



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

3rd Session

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DRAFT SAMPLING PLANS FOR SPICES (CUMIN AND THYME)

(Prepared by Brazil [assisted](#) by Chile, China, European Union, France, Greece, India, Italy, Japan, Poland, Republic of Korea, IOSTA)

INTRODUCTION

1. The Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH) at its 2nd Session (September 2015) approved the establishment of an electronic working group (EWG) led by Brazil to prepare sampling plans for the inclusion in the standards for thyme and cumin to the next session of the CCSCH to assist in its future decisions.

2. For such purpose, the Committee highlighted the need to take into account the recommendations of the Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS)¹, specifically:

“Commodity committees should be discouraged from simply referencing the Guidelines on Sampling (CAC/GL 50-2004), but be encouraged to develop their own sampling plans and in doing so, should use CAC/GL 50-2004 and the Principles for the Establishment or Selection of Codex Sampling Procedures (Procedural Manual). Should commodity committees not be in a position to do so, CCMAS would be able to elaborate such sampling plans provided that the commodity committees provided information on the AQL or LQ. In cases where committees were no longer active, CCMAS could undertake the development of sampling plans where necessary”.

BACKGROUND AND OUTCOME OF THE WORK

3. The EWG-SAMPLING conducted its work in a set of three questionnaires to propose and reassess the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS).

4. The EWG reached the following conclusions which guided its work:

- There was no support for a solo reference to ISO 948:1980; and
- The best approach would be to consider the general procedures to take samples for spices as in ISO 948:1980 and to further elaborate a sampling plan for Cumin and Thyme.

5. The discussions in the EWG also tried to evaluate whether the Sampling Plans adopted in the Standards by the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables could be used in the Standards of Thyme and Cumin; or if it would be a better strategy to elaborate the Sampling Plans for Thyme and Cumin as described in the *General Guidelines on Sampling* (CAC/GL 50-2004).

6. Such proposals did not receive any comment and/or submission from the Working Group.

7. An overview of sampling plans in Codex and the discussions of the EWG is summarized in attachments **1**, **2** and **3** of the three questionnaires submitted to the members of the Working Group.

CONSIDERATIONS AND QUESTIONS FOR THE CCSCH

8. The discussions within the EWG (attachments 1, 2 and 3) reached consensus on the recommendation of the Working Group not to make a solo citation of ISO 948:1980 sampling plan.

9. Nonetheless, following this decision and taking into consideration the lack of comments and/or submission at the last stage of the Working Group discussions, there was no progress in the EWG.

10. Therefore, in order to proceed with the work, the Committee may wish to consider:

a) Whether to specify a sampling plan for the draft Codex Standards for Thyme and Cumin based on:

¹ REP14/MAS para 83.

- (i) flow-charts, decision trees and values of the lot size, the size of the sample and the criteria for acceptance or rejection of the lot as described in the *General Guidelines on Sampling* (CAC/GL 50-2004) or
 - (ii) the same approach taken by the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables, and describe in the Standards of Thyme and Cumin the sampling plans (see Appendix I).
- b) To elaborate a document for the consideration by the CCMAS to:
- (i) indicate Sections, flow-charts and/or decision trees from CAC/GL 50-2004 that suit the purpose of elaborating the sampling plans for thyme and cumin, and/or spices; or
 - (ii) evaluate the proposal of taking the same approach as the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables (Appendix I) to elaborate the sampling plans for thyme and cumin, and/or spices.

APPENDIX I

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