



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

Eighth Session

SAMPLING PLANS FOR CUMIN AND THYME

(Prepared by the Codex Secretariat)

Background

1. CCSCH2 (2015) agreed to establish an eWG, led by Brazil, open to all members and observers and working in English only, to prepare sampling plans for the inclusion in the standards for thyme and cumin, taking into account the recommendations of the Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS), for consideration at its next session (See [REP 16/SCH paragraph 36](#)).
2. CCSCH3 (2017) agreed to: i) adopt and incorporate the draft sampling plans into the draft standards for cumin and thyme as per annex I of the document; ii. forward the draft sampling plans for Cumin and Thyme for endorsement by CCMAS (See [REP17/SCH Paragraph 57](#)).
3. CCMAS38¹ did not endorse the sampling plans submitted by CCSCH3 since the values in the table did not correspond to those recommended in the *General Guidelines on Sampling* (CXG 50-2004). It was unclear whether the sampling plans provided were being applied to attributes or variable characteristics and requested CCSCH reconsider the values in line with GXG 50-2004 (See document [CX/SCH 19/4/2, paragraph 6](#)).
4. CCSCH4 (2019) noted that:
 - The work was under way in CCMAS on a template for commodity committees to use in developing sampling plans and agreed to await that template before resuming development of such plans for spices and culinary herbs (SCH) ([REP19/SCH paragraph 8](#)).

CCMAS - e-book with the sampling plans applications

5. CCMAS44 (2025) agreed to publish the information document, namely the e-book with the sampling plans applications which aims to facilitate the understanding and implementation of the General guidelines on sampling (CXG 50-2004) and to remove current information document titled "Practical examples of sampling plans" from the Codex website.
6. CCMAS44 also noted the possible need for CCMAS to provide support to commodity committees in their review of sampling plans. (see document [CX/SCH 25/8/2 paragraph 15 and 16](#))

Proposed way forward

7. CCSCH is requested to consider how the outstanding work on sampling can be progressed, noting that CCMAS has now published an e-book with the sampling plans applications (Appendix).
8. The Draft sampling plans can be accessed in [REP17/SCH](#) Appendix II page 28-29 and Appendix III page 33 – 34; Appendix IV page 40 - 41

¹ REP17/MAS para 24

APPENDIX

Sampling Plans

The appropriate inspection level is selected as follows:

Inspection level I - Normal Sampling

Inspection level II - Disputes, (Codex referee purposes sample size), enforcement or need for better lot estimate

SAMPLING PLAN 1

(Inspection Level I, AQL = 6.5)

NET WEIGHT IS EQUAL TO OR LESS THAN 1 KG (2.2 LB)		
Lot Size (N)	Sample Size (n)	Acceptance Number (c)
4,800 or less	6	1
4,801 - 24,000	13	2
24,001 - 48,000	21	3
48,001 - 84,000	29	4
84,001 - 144,000	38	5
144,001 - 240,000	48	6
more than 240,000	60	7
NET WEIGHT IS GREATER THAN 1 KG (2.2 LB) BUT NOT MORE THAN 4.5 KG (10 LB)		
Lot Size (N)	Sample Size (n)	Acceptance Number (c)
2,400 or less	6	1
2,401 - 15,000	13	2
15,001 - 24,000	21	3
24,001 - 42,000	29	4
42,001 - 72,000	38	5
72,001 - 120,000	48	6
more than 120,000	60	7
NET WEIGHT GREATER THAN 4.5 KG (10 LB)		
Lot Size (N)	Sample Size (n)	Acceptance Number (c)
600 or less	6	1
601 - 2,000	13	2
2,001 - 7,200	21	3
7,201 - 15,000	29	4
15,001 - 24,000	38	5
24,001 - 42,000	48	6
more than 42,000	60	7

SAMPLING PLAN 2

(Inspection Level II, AQL = 6.5)

NET WEIGHT IS EQUAL TO OR LESS THAN 1 KG (2.2 LB)		
Lot Size (N)	Sample Size (n)	Acceptance Number (c)
4,800 or less	13	2
4,801 - 24,000	21	3
24,001 - 48,000	29	4
48,001 - 84,000	38	5
84,001 - 144,000	48	6
144,001 - 240,000	60	7
more than 240,000	72	8
NET WEIGHT IS GREATER THAN 1 KG (2.2 LB) BUT NOT MORE THAN 4.5 KG (10 LB)		
Lot Size (N)	Sample Size (n)	Acceptance Number (c)
2,400 or less	13	2
2,401 - 15,000	21	3
15,001 - 24,000	29	4
24,001 - 42,000	38	5
42,001 - 72,000	48	6
72,001 - 120,000	60	7
more than 120,000	72	8
NET WEIGHT GREATER THAN 4.5 KG (10 LB)		
Lot Size (N)	Sample Size (n)	Acceptance Number (c)
600 or less	13	2
601 - 2,000	21	3
2,001 - 7,200	29	4
7,201 - 15,000	38	5
15,001 - 24,000	48	6
24,001 - 42,000	60	7
more than 42,000	72	8