

# CODEX ALIMENTARIUS

INTERNATIONAL FOOD STANDARDS



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of  
the United Nations



World Health  
Organization

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## STANDARD FOR DESICCATED COCONUT

CXS 177-1991

Adopted in 1991. Revised in 2011. Amended in 2022, 2023.

**2022 Amendment**

Following decisions taken at the Forty-fifth Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission in December 2022, amendments were made in Section 9.2 Labelling of non-retail containers.

**2023 Amendment**

Following decisions taken at the Forty-sixth Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission in December 2023, amendments were made in Section 10. Methods of analysis and sampling.

**2023 editorial correction**

An editorial correction was made to Section 3.2.4 to remove the £ symbol before 0.3% m/m, 4% m/m, 2.5% m/m and 15 fragments per 100 g.

## 1. SCOPE

This standard applies to desiccated coconut, as defined in Section 2 below. This standard does not cover salted, sugared, flavoured or roasted products.

## 2. DESCRIPTION

### 2.1 Product definition

2.1.1 Desiccated coconut is the product:

- (a) prepared from substantially sound white kernel obtained from the whole nut of coconut (*Cocos nucifera* L.), having reached appropriate development for processing, without oil extraction in conformity with Section 3.2.4(c);
- (b) processed in an appropriate manner, undergoing operations such as de-husking, hatcheting, paring, washing, comminuting, drying and sifting; and
- (c) described in points (a) and (b) from which oil has been partially extracted by appropriate physical means in conformity with Section 3.2.4(c).

### 2.2 Sizing (optional)

Desiccated coconut may be sized according to their granulometry as follows:

- (a) **Extra-fine desiccated coconut** – desiccated coconut of which not less than 90 percent of the weight shall pass easily through a sieve with square apertures of 0.85 mm, but of which maximum 25 percent of the weight passes through a sieve of 0.50 mm aperture size.
- (b) **Fine desiccated coconut** – desiccated coconut of which not less than 80 percent of the weight shall pass easily through a sieve of square aperture size of 1.40 mm, but of which maximum 20 percent of the weight passes through a sieve of 0.71 mm square aperture size.
- (c) **Medium desiccated coconut** – desiccated coconut of which not less than 90 percent of the weight shall pass easily through a sieve of square aperture size of 2.80 mm, but of which maximum 20 percent of the weight passes through a sieve of 1.40 mm square aperture size.
- (d) **Other sized desiccated coconut** – covers all other presentations including “fancy cuts” or special cuts (i.e. tender or thin flakes, long and thin chips, extra fancy shreds, long shreds, standard shreds, etc.).

## 3. ESSENTIAL COMPOSITION AND QUALITY FACTORS

### 3.1 Composition

#### 3.1.1 Basic ingredients

Coconut as defined in Section 2.1.

### 3.2 Quality factors

#### 3.2.1 Colour and texture

The colour shall be natural white to light creamy white. The texture shall be characteristic of the product.

#### 3.2.2 Flavour

The taste shall be characteristic of the product without off-flavours due to deterioration or absorption of extraneous substances.

#### 3.2.3 Odour

The odour shall be characteristic of the product, shall not be mouldy, cheesy, smoky, fermented or rancid, and shall not possess any undesirable odour.

### 3.2.4 Chemical and physical characteristics

Parameters	Requirements
(a) Total acidity of the extracted oil	0.3% m/m measured as lauric acid
(b) Moisture	4% m/m
(c) Oil content	≥ 60% m/m for desiccated coconut as described in Section 2.1.1 (a) and (b)
	≥ 35 < 60% m/m for desiccated coconut as described in Section 2.1.1 (c)
(d) Ash	2.5% m/m
(e) <u>Extraneous vegetable material</u> : Harmless vegetable matter associated with the product.	15 fragments per 100 g
(f) <u>Foreign matter</u> : Any visible and/or apparent matter or material not usually associated with the product.	Absence in 100 g

### 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, 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.

## 4. FOOD ADDITIVES

4.1 Antioxidants and preservatives used in accordance with Tables 1 and 2 of the *General Standard for Food Additives* (CXS 192-1995)<sup>1</sup> for Food Category 04.1.2.2 – Dried Fruits are acceptable for use in foods conforming to this standard.

4.2 The antioxidant listed below is also permitted for use, under the conditions of good manufacturing practices, in the products covered by this standard.

INS No.	Name of food additive	Maximum level
330	Citric acid	Good manufacturing practices

## 5. CONTAMINANTS

5.1 The product 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).<sup>2</sup>

5.2 The product 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 product 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),<sup>3</sup> the *Code of Hygienic Practice for Desiccated Coconut* (CXC 4-1971)<sup>4</sup> and other relevant Codex texts such as codes of hygienic practice and codes of practice.

6.2 The product 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).<sup>5</sup>

## 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. PACKAGING, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE

Desiccated coconut shall be packaged, transported and stored in accordance with the *Code of Hygienic Practice for Desiccated Coconut* (CXC 4-1971).<sup>4</sup>

## 9. LABELLING

In addition to the requirements of the *General Standard for the Labelling of Pre-packaged Foods* (CXS 1-1985),<sup>6</sup> the following specific provisions apply:

### 9.1 Name of the product

**9.1.1** The name of the product shall be “desiccated coconut” preceded or followed by the common or ordinary name legally accepted in the country of retail sale.

**9.1.2** The name should indicate the oil content of the product in accordance with the description contained in Section 3.2.4(c).

**9.1.3** When applicable, the name may indicate the sizing of the product in accordance with the descriptions contained in Section 2.2.

### 9.2 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 of Foods* (CXS 346-2021).<sup>7</sup>

## 10. METHODS OF ANALYSIS AND SAMPLING

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)<sup>8</sup> relevant to the provisions in this standard shall be used.

## NOTES

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

<sup>2</sup> 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.

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

<sup>4</sup> FAO and WHO. 1971. *Code of Hygienic Practice for Desiccated Coconut*. Codex Alimentarius Code of Practice, No. CXC 4-1971. Codex Alimentarius Commission. Rome.

<sup>5</sup> 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.

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

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

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