



**JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME
CODEX COMMITTEE ON SPICES AND CULINARY HERBS
3rd Session**

Chennai, India, 6 -10 February 2017

Draft Standard for Cumin

Comments at Step 6 (Replies to [CL 2016/23-SCH](#))

(Comments of Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Egypt, India, Mexico and IOSTA)

Background

1. This document compiles comments received through the Codex Online Commenting System (OCS) in response to [CL 2016/23-SCH](#) issued in July 2016 (**Annex I**). Under the OCS, comments are compiled in the following order: general comments are listed first, followed by comments on specific paragraphs.

Guidance for interpreting Reconciliation report

2. The comments submitted through the OCS have been compiled in the Reconciliation report, hereby attached as **Annex I**.

3. Under the OCS, each paragraph of the **draft standard** is assigned a number (i.e. the title, section, subsections, texts, footnotes and in case of tables each grid).

4. For ease of reference, the draft standard¹ has been reproduced with automatic paragraph numbers as assigned by the OCS and is hereby attached as **Annex II**.

5. Columns under **Annex I** are headed as follows:

- **“Para”** refers to the paragraph number assigned to the draft standard by the OCS (the paragraph number can be found in Annex II).
- **“Text”** refers to the text of the paragraph on which a proposed change or comment has been made. This text can be either the original text (if only a comment has been made), or the proposed text (if a textual modification has also been suggested).
- **“T”** refers to the comments classification. **C** is when users provide only a comment, while **P** is when they also suggest a proposed change. In the first case, the original text with an explanation has been inserted in the system; in the second case, the revised text with or without an explanation has been inserted.
- **“Comment”** includes the comment category, the author and the full text of the comment.

6. It is recommended that the Reconciliation report (Annex I) is read side by side or in conjunction with Annex II.

¹ [REP16/SCH, Appendix III](#)

RECONCILIATION REPORT FOR DRAFT STANDARD FOR CUMIN

Para	Text	T	Comment
G	(General Comment)	C	EDITORIAL Costa Rica has no comments
G	(General Comment)	C	EDITORIAL Bolivia (Plurinational State of) Bolivia has no comments
G	(General Comment)	C	TRANSLATION Paraguay Use the expression "Formas de presentación" instead of "estilos" throughout the Spanish version of the document because it is commonly used in the CODEX standards
G	(General Comment)	C	EDITORIAL Costa Rica Costa Rica has no comments
4	This Standard applies to dried fruits of any cultivated varieties (cultivars) of <i>Cuminum cyminum</i> L. of the <i>Apiaceae</i> family offered for industrial food production and for direct consumption, or for repackaging if required. [It does not apply to the product when indicated as being intended for further processing, <u>during which other substances may be added to the mix, to change the natural chemical composition of the product.</u>]	P	TECHNICAL Ecuador It is important to specify that if the cumin is intended for further processing can change the chemical composition that is the principal reason why the proposed drafts do not apply to it.
4	This Standard applies to dried fruits of any cultivated varieties (cultivars) of <i>Cuminum cyminum</i> L. of the <i>Apiaceae</i> family offered for industrial food production and for direct consumption, or for repackaging if required. [It does not apply to the product when indicated as being intended for further processing.]	C	TECHNICAL Chile Regarding the sentence [It does not apply to the product when indicated as being intended for further processing.], the concept of "further processing" is not clear, neither its implications. Therefore, it would be useful to define this concept, in order to better determine the scope of this standard.
4	This Standard applies to dried fruits of any cultivated varieties (cultivars) of <i>Cuminum cyminum</i> L. of the <i>Apiaceae</i> family offered for industrial food production and for direct consumption, or for repackaging if required. [It does not apply to the product when indicated as being intended for further processing.] It excludes Cumin intended for further industrial processing.]	P	TECHNICAL India The scope of the standard does not apply for the products when indicated as being intended for further processing, hence the statement is not appropriate.
4	This Standard applies to dried fruits of any cultivated varieties (cultivars) of <i>Cuminum cyminum</i> L. of the <i>Apiaceae</i> family offered for industrial food production and for direct consumption, or for repackaging if required. [It does not apply to the product when indicated as being intended for further processing.]	C	EDITORIAL Mexico Mexico proposes to add "seeds" as they are also consumed.

4	This Standard applies to dried fruits or seeds of any cultivated varieties (cultivars) of <i>Cuminum cyminum</i> L. of the <i>Apiaceae</i> family offered for industrial food production and for direct consumption, or for repackaging if required. [It does not apply to the product when indicated as being intended for further processing.]	P	EDITORIAL Mexico
4	This Standard applies to dried fruits of any cultivated varieties (cultivars) of <i>Cuminum cyminum</i> L. of the <i>Apiaceae</i> family offered for industrial food production and for direct consumption, or for repackaging if required. [It does not apply to the product when indicated as being intended for further processing.]	C	EDITORIAL Egypt Keep the sentence: [It does not apply to the product when indicated as being intended for further processing.]
10	a) Whole / intact	P	EDITORIAL Paraguay It is considered that the term does not need clarification
22	Cumin shall be free from live insects and practically free from insects , dead insects, insect fragments and rodent contamination visible to the naked eye (corrected, if necessary, for abnormal vision).	P	TECHNICAL Ecuador
22	Cumin must be free of live insects and practically free of dead insects, insect fragments and rodent contamination visible to the naked eye (with glasses, for those who use them).	C	EDITORIAL Honduras Practically free of dead insects. It is a measure that generates doubt: It must be stated free of dead insects or not. Practically free it is subjective
22	Cumin must be free of live insects and practically free of dead insects, insect fragments and rodent contamination visible to the naked eye (with glasses, for those who use them).	C	TECHNICAL Paraguay Clarification is requested, at the technical practically is considered permissive and subjective having in account that contamination mainly by rodents may present a significant risk
24	Whole cumin may be classified in three classes / grades according to physical and chemical requirements as specified in Tables 1 and 2.	C	TECHNICAL Ecuador Re-evaluate the classes/grades with the observation in Table
28	Table 1. Physical requirements for whole cumin	C	TECHNICAL Ecuador Another column to specify the physical requirements for ground cumin; especially to the extraneous matter content and foreign matter content parameters, with the objective to facilitate their commercialization.
37	410	P	EDITORIAL Ecuador According to the national normative, Ecuador suggests to change the value to specify the extraneous matter content maximum, whole cumin, class/grade I of 1 to 10. 1 is a value too low to comply during the product commercialization.
42	practically absent	P	TECHNICAL India The Committee can suggest a value (less than 0.5) rather than

			saying "practically absent" which may vary with the individual perception, hence a uniform decision cannot be taken when the standard gets its approval for the intended use.
42	practically absent	C	<i>EDITORIAL</i> IOSTA recommend a numerical definition, such as 0.1
42	practically absent	C	<i>TECHNICAL</i> Mexico These values are proposed because it is very difficult to achieve a lower level, and the phrase Practically absent, is subjective.
42	practically absent ⁴	P	<i>TECHNICAL</i> Mexico
43	0.54	P	<i>TECHNICAL</i> Mexico
44	0.54	P	<i>TECHNICAL</i> Mexico
45	Proportion of damaged/defective fruits fruits or seeds ³ , maximum.% mass fraction	P	<i>EDITORIAL</i> Mexico
52	40	P	<i>TECHNICAL</i> Mexico
52	40	P	<i>TECHNICAL</i> Mexico
53	40	P	<i>TECHNICAL</i> Mexico
54	40	P	<i>EDITORIAL</i> Mexico
85	1.3 ^{1.0}	P	<i>TECHNICAL</i> India In this draft standard, for whole and cracked cumin, the requirement of volatile oils is minimum 1.5 for grade II and grade III. If those grades used in production of ground cumin, volatile oil will be lost due to heat generated in grinding. Hence volatile oils limit to be reduced to minimum 1.0 for ground cumin.
87	A sample batch that does not meet one or more of the applicable quality requirements, as set out in Section 3.2 must be considered as "defective". (except those based on sample average)	P	<i>SUBSTANTIVE</i> Paraguay
89	It is considered that a batch meets the applicable quality requirements specified in Section 3.2 when the number of "defectives", as defined in section 3.3 does not exceed the acceptance number of the appropriate sampling plan.	P	<i>TECHNICAL</i> Paraguay It is proposed to eliminate the average evaluation as it could cause inclusion of lots with high percentages of defectives; also the

	For the factors assessed in a sample average, the batch shall be considered acceptable, if the average meets the specified tolerance and no individual sample is excessively out of tolerance.		sentence excessively out of tolerance would be very subjective.
96	6.1 It is recommended that The products covered by the provisions of this standard (be prepared and handled) must be handled in accordance with the General Principles of Food Hygiene (CAC/RCP 1-1969), the Code of Hygienic Practice for Spices and Dried Aromatic Herbs (CAC/RCP 42-1995) and other relevant Codex texts such as codes of hygienic practice and codes of practice.	P	<i>SUBSTANTIVE</i> Paraguay
99	Containers must be as practical as possible, without quality defect and must be compatible with a an adequate declaration of the content.	P	<i>EDITORIAL</i> Paraguay
112	ISO 938:1980	C	<i>Category : EDITORIAL</i> IOSTA we believe the correct method is ISO 939
116	Distillation	C	<i>EDITORIAL</i> Egypt Distillation and/or Gravimetry

[1] DRAFT STANDARD FOR CUMIN**[2] (at Step 6 of the Procedure)****[3]1 SCOPE**

[4] This Standard applies to dried fruits of any cultivated varieties (cultivars) of *Cuminum cyminum* L. of the *Apiaceae* family offered for industrial food production and for direct consumption, or for repackaging if required. [It does not apply to the product when indicated as being intended for further processing.]

[5]2 DESCRIPTION**[6]2.1 Product Definition**

[7] Cumin is the product prepared from fruits of *Cuminum cyminum* L. having reached appropriate degree of development for processing; and processed in an appropriate manner, undergoing operations such as cleaning, drying, grinding and sifting.

[8]2.2 Styles

[9] Cumin may be offered in one of the following styles:

- a) [10] Whole / intact
- b) [11] Cracked: broken into two or more pieces.
- c) [12] Ground: processed into powders

[13]2.3 Varietal Types

[14] Not applicable

[15]3 ESSENTIAL COMPOSITION AND QUALITY FACTORS**[16]3.1 Composition**

[17] Product as defined in Section 2.

[18]3.2 Quality Factors**[19]3.2.1 Odour, flavour and colour**

[20] Cumin shall have a characteristic aroma and flavour which can vary depending on geo-climatic factors/conditions. Cumin shall be free from any foreign odour or flavour and especially from mustiness. Cumin shall have a characteristic colour varying from light grey to dark brown.

[21]3.2.2 Infestation

[22] Cumin shall be free from live insects and practically free from dead insects, insect fragments and rodent contamination visible to the naked eye (corrected, if necessary, for abnormal vision).

[23]3.2.3. Classification

[24] Whole cumin may be classified in three classes / grades according to physical and chemical requirements as specified in Tables 1 and 2.

[25] When ungraded, the provisions for Class / Grade III requirements apply as the minimum requirements.

[26]3.2.4 Physical Characteristics

[27] Whole cumin shall comply with the physical requirements specified in Table 1.

[28]Table 1. Physical requirements for whole cumin

[29]Parameter	[30]Class/Grade		
	[31] [32]I	[33]II	[34]III
[35]Extraneous matter ² content, maximum.% mass fraction	[37]1	[38]2	[39]3
[40]Foreign matter ³ content, maximum.% mass fraction	[42]practically absent	[43]0.5	[44]0.5
[45]Proportion of damaged/defective fruits ⁴ , maximum.% mass fraction	[47]5	[48]5	[49]5
[50]Insect-damaged matter ⁵ , maximum. % mass fraction	[52]1	[53]1	[54]1

[55]**3.2.5 Chemical Characteristics**

[56]Whole, cracked and ground cumin shall comply with the chemical requirements specified in Table 2.

[57]Table 2. Chemical requirements for whole, cracked and ground cumin

[58]Parameter	[59]Requirement for grade, whole and cracked cumin			[60]Requirement for ground cumin
	[61] [62]I	[63]II	[64]III	
[66]Moisture, % mass fraction, maximum				
[67]10	[68]10	[69]10	[70]10	
[71]Total ash, % mass fraction (dry basis), maximum	[72]8.5	[73]10	[74]12	[75]9.5
[76]Acid-insoluble ash, % mass fraction (dry basis), maximum	[77]1.5	[78]3	[79]4	[80]1.5
[81]Volatile oils, ml/100 g (dry basis), minimum	[82]2	[83]1.5	[84]1.5	[85]1.3

[86]**3.3 Classification of “Defectives”**

[87]A lot sample that fails to meet one or more of the applicable quality requirements, as set out in Section 3.2 (except those based on sample averages), should be considered as a “defective”.

[88]**3.4 Lot Acceptance**

[89]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 of the appropriate sampling plan. For factors evaluated on a sample average, a lot will be considered acceptable if the average meets the specified tolerance, and no individual sample is excessively out of tolerance.

[90]**4 FOOD ADDITIVES**

[91]No food additives and flavourings are permitted in the products covered by this standard.

[92]**5 CONTAMINANTS**

[93]**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* (CODEX STAN 193-1995).

[94]**5.2** The products covered by this Standard shall comply with the maximum residue limits for pesticides established by the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

[36]² All vegetable matter from the specific plant other than the required part.

[41]³ Any visible and/or apparent matter or material not usually associated with the product.

[46]⁴ Damaged, discolored, shriveled and immature seeds.

[51]⁵ Cumin seeds that are damaged, discoloured or showing signs of bores as a result of infestation of insects so as to affect the quality of the materials.

[95]6 FOOD HYGIENE

[96]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* (CAC/RCP 1-1969), the *Code of Hygienic Practice for Spices and Dried Aromatic Herbs* (CAC/RCP 42-1995) and other relevant Codex texts such as codes of hygienic practice and codes of practice.

[97]6.2 The products should comply with any microbiological criteria established in accordance with the *Principles for the Establishment and Application of Microbiological Criteria for Foods* (CAC/GL 21-1997).

[98]7 WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

[99]Containers shall be as full as practicable without impairment of quality and shall be consistent with a proper declaration of contents for the product.

[100]8 LABELLING

[101]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* (CODEX STAN 1-1985). In addition, the following specific provisions apply:

[102]8.2 Name of the Product

[103]8.2.1 The name of the product shall be "cumin".

[104]8.2.2 The name of the product may include an indication of the style as described in Section 2.2.

[105]8.3 Labelling of Non-Retail Containers

[106]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. 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.

[107]9 METHODS OF ANALYSIS AND SAMPLING

[108]Provision	[109]Method	[110]Principle
[111]Moisture	[112]ISO 938:1980 [113]Alternative: [114]AOAC 2001.12 [115]ASTA 2.0	[116]Distillation
[117]Total ash	[118]ISO 928:1997 [119]Alternative: [120]AOAC 950.49 [121]ASTA 3.0	[122]Gravimetry
[123]Acid-insoluble ash	[124]ISO 930:1997 [125]Alternative: [126]ASTA 4.0	[127]Gravimetry
[128]Volatile oils	[129]ISO 6571:2008 [130]Alternative: [131]AOAC 962.17 [132]ASTA 5.0	[133]Distillation
[134]Extraneous vegetable material	[135]ISO 927:2009 [136]Alternative: [137]ASTA 14.1	[138]Visual examination
[139]Foreign matter	[140]ISO 927:2009	[141]Visual examination
[142]Insect damage	[143]Method V-8 Spices, Condiments, Flavors and Crude Drugs [144](Macroanalytical Procedure Manual, [145]FDA Technical Buletin Number 5)	[146]Visual examination

[147]9.2 Sampling Plan

[148][To be developed]