



Food and Agriculture
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World Health
Organization

CODEX
ALIMENTARIUS
INTERNATIONAL FOOD STANDARDS

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS
STANDARD

**STANDARD FOR JAMS,
JELLIES AND MARMALADES**
CXS 296-2009



ADOPTED 2009
AMENDED 2025

CXS 296-2009

History of the standard

2025 Amendments

An editorial change was made to remove paragraph numbers to follow standard formatting.

Following decisions taken at the Forty-seventh Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission in November 2024, INS No. 160a(ii) added in Section 4.3: “Colours”.

Following decisions taken at the Forty-eighth Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission in November 2025, INS No. 102 was added to section 4.3: “Colours”.

This publication was redesigned and published in 2025.

2024 Amendments

Following decisions taken at the Forty-seventh Session of the Codex Alimentarius in November 2024, amendments were made in Section 4: “Food Additives”.

2023 Amendments

Following decisions taken at the Forty-sixth Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission in December 2023, amendments were made in Section 9: “Methods of analysis and sampling”.

2022 Amendments

Following decisions taken at the Forty-fifth Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission in December 2022, amendments were made in Section 8.3: “Labelling of non-retail containers”.

Amendments made prior to 2022:

Amended in 2017 and 2020.

Adopted in 2009.

1 Scope

This standard, which supersedes individual standards for citrus marmalade (CXS 80-1981) and jams (fruit preserves and jellies (CXS 79-1981)) applies to jams, jellies and marmalades, as defined in Section 2: "Description", and offered for direct consumption, including for catering purposes or for repacking if required. This standard does not apply to:

- a) products when indicated as being intended for further processing such as those intended for use in the manufacture of fine bakery wares, pastries or biscuits;
- b) products which are clearly intended or labelled as intended for special dietary uses;
- c) reduced sugar products or those with a very low sugar content; or
- d) products where the foodstuffs with sweetening properties have been replaced wholly or partially by food additive sweeteners.

The terms "preserve" or "conserve" are sometimes used to represent products covered by this standard. The use of the terms "preserve" and "conserve" are thereby required to comply with the requirements for jam and/or extra jam as set out in this standard.

2 Description

2.1 Product definitions

Product	Definition
Jamⁱ	is the product brought to a suitable consistency, made from the whole fruit, pieces of fruit, the unconcentrated and/or concentrated fruit pulp or fruit puree, of one or more kinds of fruit, which is mixed with foodstuffs with sweetening properties as defined in Section 2.2: "Other definitions", with or without the addition of water.
Jellies	are the products brought to a semi-solid gelled consistency and made from the juice and/or aqueous extracts of one or more fruits, mixed with foodstuffs with sweetening properties as defined in Section 2.2: "Other definitions", with or without the addition of water.
Citrus marmalade	is the product obtained from a single, or a mixture of citrus fruits, and brought to a suitable consistency. It may be made from one or more of the following ingredients: whole fruit or fruit pieces, which may have all or part of the peel removed, fruit pulp, puree, juice, aqueous extracts and peel and mixed with foodstuffs with sweetening properties as defined in Section 2.2: "Other definitions", with or without the addition of water.
Non-citrus marmalade	is the product prepared by cooking fruit, whole, in pieces or crushed adding foodstuffs with sweetening properties as defined in Section 2.2: "Other definitions" to obtain a semi liquid or thick liquid.
Jelly marmalade	is the product described under citrus marmalade from which all the insoluble solids have been removed but which may or may not contain a small proportion of thinly cut peel.

ⁱ Citrus jam may be obtained from the whole fruit cut into strips and/or sliced.

2.2 Other definitions

For the purposes of this standard the following definitions shall also apply:

Product	Definition
Fruit	means all of the recognized fruits and vegetables that are used in making jams, including but not limited to those fruits mentioned in this standard, either fresh, frozen, canned, concentrated, dried, or otherwise processed and/or preserved which shall be sound, wholesome and clean and of suitable ripeness but free from deterioration and containing all its essential characteristics except that it has been trimmed, sorted and otherwise treated to remove any blemishes, bruises, toppings, tailings, cores, pits (stones) and may or may not be peeled.
Fruit pulp	the edible part of the whole fruit, if appropriate, less the peel, skin, seeds, pips, etc. which may have been sliced or crushed but which has not been reduced to a puree.
Fruit puree	the edible part of the whole fruit, if appropriate, less the peel, skin, seeds, pips and similar which has been reduced to a puree by sieving or other processes.
Aqueous extracts	the aqueous extract of fruits which subject to losses necessarily occurring during proper manufacture, contains all the water-soluble constituents of the fruit concerned.
Fruit juices and concentrates	products as defined in the <i>General standard for fruit juices and nectars</i> (CXS 247-2005). ¹
Citrus fruit	fruit of the <i>Citrus</i> L. family.
Foodstuffs with sweetening properties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) all sugars as defined in the <i>Standard for sugars</i> (CXS 212-1999);² b) sugars extracted from fruit (fruit sugars); c) fructose syrup; d) brown sugar; and e) honey as defined in the <i>Standard for honey</i> (CXS 12-1981).³

3 Essential composition and quality factors

3.1 Composition

3.1.1 Basic ingredients

- a) Fruit ingredient, as defined in Section 2.2: "Other definitions", in quantities laid down in sections 3.1.2 (a–d) below. In the case of jellies the quantities where appropriate shall be calculated after deduction of the weight of water used in preparing the aqueous extracts.
- b) Foodstuffs with sweetening properties as defined in Section 2.2: "Other definitions".

3.1.2 Fruit content

The following percentage fruit content for jams and jellies specified in 3.1.2 (a) or 3.1.2 (b) shall apply and labelled in accordance with Section 8.2: "Name of the product":

- a) The products, as defined in Section 2.1: "Product definitions", shall be produced such that the quantity of fruit ingredient used as a percentage of finished product shall be not less than 45 percent in general, with the exception of the following fruits:
- 35 percent for blackcurrants, mangoes, quinces, rambutan, redcurrants, rosehips, roselles, rowanberries and sea-buckthorns;
 - 30 percent for soursop and cranberry;
 - 25 percent for banana, cempedak, ginger, guava, jackfruit and sappota;
 - 23 percent for cashew apples;
 - 20 percent for durian;
 - 10 percent for tamarind; and
 - 8 percent for passion fruit and other strong flavoured or high acidity fruits.ⁱⁱ

When fruits are mixed together, the minimum content must be reduced in proportion to the percentages used.

or

- b) The products, as defined in Section 2.1: "Product definitions", shall be produced such that the quantity of fruit ingredient used as a percentage of finished product shall be not less than 35 percent in general, with the exception of the following fruits:
- 25 percent for blackcurrants, mangoes, quinces, rambutan, redcurrants, rosehips, roselles, rowanberries and sea-buckthorns;
 - 20 percent for soursop and cranberry;
 - 16 percent for cashew apples;
 - 15 percent for banana, cempedak, guava, jackfruit and sappota;
 - 11 percent – 15 percent for ginger;
 - 10 percent for durian; and
 - 6 percent for passion fruit, tamarind or other strong flavoured or high acidity fruits.ⁱⁱⁱ

When fruits are mixed together, the minimum content must be reduced in proportion to the percentages used.

In the case of Labrusca grape jam, grape juice and grape juice concentrate when added as optional ingredients, this may constitute a part of the required fruit content.

ⁱⁱ Fruits when used at higher percentages, could render the product unpalatable in accordance with consumers preferences in the country of retail sale.

ⁱⁱⁱ Fruits when used at higher percentages, could render the product unpalatable in accordance with consumers preferences in the country of retail sale.

c) Citrus marmalade

The product, as defined in Section 2.1: “Product definitions”, shall be produced such that the quantity of citrus fruit ingredients used in the manufacturing of 1000 g of finished product must not be less than 200 g of which at least 75 g must be obtained from the endocarp.^{iv}

In addition, the term “jelly marmalade” as defined in Section 2.1: “Product definitions”, may be used when the product contains no insoluble matter but may contain small quantities of thinly cut peel.

d) Non-citrus marmalade

The product, as defined in Section 2.1: “Product definitions”, shall be produced such that the quantity of fruit ingredient used as a percentage of the finished product shall not be less than 30 percent in general, with the exception of the following fruits:

- 11 percent for ginger.

3.1.3 Other permitted ingredients

Any appropriate food ingredient of plant origin may be used in the products covered by this standard. This includes fruit, herbs, spices, nuts, alcoholic drinks and essential oils and vegetable edible oils and fats (used as antifoaming agents), as long as they do not mask poor quality and mislead the consumer. For example, red fruit juice and red beetroot juice may only be added to jams as defined in sections 3.1.2 (a) and (b) made from gooseberries, plums, raspberries, redcurrants, rhubarb, rosehips, roselle or strawberries.

3.2 Soluble solids

The soluble solids content for the finished products defined in sections 3.1.2 (a–c) shall in all cases be between 60 and 65 percent or greater.^v In the case of the finished product defined in Section 3.1.2 (d): “Non-citrus marmalade”, the soluble solids content shall be 40–65 percent or less.

3.3 Quality criteria**3.3.1 General requirements**

The end product shall be of an appropriate gelled consistency, having normal colour and flavour appropriate to the type or kind of fruit ingredient used in the preparation of the mixture, while taking into account any flavour imparted by optional ingredients or any permitted colouring agents used. It shall be free from defective materials normally associated with fruits. Jelly and extra jelly shall be reasonably clear or transparent.

3.3.2 Defects and allowances for jams

The products covered by this standard shall be largely free of defects such as plant material skins (if peeled), stones and pieces of stones and mineral matters. In the case of berry fruits, dragon fruit and passion fruit, seeds shall be considered a natural fruit component and not a defect unless the product is presented as “seedless”.

^{iv} In the case of citrus fruit, the endocarp means the fruit pulp (or flesh) which is often subdivided into segments and vesicas containing the juices and the seeds.

^v In accordance with the legislation of the country of retail sale.

3.4 Classification of defectives

A container that fails to meet one or more of the applicable quality requirements as set out in Section 3.3.1: “General requirements” should be considered as defective.

3.5 Lot acceptance

A lot should be considered as meeting the applicable quality requirements referred to in Section 3.3.1: “General requirements” when the number of defectives as defined in Section 3.4: “Classification of defectives” does not exceed the acceptance number (c) of the appropriate sampling plan with an accepted quality level (AQL) of 6.5.

4 Food additives

Only those food additive classes listed below are technologically justified and may be used in products covered by this standard. Within each additive class, only those food additives listed below, or referred to, may be used and only for the functions, and within limits, specified.

Acidity regulators, antifoaming agents, firming agents, preservatives and thickeners used in accordance with Table 3 of the *General standard for food additives* (CXS 192-1995)⁴ are acceptable for use in foods conforming to this standard.

4.1 Acidity regulators

INS No.	Name of the food additive	Maximum level
334; 335 (ii); 337	Tartrates	3 000 mg/kg

4.2 Antifoaming agents

INS No.	Name of the food additive	Maximum level
900a	Polydimethylsiloxane	10 mg/kg

4.3 Colours

INS No.	Name of the food additive	Maximum level
100(i)	Curcumin	500 mg/kg
101(i)	Riboflavin, synthetic	GMP
101(ii)	Riboflavin 5'-phosphate, sodium	
101(iii)	Riboflavin from <i>Bacillus subtilis</i>	
101(iv)	Riboflavin from <i>Ashbya gossypii</i>	
102	Tartrazine	30 mg/kg in apple jam for the purpose of restoring colour lost during processing
104	Quinoline yellow	100 mg/kg
110	Sunset yellow FCF	300 mg/kg
120	Carmines	200 mg/kg
124	Ponceau 4R (Cochineal Red A)	100 mg/kg
129	Allura red AC	100 mg/kg
133	Brilliant blue FCF	100 mg/kg
140	Chlorophylls	GMP
141(i), (ii)	Chlorophylls and Chlorophyllins, Copper complexes	200 mg/kg
143	Fast green FCF	400 mg/kg
150a	Caramel I - Plain caramel	GMP
150b	Caramel II - Sulphite caramel	80 000 mg/kg
150c	Caramel III - Ammonia caramel	80 000 mg/kg
150d	Caramel IV - Sulphite ammonia caramel	1 500 mg/kg
160a(i), 160a(iii), 160a(iv)	BETA-CAROTENES	15 mg/kg, expressed as beta-carotene, singly or in combination: beta-carotenes (beta-carotenes, synthetic (INS 160a(i)), beta-carotenes, <i>Blakeslea trispora</i> (INS 160a(iii)), beta-carotene-rich extract from <i>Dunaliella salina</i> (INS 160a(iv)) and beta-carotenes, vegetable (INS 160a(ii))
160a(ii)	Carotenes, <i>beta</i> -, vegetable	
160d(i), 160d(iii)	Lycopenes	100 mg/kg
161b(i)	Lutein from <i>Tagetes erecta</i>	100 mg/kg

INS No.	Name of the food additive	Maximum level
162	Beet red	GMP
163(ii)	Grape skin extract	500 mg/kg
172(i)-(iii)	Iron oxides	200 mg/kg
183	Jagua (Genipin-Glycine) blue	120 mg/kg On a blue polymer basis

4.4 Preservatives

INS No.	Name of the food additive	Maximum level
200, 202, 203	Sorbates	1 000 mg/kg
210-213	Benzoates	1 000 mg/kg
220-225, 539	Sulphites	50 mg/kg as residual SO ₂ in the end product, except when made with sulphited fruit when a maximum level of 100 mg/kg is permitted in the end product

4.5 Flavourings

The following flavourings are acceptable for use in foods conforming to this standard when used in accordance with good manufacturing practices and in compliance with the *Guidelines for the use of flavourings* (CXG 66-2008):⁵ natural flavourings that are extracted from the named fruits in the respective product; natural mint flavouring; natural cinnamon flavouring; vanillin, vanilla or vanilla extracts.

5 Contaminants

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).⁶

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

6 Hygiene

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)⁷ and other relevant Codex texts such as codes of hygienic practice and codes of practice.

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).⁸

7 Weights and measures

7.1 Fill of container

7.1.1 Minimum fill

The container should be well filled with the product which should occupy not less than 90 percent (minus any necessary head space according to good manufacturing practices) of the water capacity of the container. The water capacity of the container is the volume of distilled water at 20 °C which the sealed container will hold when completely filled.

7.1.2 Classification of defectives

A container that fails to meet the requirement for minimum fill of Section 7.1.1: “Minimum fill” should be considered as defective.

7.1.3 Lot acceptance

A lot should be considered as meeting the requirement of Section 7.1.1: “Minimum fill” when the number of defectives, as defined in Section 7.1.2: “Classification of defectives”, does not exceed the acceptance number (c) of the appropriate sampling plan with an acceptable quality level (AQL) of 6.5.

8 Labelling

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).⁹ In addition, the following specific provisions apply:

8.1 Name of the product

The names of the products shall be:

In the case of Section 3.1.2 (a):

- jam (or preserve or conserve, if appropriate);^{vi}
- extra jam (preserve or conserve, if appropriate);^{vii}
- high fruit jam (preserve or conserve, if appropriate);^{viii}
- jelly; and
- extra jelly.

In the case of Section 3.1.2 (b):

- jam (or preserve^{ix} or conserve^x or fruit spread); and
- jelly (or fruit spread).

In the case of Section 3.1.2 (c):

- marmalade or jelly marmalade.

In the case of Section 3.1.2 (d):

- “X” marmalade (“X” is a non-citrus fruit).

The name used should be in accordance with the legislation of the country of retail sale.

The name of the product shall provide an indication of the fruit(s) used in descending order of weight of the raw material used. In the case of products made with three or more different fruits, the alternative phrase “mixed fruit” or similar wording or by the number of fruits may be used.

The name of the product may provide an indication of the variety of fruit e.g. “Victoria” plum and/or may include an adjective describing the character e.g. “seedless”, “shredless”.

The name of the product shall be accompanied by the term “prepared with added alcohol” in accordance with the legislation of the country of retail sale.

8.2 Fruit quantity and sugar declaration

Depending on the legislation or requirements of the country of retail sale, the products covered by this standard may also give an indication of the fruit ingredient content in the form of “prepared with X g of fruit per 100 g” and the total sugar content with the phrase “total sugar content X g per 100 g”. If an indication of fruit content is given, this should relate to the quantity and type of fruit ingredient used in the product as sold with a deduction for the weight of any water used in preparing the aqueous extracts.

^{vi to x} The provision in parenthesis applies only to the English version of the standard.

8.3 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).¹⁰

9 Methods of analysis and sampling

9.1 Methods of analysis

For checking compliance with this standard, the methods of analysis and sampling contained in the *Recommended methods of analysis and sampling* (CXS 234-1999)¹¹ relevant to the provisions in this standard shall be used.

9.2 Sampling

As described in the standard.

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

Referenced texts

- 1 *General standard for fruit juices and nectars (CXS 247-2005).*
- 2 *Standard for sugars (CXS 212-1999).*
- 3 *Standard for honey (CXS 12-1981).*
- 4 *General standard for food additives (CXS 192-1995).*
- 5 *Guidelines for the use of flavourings (CXG 66-2008).*
- 6 *General standard for contaminants and toxins in food and feed (CXS 193-1995).*
- 7 *General principles of food hygiene (CXC 1-1969).*
- 8 *Principles and guidelines for the establishment and application of microbiological criteria related to foods (CXG 21-1997).*
- 9 *General standard for the labelling of pre-packaged foods (CXS 1-1985).*
- 10 *General standard for the labelling of non-retail containers of foods (CXS 346-2021).*
- 11 *Recommended methods of analysis and sampling (CXS 234-1999).*

Codex Alimentarius

A collection of international food standards developed to protect consumer health and ensure fair practices in the food trade. Codex standards are adopted by the Codex Alimentarius Commission, an intergovernmental body with 189 Members, established by FAO and WHO. The standards are recognized by the World Trade Organization as the benchmark for the safety of internationally traded food.

Codex Secretariat

Contacts

codex@fao.org
codexalimentarius.org
x.com/FAOWHOCodex
youtube.com/@UNFAO

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Rome, Italy