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DRAFT EAST AFRICAN STANDARD

Cloves — Specification

EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

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East African Community
P.O. Box 1096,
Arusha
Tanzania
Tel: + 255 27 2162100
Fax: + 255 27 2162190
E-mail: eac@eachq.org
Web: www.eac-quality.net*

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Foreword

Development of the East African Standards has been necessitated by the need for harmonizing requirements governing quality of products and services in the East African Community. It is envisaged that through harmonized standardization, trade barriers that are encountered when goods and services are exchanged within the Community will be removed.

The Community has established an East African Standards Committee (EASC) mandated to develop and issue East African Standards (EAS). The Committee is composed of representatives of the National Standards Bodies in Partner States, together with the representatives from the public and private sector organizations in the community.

East African Standards are developed through Technical Committees that are representative of key stakeholders including government, academia, consumer groups, private sector and other interested parties. Draft East African Standards are circulated to stakeholders through the National Standards Bodies in the Partner States. The comments received are discussed and incorporated before finalization of standards, in accordance with the Principles and procedures for development of East African Standards. XXXXXX.

East African Standards are subject to review, to keep pace with technological advances. Users of the East African Standards are therefore expected to ensure that they always have the latest versions of the standards they are implementing.

The committee responsible for this document is Technical Committee EASC/TC 006, *Spices culinary herbs and condiments*.

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Cloves — Specification

1 Scope

This Draft East African Standard specifies the requirements and methods of sampling and test for cloves.

2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

CODEX STAN 193, *General standard for contaminants and toxins in food and feed*

EAS 38, *Labelling of pre-packaged foods — Specification*

EAS 39, *Hygiene in the food and drink industry — Code of practice*

EAS 99, *Spices and condiments — Nomenclature*

ISO 948, *Spices and condiments — Sampling*

ISO 928, *Spices and condiments — Determination of total ash*

ISO 939, *Spices and condiments — Determination of moisture content Entrainment method*

ISO 4833-1, *Microbiology of the food chain — Horizontal method for the enumeration of micro-organisms — Part 1: Colony-count at 30 degrees C — Pour plate technique*

ISO 6571, *Spices and condiments — Determination of volatile oil content (hydrodistillation method)*

ISO 6579, *Microbiology of food and animal feeding stuffs — Part 6: Horizontal method for the detection of Salmonella spp.*

ISO 7251, *Microbiology of food and animal feeding stuffs — Horizontal method for the detection and enumeration of presumptive Escherichia coli — Most probable number technique*

ISO 7954, *Microbiology of food and animal feeding stuffs — General guidance for enumeration of yeasts and moulds — Part 8: Colony count technique at 25 degrees C*

ISO 16050, *Foodstuffs — Determination of aflatoxin B1, and the total content of aflatoxins B1, B2, G1 and G2 in cereals, nuts and derived products*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in EAS 99 and the following apply.

- 3.1 whole clove**
a floral bud, harvested before blooming, and dried of *Syzygium aromaticum* (L.) Merrill & Perry. It comprises of a receptacle containing, in its upper part, two loculi containing numerous ovules, and crowned by four acute divergent sepals surrounding a dome-shaped head consisting of four paler unexpanded membranous imbricate petals enclosing numerous incurved stamens and single stiff erect style (see Annex A).
- 3.2 headless clove**
clove consisting of only the receptacles and sepals and which has lost the dome-shaped head (see Annex A).
- 3.3 mother clove**
fruits of the cloves which are in the form of an ovoid brown berries surmounted by four incurved sepals. These vary in length from 20 mm to 25 mm and in breadth from 5mm to 9mm (see Annex A).
- 3.4 khoker clove**
clove which have undergone fermentation, resulting from improper drying. They may be recognized by their pale brown colour, whitish meaty appearance and often having wrinkled surface.
- 3.5 clove stem**
is dry fragment of stalk of the clove (see Annex A).
- 3.6 extraneous matter**
includes dust, dirt, stones, clay particles and pieces of wood, all particles originating from the plant other than the cloves, tendrils, peduncles and exhausted cloves.

4 Requirements

4.1 General requirements

- 4.1.1** Whole cloves shall be the dried flower buds of *Syzygium aromaticum* (L.) Merrill & Perry, harvested before they have opened.
- 4.1.2** The whole clove should be fully grown and of a reddish brown to blackish brown colour.
- 4.1.3** Ground cloves shall be of brown colour with violet tinge and shall possess the odour and taste of the ground spice.
- 4.1.4** The cloves shall have a strong aromatic spicy flavour. They shall be free from mustiness.
- 4.1.5** The cloves, whole or ground, shall be free from moulds, and shall be practically free from insects, insect fragments and rodent contamination

4.2 Specific quality requirements

4.2.1 Whole cloves

The whole cloves shall comply with the requirements specified in Table 1.

Table 1 — Chemical requirements for whole cloves

S/No.	Characteristic	Requirement	Test method
i)	Moisture, % m/m, max.	12	ISO 939
ii)	Volatile oil, % ml/100g on dry basis, min. for special and standard quality grade	17	ISO 6571
iii)	Volatile oil, % ml/100g on dry basis, min. for distillation quality	15	ISO 6571

4.2.2 Ground cloves

The ground cloves shall comply with the requirements given in Table 2.

Table 2 — Chemical requirements for ground cloves

S/No.	Characteristic	Requirement	Test method
i)	Moisture, % m/m, max.	10	ISO 939
ii)	Crude fibre, % m/m, on dry basis, max.	13	Annex A
iii)	Total ash, % (mass fraction) on dry basis, max	7	ISO 928
iv)	Acid insoluble ash, % (mass fraction) on dry basis, max.	0.5	ISO 930
v)	Volatile oil, % (mass fraction) on dry basis, min	15	ISO 6571

5 Grades of whole cloves

Whole cloves shall be graded according to the criteria given in Table 3.

Table 3 — Requirements for grades of whole cloves

S/No.	Grade designation	Headless cloves, %m/m, max.	Tendrils, mother cloves, %m/m, max.	Khoker cloves %, m/m, max.	Extreneous matter, %, m/m, max.
i)	Special quality	2	0.5	0.5	0.5
ii)	Standard quality	5	4	3	1
iii)	Distillation quality	Not specified	6	20	1

6 Food additives

Cloves shall be free from added colouring matter, flavour and preservatives.

7 Contaminants

7.1 Pesticide residues

Pesticide residues in cloves shall not exceed maximum residue limit as established by the Codex Online Guideline for pesticide residue in food.

7.2 Heavy metal

Heavy metals in cloves shall not exceed maximum residue limit as stipulated in Codex Stan 193.

7.3 Aflatoxin limits.

Total aflatoxin shall not exceed 10 µg/L and aflatoxin B₁ shall not exceed 5 µg/L when tested with ISO 16050

8 Hygiene

Cloves shall be processed and handled in a hygienic manner in accordance with EAS 39 and shall conform to the microbiological limits stipulated in Table 4.

Table 4 — Microbiological limits for cloves

S/No.	Organism	Limit	Test method
i)	Total plate count, cfu/mL, max.	1*10 ³	ISO 4833-1
ii)	Yeast and mould cfu/g, max.	1*10 ²	ISO 7954
iii)	Salmonella spp. per 25 g, max.	Absent	ISO 6579
iv)	<i>Escherichia coli</i> MPN/g, max.	Absent	ISO 7251

9 Weights and measures

The weight and fill of cloves shall comply with the weights and measures regulations of Partner States or equivalent legislation.

10 Packaging

Whole or ground cloves shall be packed in clean and sound food grade containers, made of material which does not affect the product and protects it from moisture and loss of volatile matter.

11 Labelling

In addition to the requirements of EAS 38, the following specific labelling requirements shall apply and shall be legibly and indelibly marked:

- a) Common name of the product;
- b) Brand name or trade name if any;
- c) name, physical location and address of manufacturer;
- d) grade of the material;;

- e) net weight;
- f) date of manufacture/packing;
- g) year of harvest, if applicable;
- h) batch identification number/code;
- i) best before;
- j) country of origin; and
- k) storage condition.

12 Sampling

Sampling of cloves shall be done in accordance with ISO 948.

Annex A
(normative)

Pictorial presentation of cloves parts



Figure 1 — Whole clove



Figure 2 — Headless clove



Figure 3 — Mother clove

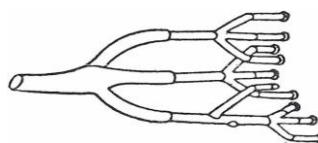


Figure 4 — Clove stems

Annex B (normative)

Determination of crude fibre

B.1 Reagents

B.1.1 Petroleum ether:

B.1.2 *Dilute sulphuric acid*: 1.25 % (m/v) accurately prepared.

B.1.3 *Sodium hydroxide solution*: 1.25 % (m/v) accurately prepared.

B.1.4 *Ethanol*: 95 % (v/v)

B.2 Procedure:

Weigh accurately about 2.5 g of the ground material into a thimble and extract for about 1 hour with petroleum ether using a Soxhlet apparatus. Transfer the material in the thimble to a one-litre flask. Take 200 ml of the dilute sulphuric acid in a beaker and bring to boil. Transfer the whole of the boiling acid to the flask containing the fat-free material and immediately connect the flask with a water-cooled reflux condenser and heat so that the contents of the flask begin to boil within 1 minute. Rotate the flask frequently taking care to keep the material from remaining on the sides of the flask and out of contact with the acid. Continue boiling for exactly 30 minutes. Remove the flask and filter through fine linen (about 18 thread to the centimetre) or through a coarse acid washed hardened filter paper, held in a funnel and wash with boiling water until the washings are no longer acidic to litmus paper. Bring some quantity of sodium hydroxide solution to boil under reflux condenser. Wash the residues on the filter into the flask with 200 ml of boiling sodium hydroxide solution. Immediately connect the flask with the reflux condenser and boil for exactly 30 minutes. Remove the flask and immediately filter through the linen or the filter paper.

Thoroughly wash the residue with boiling water and transfer to a Gooch crucible prepared with a thin but compact layer of ignite asbestos. Wash the residue thoroughly first with hot water and then with about 15 ml of ethyl alcohol and with three successive washings of 15 ml of petroleum ether each. Dry the Gooch crucible and contents at 105 ± 1 °C in an air-oven for 3 hours, cool and weigh. Repeat the process of drying for 30 minutes, cooling and weighing until the difference between two consecutive weighings is less than 1 mg. Incinerate the contents of the Gooch crucible in the muffle furnace at 550 ± 20 °C until all the carbonaceous matter is burnt. Cool the Gooch crucible containing the ash in a desiccator and weigh.

B.3 Calculation

Crude fibre (on dry basis), percent by mass

$$= \frac{100(M_1 - M_2) * 100}{M(100-H)} \quad \text{_____}$$

Where: M_1 = mass in g of Gooch crucible and contents before ashing,

M_2 = mass in g of Gooch crucible containing asbestos and ash,

M = mass in g of the material taken for the test

H = moisture content of the sample as received

