

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS

INTERNATIONAL FOOD STANDARDS



Food and Agriculture
Organization of
the United Nations



World Health
Organization

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STANDARD FOR DRIED FLORAL PARTS: CLOVES

CXS 344-2021

Adopted in 2021. Amended in 2022.

The following amendments were made to the text of the standard following decisions taken at the forty-fifth session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission in December 2022.

Page	Location	Original text	Printed text
3	Section 8.4 Labelling of non-retail containers	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>The labelling of non-retail containers should be in accordance with the <i>General Standard for the Labelling of Non-Retail Container of Foods</i> (CXS 346-2021).</p>

1. SCOPE

This standard applies to plant products in their dried or dehydrated form as spices, defined in Section 2.1 below, offered for direct consumption, as an ingredient in food processing, or for repackaging if required. It excludes the product for industrial processing.

2. DESCRIPTION

2.1 Product definition

Dried cloves are a product obtained from the dried floral part of the plant (clove nail) as described in Table 1.

Table 1. Common and scientific name of dried cloves

Common name	Scientific name
Dried cloves	<i>Syzygium aromaticum</i> (L.), Merrill & Perry

2.2 Styles

Dried cloves may be:

- whole; and
- ground/powdered (without any added matter).

3. ESSENTIAL COMPOSITION AND QUALITY FACTORS

3.1 Composition

Product as described in Section 2 above shall conform to the requirements contained in Annexes I and II.

3.2 Quality factors

3.2.1 Odour, flavour, and colour

The product shall have a characteristic odour, flavour, and colour, which can vary depending on geo-climatic factors/conditions, and shall be free from any foreign odour, flavour, and colour especially from rancidity and mustiness.

3.2.2 Chemical and physical characteristics

The generic product shall comply with the requirements specified in Annex I (Table 2. Chemical characteristics) and Annex II (Table 3. Physical characteristics). The defects allowed must not affect the general appearance of the product as regards to its quality, keeping quality and presentation in the package.

3.2.3 Classification (optional)

If traded as classified, the provision in Annexes I and II applies as minimum requirements.

4. FOOD ADDITIVES

Anticaking agents listed in Table 3 of the *General Standard for Food Additives* (CXS 192-1995)¹ are acceptable for use in powdered form of the foods conforming to this standard.

5. CONTAMINANTS

5.1 The products covered by this standard shall comply with the maximum levels of the *General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed* (CXS 193-1995)² and any other relevant Codex Alimentarius texts.

5.2 The products covered by this standard shall comply with the maximum residue limits for pesticides established by the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

6. 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 *General Principles of Food Hygiene* (CXC 1-1969),³ the *Code of Hygienic Practice for Low-Moisture Foods* (CXC 75-2015),⁴ Annex III on Spices and dried culinary herbs, and other relevant Codex Alimentarius texts.

6.2 The products should comply with any microbiological criteria established in accordance with the *Principles and Guidelines for the Establishment and Application of Microbiological Criteria Related to Foods* (CXG 21-1997).⁵

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 *General Standard for the Labelling of Pre-packaged Foods* (CXS 1-1985).⁶ In addition, the following specific provisions apply:

8.2 Name of the product

8.2.1 The common name of the product shall be as described in Section 2.1.

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

8.2.3 Trade name, variety or cultivar may be listed on the label.

8.3 Country of origin and country of harvest

8.3.1 Country of origin shall be declared.

8.3.2 Country of harvest (optional).

8.3.3 Region of harvest and year of harvest (optional).

8.4 Labelling of non-retail containers

The labelling of non-retail containers should be in accordance with the *General Standard for the Labelling of Non-Retail Containers in Foods* (CXS 346-2021).⁷

9. METHODS OF ANALYSIS AND SAMPLING

9.1 Methods of analysis

For checking the compliance with this standard, the methods of analysis and sampling contained in the *Recommended Methods of Analysis and Sampling* (CXS 234-1999)⁸ relevant to the provisions in this standard, shall be used.

9.2 Sampling plan

To be developed.

Annex I**Table 2. Chemical requirements of dried floral parts – cloves**

Product	Style	Total ash % w/w (max) on dry basis	Acid insoluble ash % w/w (max) on dry basis	Moisture content % w/w (max)	Volatile oils ml/100 g (min) on dry basis	Crude fibre, % w/w (max)
Dried clove	Whole	7	0.5	12	17	13
	Ground	7	0.5	10	14	13

Annex II**Table 3. Physical requirements of dried floral parts – cloves**

Product	Style	Mammalian or/and other excreta* (w/w)/ mg/Kg, (max)	Live insects count/100 g (max)	Mould visible % w/w (max)	Insect defiled/ Infested % w/w (max)	Extraneous matter ^a % w/w (max)	Foreign matter ^b % w/w (max)	Defects (Headless ^c /Mother ^d /Khoker ^e) % w/w (max)
Dried clove	Whole	10	0	1	1	1	1	5/6/5
	Ground	N/A	0	N/A	1	1	1	N/A

^a Extraneous matter: Vegetative matter associated with the plant from which the product originates but not accepted as a part of the final product.

^b Foreign matter: Any visible/detectable objectionable foreign matter or material not usually associated with the natural component of the spice plant such as sticks, stones, burlap bagging, metal, etc.

^c Headless clove: Clove consisting of only the receptacle and sepals, and which has lost the dome-shaped head.

^d Mother clove: Fruit of the clove tree (*Syzygium aromaticum*) in the form of an ovoid brown berry surmounted by four incurved sepals.

^e Khoker clove: Clove having undergone fermentation as a result of incomplete drying, as evidenced by its pale brown colour, whitish mealy appearance and often wrinkled surface.

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.

*Excreta from other animals such as reptiles and birds.

NOTES

¹ FAO and WHO. 1995. *General Standard for Food Additives*. Codex Alimentarius Standard, No. CXS 192-1995. Codex Alimentarius Commission. Rome.

² FAO and WHO. 1995. *General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed*. Codex Alimentarius Standard, No. CXS 193-1995. Codex Alimentarius Commission. Rome.

³ FAO and WHO. 1969. *General Principles of Food Hygiene*. Codex Alimentarius Code of Practice, No. CXC 1-1969. Codex Alimentarius Commission. Rome.

⁴ FAO and WHO. 2015. *Code of Hygienic Practice for Low-Moisture Foods*. Codex Alimentarius Code of Practice, No. CXC 75-2015. Codex Alimentarius Commission. Rome.

⁵ FAO and WHO. 1997. *Principles and Guidelines for the Establishment and Application of Microbiological Criteria Related to Foods*. Codex Alimentarius Guideline, No. CXG 21-1997. Codex Alimentarius Commission. Rome.

⁶ FAO and WHO. 1985. *General Standard for the Labelling of Pre-packaged Foods*. Codex Alimentarius Standard, No. CXS 1-1985. Codex Alimentarius Commission. Rome.

⁷ FAO and WHO. 2021. *General Standard for the Labelling of Non-Retail Containers in Foods*. Codex Alimentarius Standard, No. CXS 346-2021. Codex Alimentarius Commission. Rome.

⁸ FAO and WHO. 1999. *Recommended Methods of Analysis and Sampling*. Codex Alimentarius Standard, No. CXS 234-1999. Codex Alimentarius Commission. Rome.