

**Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH)  
5<sup>th</sup> Session**

**20-29 April 2021, virtual**

**European Union comments on**

**Proposed Draft Standard for dried seeds – nutmeg**

**CX/SCH 21/5/9**

**Agenda Item 8**

*Mixed Competence  
Member States Vote*

The European Union and its Member States (EUMS) would like to thank Indonesia for leading the electronic working group on nutmeg.

The EUMS would like to provide the following comments:

**Section 4 Food additives**

The EUMS seriously question the technological need for all food additives listed in Table 3 of the General Standard for Food Additives (CXS 192 - 1995) as in all other standards for dried herbs and spices only the anticaking agents listed in Table 3 are allowed and only in grounded/powdered product.

**Section 8.3 Country of origin/country of harvest**

In line with our comments under item 2, the EUMS consider that the country of harvest should always be mentioned on the label, since the country of harvest is more relevant than the country of origin. Furthermore, the EUMS support the optional indication of the region of production.

**Section 8.5 Inspection mark (optional)**

In line with our comments under item 2, the EUMS suggest deleting this section as no information is available on what exactly “inspection mark” means.

**Annex I**

**Physical requirements and classification for nutmeg**

- 1) Regarding shell condition: the EUMS understand that nutmeg in shell can be traded locally, but the condition of the shell is not an international parameter which can be controlled. Therefore, the EUMS propose to add an asterisk to this qualitative criteria,

with a footnote as follows: *'Shell condition can be a parameter for local trade, but not for compliance for the international market.'*

- 2) Regarding the number of seeds per kg, the EUMS propose to delete the 180 and 220 values for whole shelled seeds in class I and II, respectively, because the number of seeds/kg is related more to quality preferences and could be added to the companies' specifications.
- 3) Regarding volatile oil contents: The content of volatile oils is highly variable, depending on the place where the nutmegs have grown, on the age of the tree, on the experience of the producers and on the degree of ripening of the seeds. Therefore, the EUMS propose to add the following ranges of values:
  - Whole: 3.5-11%
  - Broken: 3.0-11%
  - Ground/powdered: 2.5-11%

## **Annex II**

### **Chemical requirements for Whole, Broken and Powder Nutmeg**

Regarding Calcium as Calcium Oxide, % mass fraction (dry basis), max:

Our understanding is that Calcium is not used for whole nutmeg. Therefore, the EUMS propose to delete the Ca specification for whole nutmegs.