

MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

(Department of Commerce)

ORDER

New Delhi, the 4th March, 2002

S.O. 276(E).—Whereas, for the development of the export trade of India, certain proposals for subjecting honey to quality control and inspection prior to export were published as required by sub-rule (2) of rule 11 of the Export (Quality Control and Inspection) Rules, 1964 in the Gazette of India, Part II, section 3, sub-section (ii) dated the 26th May, 2001 vide S.O. 1097 dated the 11th May, 2001 of the Government of India in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Department of Commerce;

And whereas, objections and suggestions were invited from all persons likely to be affected thereby, within the period of forty five-days from the date the said Order is made available to the public;

And whereas the copies of the said Gazette were made available to the public on 8th June 2001.

And whereas the objections and suggestions received from the public on the said proposal have been considered by the Central Government;

Now, therefore, in exercise of powers conferred by section 6 of the Export (Quality Control and Inspection) Act, 1963 (22 of 1963), the Central Government after consulting the Export Inspection Council being of the opinion that it is necessary and expedient to do so, for the development of the export trade of India, hereby-

- (a) notifies that honey shall be subject to quality control and inspection prior to export;
- (b) specifies the type of quality control and inspection in accordance with the Export of Honey (Quality Control, Inspection and Monitoring) Rules, 2002, as the type of quality control, inspection and monitoring which shall be applied to such honey prior to export.
- (c) recognises the standards and procedures for drawing and testing of samples and other related matters which shall be as per the Schedule and Appendix appended to this Order.
- (d) prohibits the export, in the course of international trade of honey unless it conforms to the standard specifications applicable to it and is accompanied by a certificate of inspection or certificate that such unit is approved and monitored by any of agencies established under section 7 of the Export (Quality Control and Inspection) Act, 1963 (22 of 1963) including its sub-offices located at various places of the region.

2. Nothing in this Order shall apply to export by sea, land or air of samples of honey to prospective buyers, the value of which shall not exceed permissible limits laid down in exim policy from time to time and where no such provisions exists, the value shall not exceed Rs. 1000/- to prospective buyers.

SCHEDULE

Specifications for honey recognized as per clause (c) of section 6 of the Export (Quality Control and Inspection), Act 1963 shall be:-

- (a) National Standards of the importing countries.
- (b) Contractual specifications agreed to between the foreign buyer and the exporters provided the same is satisfying the health and other requirements of the importing country.
- (c) In the absence of (a) or (b) above, the minimum specifications notified in the order as per the Appendix hereunder.

APPENDIX

1. STANDARDS FOR EXPORTS OF HONEY:

1.1 Definition

(i) *Honey* is the natural sweet substance produced by the honey bees from the nectar of blossoms or secretions of living parts of plants and which the bees collect, transform, combine with specific substances of their own, deposit, dehydrate naturally and store and leave to mature and ripen in honey combs. This foodstuff may be fluid, viscous or crystallized;

(ii) *Extracted Honey* is the honey obtained only by centrifuging decapped broodless combs;

(iii) *Pressed Honey* is the honey obtained only by pressing broodless combs with or without the application of moderate heat;

(iv) *Drained Honey* is the honey obtained only by draining decapped broodless combs;

(v) *Blossom Honey* or *Nectar-Honey* is the honey which comes from nectars of plants;

(vi) *Honeydew Honey* is the honey, which comes mainly from excretions of plant sucking insects (Hemiptera) on the living parts of the plants or secretions of living parts of plants.

1.2 General Characteristics

Honey must be extracted from broodless combs and should be allowed to ripen naturally in the hive in sealed combs. The flavour and aroma would vary depending on the plant origin. However, it shall not:-

- (a) have any foreign tastes or odours; or
- (b) have begun to ferment or effervesce; or
- (c) have been heated to such an extent that its natural enzymes are destroyed or made inactive; or
- (d) have an artificially changed acidity; or
- (e) contain substances in such quantity as to endanger human health.

1.3 Composition and Quality	Apiary/Extracted	Squeezed/Pressed/Drained
a) Reducing Sugar Content (Min)	65%	65%
b) Moisture content (Max)	20%	23%
c) Fructose/Glucose (Min)	0.95	0.95
d) Water insoluble solids content	Not more than 0.1%	Not more than 0.5%
e) Mineral substance (ash)	Not more than 0.5%	Not more than 0.6%
f) Sucrose	5% maximum	5% maximum
g) Acidity	Not more than 20 milli-equivalents acid per 1000 gms. (0.2%)	Not more than 40 milli-equivalents acid per 1000 gms. (0.4%)
1.4 Diastase activity (Schade Scale)	Not less than 8 in general, not less than 3 for honey with low natural enzyme content* and HMF@ 15 mg/ kg.	Not less than 8 in general, not less than 3 for honey with low natural enzyme content* and HMF@ 15 mg/ kg.

*Low natural enzyme contents may be declared on the label.

1.5 Hydroxymethyl furfural content (HMF) Not more than 20 mg/kg Not more than 40 mg/kg

1.6 Colour Nearly colourless to dark brown.

1.7 Food additive Not permitted

1.8 Veterinary drug, other Substances, environmental and other contaminants Veterinary drug and contaminants should not have:

- (i) Antibacterial substances, including Sulphonamides and quinolones
- (ii) Carbamates and pyrethroids
- (iii) Organochlorine compounds including PcBs
- (iv) Organ phosphorus compounds
- (v) Chemical elements

(Clause 1.8 has been substituted as per S.O. 1441(E) dated 19th December, 2003)

“1.8 Veterinary drugs, other substances, environmental and other contaminants.

Compounds	Unit	MRLs
(1) Drugs		
Streptomycin	ppb	0.02
Tetracycline	ppb	15
Chloramphenicol		Absent
Sulfonamide		Absent
Quinolones		Absent
(2) Organochlorine compounds		
Coumaphos (Perizin)	ppb	0.01
Amitraz	Ppb	0.01
Aldrin-As per Dieldrin	mg/kg	0.02

Chlorothalonil	mg/kg	0.01
Op-DDD	mg/kg	0.05
pp-DDD	mg/kg	0.05
Op-DDE	mg/kg	0.05
pp-DDE	mg/kg	0.05
Op-DDT	mg/kg	0.05
pp-DDT	mg/kg	0.05
Dicofol	mg/kg	0.05
Dieldrin	mg/kg	0.02
a-Endosulfan	mg/kg	0.1
Endosulfansulfate	mg/kg	0.005
Lindane	mg/kg	0.005
Gama HCH (all isomers)	mg/kg	0.03
Methoxychlor	mg/kg	0.01
PCBs	mg/kg	Absent
(3)Organophosphorous Compounds		
Chlorfenvinphos	mg/kg	0.005
Chlorpyriphos	mg/kg	0.005
Chlorpyriphos methyl	mg/kg	0.005
Diazinon	mg/kg	0.005
Ethion	mg/kg	0.005
Formothion	mg/kg	0.005
Malathion	mg/kg	0.005
Phosalone	mg/kg	0.005
Primiphos	mg/kg	0.005
Thiometon	mg/kg	0.005
Phorate	mg/kg	0.05
Primingphos methyl	mg/kg	0.05
(4)Carbamates	mg/kg	Absent
(5)Pyrethroid		

Cyfluthrin	mg/kg	0.02
Cypermethrin	mg/kg	0.05
Deltamethrin	mg/kg	0.05
Permethrin	mg/kg	0.05
Fenvelerate	mg/kg	0.02
Fluvalinate	mg/kg	0.005

(6) Heavy metals

Lead	ppm	2.0
Copper	ppm	30
Arsenic	ppm	1.1
Tin	ppm	250
Zinc	ppm	50
Cadmium	ppm	1.5
Mercury	ppm	1.0
CH ₃ Hg	Ppm	0.21

Provided that if the MRLs fixed by the importing countries are more stringent than the above prescribed limits, the standards specified by those countries shall be complied with.”

1.9 Freedom from foreign matter

Honey sold as such shall not have added to it any food ingredient or other substance. It shall be free from invert sugar or honey analogue. Honey shall not have any objectionable flavour, aroma or taint absorbed from foreign matter during its processing and storage. The honey shall not have begun to ferment or effervescence. Filtration is permitted to remove objectionable matter provided sufficient pollen grains which characterise the honey are retained.

[F.No.6/3/2000-EI&EP]
M.V.P.C. SASTRY, Jt. Secy.