

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda Item 4

CRD03

ORIGINAL LANGUAGE ONLY

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME CODEX COMMITTEE ON FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Twenty-third Session

Mexico City, Mexico

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REPORT OF THE IN-SESSION WORKING GROUP ON THE DRAFT STANDARDS FOR FRESH CURRY LEAVES CHAIRIED BY INDIA AND CO-CHAIRIED BY SAUDI ARABIA

India as chair of the EWG, has revised the draft text below upon consideration of comments and recommendations received in response to CL 2024/90-FFV as compiled in CX/FFV 25/23/5-Add1. The amendments and editorial changes based on comments including the edits suggested by codex secretariat to enhance clarity and consistency were displayed for the discussion in the in-session working group as outlined in the Annex 2.

Summary:

The chair of IWG proposed to discuss the draft standards for fresh curry leaves section by section as these standards are in the step 4 and the same was displayed for the discussion. While there was general agreement, the members proposed editorial and alignment comments on the following;

- To align the section 2 relating to definition of produce as per the standard lay out
- To align the section 3.1.1., regarding the foot note as was done in the case of fresh dates
- To shift the bullet points regarding the tolerance under the section 3.1.1 and 3.2.2 to 5.1.2 and 5.1.3 respectively as these requirements are best suited under quality tolerances.
- To change the section 7.2 related non-retail containers in alignment with the standards layout.

The above comments were agreed by IWG and the same were included in the draft standards.

As there were no pending unresolved issues, The IWG recommends the CCFFV23:

- i. To consider the changes/modification made in the draft standard for fresh curry leaves as per the annexure 1 of CRD03 (as highlighted/differentiated)
- ii. To forward the draft standard for fresh curry leaves as per the annexure 1 to CAC48 to adopt at Step 8.

STANDARD FOR FRESH CURRY LEAVES (At Step 4)

1. SCOPE

The purpose of the standard is to define the quality requirements for fresh curry leaves after preparation and packaging. When applied at stages following packaging, products may show in relation to the requirements of the standard:

- a slight lack of freshness and turgidity; and/or
- a slight deterioration due to their development and tendency to perish.

The holder or/ seller of fresh curry leaves may not display such products or offer them for sale or deliver or market them in any manner other than in conformity with this standard. The holder or seller shall be responsible for observing such conformity.

2. DEFINITION OF PRODUCE

This standard applies to commercial varieties of fresh curry leaves obtained from varieties (cultivars) of *Murraya koenigii* (L.) Sprengel of Rutaceae family, to be supplied fresh to the consumer. It does not apply to other forms such as dehydrated, powdered or dried curry leaves. Fresh curry leaves for industrial processing are excluded.

Fresh curry leaves may be:

- attached to small branches and/or twigs which may be bundled;
- as individual leaves loose in containers; or
- leaves in prepackaged in retail containers or/ pouches.

3. PROVISIONS CONCERNING QUALITY

3.1 Minimum requirements

In all classes, subject to the special provisions for each class and the tolerances allowed, the fresh curry leaves must display the following characteristics, deviations from which shall be observed by the naked eye or corrected 20/20 vision¹ when appropriate:

- fresh in appearance;
- intact with stem or/ stalk attached;
- free of abnormal external moisture excluding condensation following removal from cold storage
- properly drained, damp but not excessively wet if washed;
- free of any foreign smell and/or taste;
- sound; produce affected by rotting or deterioration such as to make it unfit for consumption is excluded;
- clean, free of visible foreign matter; and
- free from pests² and damage caused by pests.

The development and condition of fresh curry leaves must be such as to enable them to:

- withstand transportation and handling, and
- arrive in satisfactory condition at the place of destination.

3.1.1 Minimum maturity requirements

The fresh curry leaves must be sufficiently developed pliable and not woody.

3.2 Classification

Fresh curry leaves may be classified in three classes as defined below. When unclassified, the provisions for Class II requirements apply.

¹ Loupe, binocular or other magnifying equipment should not be used when assessing defects.

² Provisions for pests and damage caused by pests apply without prejudice to the applicable plant protection rules applied by governments in line with the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)

3.2.1 "Extra" class

Fresh curry leaves in this class must be of superior quality. They must be characteristic of the variety and/or commercial type. They must be free from defects, except for very slight superficial defects, provided these do not affect the general appearance of the produce, the quality, the keeping quality and presentation in the package.

3.2.2 Class I

Fresh curry leaves in this class must be of good quality. They must be characteristic of the variety and/or commercial type.

3.2.3 Class II

This class includes fresh curry leaves that do not qualify for inclusion in higher classes but satisfy the minimum requirements specified in Section 3.1.

4. PROVISIONS CONCERNING SIZING

There is no sizing requirement for fresh curry leaves.

5. PROVISIONS CONCERNING TOLERANCES

5.1 Quality tolerances

At all marketing stages, tolerances in respect of quality shall be allowed in each lot for produce not satisfying the requirements of the class indicated. Produce that fails conformity assessment may be allowed to be re-sorted and brought into conformity in accordance with the relevant provisions in the *Guidelines for food import control systems* (CXG 47-2003).

5.1.1 Extra class

Five percent (5%) by weight or count of fresh curry leaves not satisfying the requirements of the class, but meeting those of Class I.

The following slight defects, however, may be allowed, provided they do not affect the general appearance of the produce, the quality, the keeping quality and presentation in the package:

- slightly damaged leaves, such as cracks, holes or tears (not exceeding 3 percent by weight); and
- slight defects in colouring (not exceeding 5 percent by weight).

5.1.2 Class I

Ten percent (10%) by weight or counts of fresh curry leaves not satisfying the requirements of the class, but meeting those of Class II.

5.1.3 Class II

Ten percent (10%) by weight or count of fresh curry leaves not satisfying the requirements of the Class II.

The following defects may be allowed, provided the fresh curry leaves retain their essential characteristics as regards the quality, the keeping quality and presentation:

- damaged leaves, such as cracks, bruises, holes or tears (not exceeding 5 percent by weight);
- defects in colouring (not exceeding 5 percent by weight);
- slight lack of freshness;
- slight spots from physical damage (not exceeding 2 percent by weight); and
- missing or loose stalks or stems (not exceeding 1 percent by weight).

5.2 Size tolerances

The difference in length of fresh curry leaves within a package shall not exceed 30 mm.

6. PROVISIONS CONCERNING PRESENTATION

6.1 UNIFORMITY

The contents of each package must be uniform and contain fresh curry leaves of the same origin, variety or commercial type, quality, colour and size. The visible part of the contents of the package must be representative of the entire contents. However, a mixture of fresh curry leaves of distinctly different varieties or commercial types may be packed together in a package, provided they are uniform in quality and, for each variety or commercial type concerned, in origin.

6.2 PACKAGING

Fresh curry leaves must be packed in such a way as to protect the produce properly. The materials used inside the package must be of food-grade quality, clean and of a quality such as to avoid causing any external or internal damage to the produce. The use of materials, particularly of paper or stamps bearing trade specifications is allowed, provided the printing or labelling has been done with non-toxic ink or glue.

Fresh curry leaves shall be packed in each container in compliance with the *Code of practice for packaging and transport of fresh fruits and vegetables* (CXC 44-1995).

6.2.1 Description of containers

Containers shall meet the quality, hygiene, ventilation and resistance characteristics to ensure suitable handling, shipping and preserving of fresh curry leaves.

Packages must be free of all foreign matter and smell.

7. PROVISIONS CONCERNING MARKING OR LABELLING

7.1 CONSUMER PACKAGES

In addition to the requirements of the *General standard for the labelling of pre-packaged foods* (CXS 1-1985), the following specific provisions apply:

7.1.1 Name of produce

Each package shall be labelled as "Fresh Curry Leaves".

7.1.2 Origin of produce

The country of origin³ and optionally, the district where the fresh curry leaves were grown, or the national, regional or local place name may be used.

In the case of a mixture of distinctly different varieties or commercial types of fresh curry leaves of different origins, the indication of each country of origin shall appear next to the name of the varieties or commercial types concerned.

7.2 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).

Each package must bear the following particulars, in letters grouped on the same side, legibly and indelibly marked, and visible from the outside.

7.2.1. Origin of Produce

Country of origin³ and, optionally, district where grown, or the national, regional or local place name.

In the case of a mixture of distinctly different species and/or varieties of fresh dates of different origins, the indication of each country of origin shall appear next to the name of the species and/or variety concerned.

7.2.2 Commercial Specifications

- Class

8. FOOD ADDITIVES

No food additives are permitted in foods conforming to this standard.

9. CONTAMINANTS

9.1 The produce 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).

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

³ The full or commonly-used name should be indicated.

10. HYGIENE

10.1 It is recommended that the produce 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), the *Code of hygienic practice for fresh fruits and vegetables* (CXC 53-2003), and other relevant Codex texts.

10.2 The produce 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).