

**Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH)
2nd Session**

Goa, India, 14-18 September 2015

European Union comments on

Proposed Draft Standard for Thyme

Agenda Item 7, CX/SCH 15/02/07

**Mixed competence
Member States vote**

The European Union and its Member States (EUMS) would like to make the following comments on the proposed draft standard for thyme.

General comments

The lay-out and provisions of standards for different herbs and spices will need to be aligned as far as possible.

Specific comments

1 Scope

The scope should be modified as follows to bring it in line with the corresponding provision in the proposed draft standard for oregano:

"This Standard applies to dried leaves and flowers of ~~any wild or commercially cultivated variety (cultivar)~~ **species or hybrids of the genus** of thyme (*Thymus* L spp.) of the Lamiaceae family offered for industrial food production and for direct consumption, including for catering purposes or for repackaging if required. It does not apply to the product when indicated as being intended for further processing."

A new section "2.3 Varietal types" should be added and it should read:

"Any wild or commercially cultivated variety (cultivar) of *Thymus* L suitable for processing."

3.2.2 Odour, flavor and color:

The square bracketed sentence on colour should be deleted as colour of thyme is highly variable and is therefore not suitable for a quality parameter.

3.2.3 Chemical and Physical Characteristics

The following values are suggested for chemical and physical parameters as they are in line with the current trading practices:

a) Moisture	≤ 12,0
b) Total ash	≤ 12,0
c) Acid insoluble ash	≤ 3,2

d) Volatile oil	$\geq 1,0$
e) Extraneous matter	$\leq 5,0 \%$
f) Foreign matter	practically absent

The square bracketed provision g on mold should be deleted as mold is included in foreign matter.

5. Contaminants

Delete the words "and/or veterinary drugs" in paragraph 5.2 as MRLs for veterinary drugs are not applicable to spices and herbs.

9. Methods of analysis and sampling

It should be considered whether the current sampling plan could be replaced by a reference to ISO 948:1989 spices and condiments – sampling plan.