) I....”</p> <p>Uganda Recommends that the tables under the annex be renumbered</p> <p>JUSTIFICATION Table 1 is already under existence under section 2.1</p> <p>PROPOSED CHANGE the proposed changes to read as “ table 2 and 3” respectively</p>	Uganda
<p>Correct the numbering of the tables in paragraph 3.2.3 to: Table 2 and Table 3</p>	(Bolivarian Republic of) Venezuela

6 HYGIENE

<p>Uganda recommends that the statement “....Annex III Spices and dried culinary herbs and other relevant Codex texts....” is put in brackets</p> <p>JUSTIFICATION it was creating the impression that there was an Annex III attached which was on “ Spices and dried culinary herbs and other relevant Codex texts”.</p> <p>PROPOSED CHANGES The proposed changes to read as “ CXC 75-2015, Annex III Spices and dried culinary herbs and other relevant Codex texts)”.</p>	Uganda
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8 LABELLING

<p>There is some inconsistency- In some draft standards such as ‘nutmeg’, ‘chilli peppers and paprika’, and ‘saffron’- 8.4 is Commercial Identification section and Labelling of non-retail containers is 8.5.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Variety and/or commercial type. <p>Assuming these are required to be declared, we are not sure why variety is optional on food labels but required as part of commercial specs. Other spice standards do not have these commercial specifications.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weight <p>Assuming these are required to be declared, we are not sure why variety is optional on food labels but required as part of commercial specs. Other spice standards do not have these commercial specifications.</p>	Canada
<p>8.2.2 The name of the product may include an indication of the style as described in Section 2.2. (Styles).</p> <p>Uganda Recommends using “shall” in place of “may” in the statement “The name of the product may include an indication....”.</p> <p>The justification is that “the different styles are distinct and might affect trade</p> <p>PROPOSED CHANGES The proposed changes to read as “....The name of the product shall include an indication</p>	Uganda”

9 METHODS OF ANALYSIS AND SAMPLING

<p>India proposes for inclusion of the table for Methods of Analysis.</p>	India
<p>The Philippines proposes that the sampling plan should be included to the draft standard.</p> <p>Reason: This will establish the guidelines of the sampling of dried fruits and berries (allspice, juniper berry, star anise and vanilla) for inspection.</p>	Philippines
<p>Saudi Arabia suggests developing clause (9) “Methods of analysis and sampling “in accordance with the following standards” ISO 11178:1995 -Star anise (Illicium verum Hook. f.) — Specification”, “ISO 5565-1:1999 - Vanilla [Vanilla fragrans (Salisbury) Ames] — Part 1:</p>	Saudi Arabia

Specification” and “ISO 5565-2:1999(en) Vanilla [Vanilla fragrans (Salisbury) Ames] — Part 2: Test methods.	
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ANNEX I**Table 1 Chemical Characteristics for Dried Fruits and Berries**

<p>It is suggested that the chemical Characteristics are as follows:</p> <p><u>Allspice:</u> <i>Cut / Broken:</i></p> <table> <tr><td>Moisture</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>Total ash</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>Acid Insoluble Ash</td><td>0.4</td></tr> <tr><td>Volatile oil</td><td>3.5</td></tr> </table> <p><i>Grounded / Powdered</i></p> <table> <tr><td>Moisture</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>Volatile oil</td><td>2</td></tr> </table> <p><u>Juniper Berries :</u></p> <p>Whole:</p> <table> <tr><td>Moisture</td><td>16</td></tr> </table> <p><i>Cut / Broken</i></p> <table> <tr><td>Moisture</td><td>16</td></tr> </table> <p><i>Ground / Powdered</i></p> <table> <tr><td>Moisture</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>Total ash</td><td>4.5</td></tr> <tr><td>Acid Insoluble Ash</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>Volatile oil</td><td>1</td></tr> </table> <p><u>Star Anise:</u></p> <p>Whole:</p> <table> <tr><td>Moisture</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>Total ash</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>Acid Insoluble Ash</td><td>0.5</td></tr> <tr><td>Volatile oil</td><td>8</td></tr> </table> <p><i>Cut/ Broken:</i></p> <table> <tr><td>Moisture</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>Total ash</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>Acid Insoluble Ash</td><td>0.5</td></tr> <tr><td>Volatile oil</td><td>7</td></tr> </table> <p><i>Ground/Powdered:</i></p> <table> <tr><td>Moisture</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>Total ash</td><td>3.5</td></tr> <tr><td>Acid Insoluble Ash</td><td>0.6</td></tr> <tr><td>Volatile oil</td><td>6</td></tr> </table> <p><u>Vanilla</u> Cut/Broken</p> <table> <tr><td></td><td>1</td></tr> </table>	Moisture	12	Total ash	5	Acid Insoluble Ash	0.4	Volatile oil	3.5	Moisture	11	Volatile oil	2	Moisture	16	Moisture	16	Moisture	15	Total ash	4.5	Acid Insoluble Ash	1	Volatile oil	1	Moisture	10	Total ash	4	Acid Insoluble Ash	0.5	Volatile oil	8	Moisture	10	Total ash	4	Acid Insoluble Ash	0.5	Volatile oil	7	Moisture	8	Total ash	3.5	Acid Insoluble Ash	0.6	Volatile oil	6		1	Egypt
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<p>Rationale: Table 1 already mentioned under Section 2.1.1</p> <p>India proposes following values for Acid Insoluble Ash % w/w (Max) in Allspice:</p> <p>Whole: 1; Cut/Broken: 1; Ground/Powdered: 1</p> <p>India proposes following value for Volatile Oils ml/100g (Min) in Allspice:</p> <p>Whole: 2</p> <p>Rationale: India proposes these values based on availability of the trade data.</p> <p>India proposes following values for Moisture content % w/w (Max) in Vanilla:</p> <p>Whole: 30;</p>	India																																																		

Ground/Powdered: 20 Rationale: India proposes these values based on availability of the trade data. India proposes to delete words "Comments/Other factors" from the last column of the table. Rationale: This is required while discussion in the EWG.	
The percentage of moisture in Juniper Berries and Vanilla not more than 12%	Syrian Arab Republic
Uganda recommends that the tables are renumbered since table 1 was already under existence under section 2.1. PROPOSED CHANGES The proposed changes to read as "table 2" and "table 3"	Uganda
Correct the numbering of the tables in Annex I. It should be Table 2 and Table 3. A value of 7% is proposed for for Total Ash % w/w (Max.) for whole Allspice, given the high moisture value of 12%.	(Bolivarian Republic of) Venezuela
This should be labeled as "Table 2" While we do not have an alternative range to recommend, we would like to note that due to climate change, economic crises, and changes in farming practices since 2016, it is has become increasingly more difficult to obtain vanilla that meets that vanillin ranges listed in this table.	IOSTA

Table 2 - Physical Characteristics for Dried Fruits and Berries

Table 3 India proposes to delete words "Insect Fragments or Other Comments" from the last column of the table. Rationale: This is required while discussion in the EWG. Further, beyond insect fragments, other parameters are also mentioned like size tolerance etc. India proposes NA for both Insect fragments and Rodent hair in Allspice (Ground/Powdered). Rationale: As per discussions during previous sessions of CCSC, Not applicable (NA) means that this form of the above product has not been evaluated for this provision, and currently there are no values. N/A does not refer to zero. 1: Bulk Density- In cases where no bulk density, the value, method, and methodology may be agreed by the traders, India proposes to delete 'bulk density' from the footnote as it is not mentioned anywhere in the Table for physical characteristics, rather 'bulk density' should be moved under table for chemical characteristics. Further, no proper referencing of footnotes is provided in the table.	India
The value of Dead Whole Insects and Excreta Mammalian in SPICES DERIVED FROM Dried Fruits and Berries especially Ground/Powdered form should be zero	Syrian Arab Republic
The physical characteristics of a food product are primarily associated with aspects such as colour, odour, shape, mass, solubility, density, melting point etc. In this context, the table numbered as 2, which should be 3, is not correctly identified as it contains information on hazardous or non-hazardous extraneous matter and its tolerance range in the product. Therefore it is proposed that the title should be modified to: Table 3. Limits for extraneous matter established for berries and dried fruits. It is recommended that the style of the tables in CL 2022/29, CL 2022/26 and CL 2022/28 should be harmonized.	(Bolivarian Republic of) Venezuela
This should be labeled as "Table 3"	IOSTA