

European Union comments
CODEX COMMITTEE ON SPICES AND CULINARY HERBS
3rd Session
Chennai, India, 6 -10 February 2017
Agenda Item 5:
Draft Codex Standard for Thyme (CL 2016/24-SCH)

Mixed Competence.
Member States Vote.

The European Union and its Member States would like to submit the following comments:

Section 3 - Composition and Quality Factors

3.2.3. Physical Requirements – Table 1: Foreign matter should not be present in the products for direct consumption. We would suggest to replace 0.5 % with a value as low as practicable. It is therefore proposed a value of **0.1%**.

Section 4 - Food additives

Anticaking agents are not technologically justified in dried/powdered thyme. It is therefore suggested to delete Section 4 entirely.

Section 8 - Labelling

8.2 Name of the Product

8.2.3 (NEW)

"The country of harvesting **may** be indicated."

The aim of the voluntary indication of country of origin is to draw consumer's attention to the quality characteristics of the product. The sensory profile and the quality of thyme vary considerably depending on the region of origin, even when the same species or cultivars are used. Consumers should be adequately informed of the origin of the product as their perception of what thyme is and their expectations depend largely on the quality profile to which they are accustomed.

Section 9 - Methods of analysis and sampling

9.1 Methods of Analysis

The correct reference to the method for moisture determination should be **ISO 939:1980**, instead of ISO 938:1980.