Food Act No. 26 of 1980

REGULATIONS made by the Minister of Health in consultation with the Food Advisory Committee under section 32 of the Food Act No. 26 of 1980

Colombo               Minister of Health, Nutrition & Welfare

…………………2003

These regulations may be cited as the Food (Spices, Condiments and Seasoning Standards) regulations of -2003 and shall come into operation from……………………2003

REGULATIONS

1 GENERAL

(i) Spice shall be the sound leaves, flowers, buds, fruits, seeds, barks or rhizomes of plants, that are suitable for use as condiments for imparting any flavour or aroma to food and from which the oil or other flavouring constituent naturally present has not been removed.

(ii) Spices shall be free from mould and insect infestation.

(iii) In the case of whole spices the amount of insect damaged matter shall not exceed 5.0 % m/m.

(iv) Spices shall not contain any added colouring matter.

(v) Explanation:-

For the purpose of these regulations-

(a) Extraneous matters shall mean -

1. extraneous seeds, chaff, stem, straw, and similar organic substances;
2. stones, lumps of earth, dust, dirt, clay and similar inorganic substances.

(b) of the permitted extraneous matter in whole spices, the inorganic substances shall not exceed 2.0 % m/m;

(c) spices-whole and spices-powder shall have the standards of purity laid down for each spice in these regulations. Where no standards of purity have been laid down in these regulations for any spice, such spice shall not contain more
than 5.0 % m/m extraneous matter, out of which not more than 2.0 % m/m shall be inorganic substance.

(d) The term “insect damaged matter” means spices that are partially or wholly bored by insects.

2 CARAWAY-WHOLE shall be the dried seed of the plant *Carum carvi* L.

Caraway, whole shall not contain -
(a) more than 5% m/m extraneous matter
Caraway, whole shall contain -
(b) not less than 3% m/m volatile essential oil.

3 CARAWAY-POWDER, shall be the powder obtained exclusively from clean, dried seed of *Carum carvi* L.

i.) Caraway, whole shall not contain -

(a) more than 12.0 % m/m moisture,
(b) more than 8.0 % m/m total ash, and
(c) more than 1.5 % m/m acid insoluble ash.

ii) Caraway, whole shall contain not less than 3.0 %v/m volatile essential oil.

4. CARDAMOM-WHOLE shall be the dried, almost ripe well formed and sound fruits of the plant *Elettaria cardamomum* L. Maton.

i.) Cardamom - whole shall not contain more than 2.0 % m/m extraneous matter.
ii.) Cardamom - whole shall contain not less than 3.0 % v/m volatile essential oil.

5 CARDAMOM-POWDER, shall be the powder obtained exclusively from the clean, dried seed separated from the capsule of *Elettaria cardamomum* L. Maton.

i) Cardamom powder shall not contain-

(a) more than 12.0 % m/m moisture,
(b) more than 8.0 % m/m total ash, and
(c) more than 3.0 % m/m acid insoluble ash.

ii) Cardamom powder shall contain not less than less than 3.0 %v/m volatile essential oil.

6 CHILLIES-WHOLE, shall be the dried, ripe fruits or pods of the plant *Capsicum annuum* L. and *Capsicum frutescens* L.

i) Chillies-whole shall not contain -
(a) more than 5.0 % m/m extraneous matter, including calyx pieces and loose tops, 
(b) more than 5.0% m/m immature pods, and 
(c) more than 12.0% m/m moisture

7 CHILLIE-POWDER, shall be the powder obtained by grinding the clean, ripe dried 
fruits or pods of Capsicum annuum L and Capsicum frutescens L.

i) Chillie-powder shall not contain - 

(a) more than 12.0 % m/m moisture, 
(b) more than 8.0 % m/m total ash, 
(c) more than 1.3 % m/m acid insoluble ash, 
(d) more than 30.0 % m/m crude fiber, and

ii) Chillie - powder shall contain not less than 12.0 % m/m non-volatile ether extract.

8. CINNAMON-WHOLE shall be the dried inner bark of Cinnamomum zeylanicum 
Blume.

i) Cinnamom- whole shall not contain- 

a) more than 14.0 % m/m moisture, and 
b) more than 5.0% m/m extraneous matter.

ii) Cinnamom- whole shall contain not less than 0.5 % v/m volatile essential oil.

9. CINNAMON-POWDER shall be the powder obtained exclusively by grinding the 
dried inner bark of Cinnamomum zeylanicum Blume.

i.) Cinnamon powder shall not contain -

(a) more than 12.0 % m/m moisture, 
(b) more than 8.0 % m/m total ash, 
(c) more than 2.0 % m/m acid insoluble ash, and 
(d) any cassia, which is the dried bark of Cinnamomum cassia Blume.

ii.) Cinnamom powder shall contain not less than 0.5 % v/m volatile essential oil,

10. CLOVES-WHOLE shall be the dried unopened flower buds of Eugenia 
caryophyllus (Sprengel) Bullock and Harrison.

i) Cloves- whole shall not contain-

a) more than 12.0 % m/m moisture, and 
b) more than 5.0 % m/m extraneous matter including stalks.

ii) Cloves-whole shall contain not less than 15.0 % v/m volatile essential oil.
11. **CLOVES-POWDER** shall be the powder obtained exclusively by grinding the clean, dried, unopened flower buds of *Eugenia caryophyllus* (Sprengel) Bullock and Harrison.

i) Cloves-powder shall not contain -

   (a) more than 12.0 % m/m moisture,
   (b) more than 8.0 % m/m total ash,
   (c) more than 0.5 % m/m acid insoluble ash,
   (d) more than 5.0 % m/m stems, and

ii) Cloves-powder shall contain not less than 15.0 % v/m volatile essential oil.

12. **CORIANDER-WHOLE** or **SPLIT** shall be the dried, mature fruits (seeds) of *Coriandrum sativum* L.

i) Coriander - whole shall not contain more than 8.0 % m/m extraneous matter.

ii) Coriander - whole shall contain not less than 0.4 % v/m of volatile essential oil.

13. **CORIANDER-POWDER** shall be the product obtained exclusively by grinding the clean, dried mature fruits (seeds) of *Coriandrum sativum* L.

i) Coriander powder shall not contain -

   (a) more than 12.0 % m/m moisture,
   (b) more than 7.0 % m/m total ash,
   (c) more than 1.5 % m/m acid insoluble ash, and

ii) Coriander-powder shall contain -

   (a) not less than 19.0 % m/m total non-volatile ether extract, and
   (b) not less than 1.0 % v/m volatile essential oil.

14. **CUMIN-WHOLE** shall be the dried seeds of *Cuminum cyminum* L.

i) Cumin - whole shall not contain more than 7.0 % m/m extraneous matter;

ii) Cumin - whole shall contain not less than 2.0 % v/m volatile oil.

15. **CUMIN - POWDER** shall be the powder obtained exclusively by grinding the clean, dried seeds of *Cuminum cyminum* L.
i) Cumin - powder shall not contain-

(a) more than 10.0 % m/m moisture,
(b) more than 9.5 % m/m total ash, and
(c) more than 1.5 % m/m acid insoluble ash.

ii) Cumin-powder shall contain -

(d) not less than 2.0 % v/m of volatile essential oil.

16. **DILL-WHOLE**, shall be the dried seeds of *Anethum graveolens* L.

i) Dill- whole shall not contain more than 5.0 % m/m extraneous matter.

ii) Dill-whole shall contain not less than 2.5 %v/m of volatile essential oil.

17. **DILL-POWDER** shall be the powder obtained exclusively by grinding the clean, dried ripe fruits (seeds) of *Anethum graveolens* L.

i) Dill - powder shall not contain -

(a) more than 8.0 % m/m of moisture,
(b) more than 10.0 % m/m total ash, and
(c) more than 3.0 % m/m acid insoluble ash.

ii) Dill-powder shall contain not less than 2.5 %v/m of volatile essential oil.

18. **FENNEL-WHOLE** shall be the dried ripe fruits of *Foeniculum vulgare* Mill.

i) Fennel- whole shall not contain more than 5.0 % m/m extraneous matter.

ii) Fennel-whole shall contain not less than 4.0 % v/m of volatile oil.

19. **FENNEL-POWDER** shall be the powder obtained exclusively by grinding the clean, dried ripe fruits of *Foeniculum vulgare* Mill.

i) Fennel powder shall not contain -

(a) more than 12.0 % m/m moisture,
(b) more than 9.0 % m/m total ash, and
(c) more than 3.0 % m/m acid insoluble ash.

ii) Fennel powder shall contain not less than 4.0 % v/m volatile essential oil.

20. **FENUGREEK0-WHOLE** shall be the dried ripe seeds of *Trigonella foenum-graecum* L.
21. **FENUGREEK-POWDER** shall be the powder obtained exclusively by grinding the clean, dried ripe seeds of *Trigonella foenum-graecum* L.

i) Fenugreek powder shall not contain -

(a) more than 10.0 % m/m moisture,
(b) more than 7.0 % m/m total ash, and
(d) more than 2.0 % m/m acid insoluble ash.

ii) Fenugreek-powder shall contain -

(a) not less than 30.0 % m/m cold water soluble extract, and
(b) not less than 7.0 % m/m total non-volatile ether extract.

22. **GINGER-WHOLE** shall be the washed and dried or decorticated and dried rhizome of *Zingiber officinale* Rose.

i) Ginger-whole shall not contain more than 2.0 % m/m extraneous matter.

ii) Ginger - whole shall contain not less than 1.0 % of volatile essential oil.

iii) Ginger - may be limed provided the lime (Calcium oxide) content shall not exceed 4.0 % m/m on dry basis.

23. **GINGER-POWDER** shall be the powder obtained exclusively by grinding the clean, dried rhizomes of *Zingiber officinale* Rose.

i) Ginger powder shall not contain -

(a) more than 12.0 % m/m moisture,
(b) more than 8.0 % m/m total ash,
(c) more than 1.0 % m/m acid insoluble ash, and
(d) more than 4.0 % m/m Calcium as CaO on dry basis.

ii) Ginger-powder shall contain -

(a) not less than 1.0 % v/m volatile essential oil,
(b) not less than 10.0 % m/m cold water soluble extract, and
(c) not less than 4.5 % m/m alcohol (90%) soluble extract.

24 **MACE-WHOLE** shall be the dried coat or arilus of the seed of *Myristica fragrans* Houtt.

i) Mace- whole shall not contain -
a) more than 3.0 % m/m extraneous matter.

b) arilus of any other variety of Mace namely *Myristica nalabarica* or Fauta and *Myristica argentea*

25. **MACE-POWDER** shall be the powder obtained exclusively by grinding the clean, dried coat or arilus of the seed of *Myristica fragrans* Houtt.

i) Mace powder shall not contain -

(a) more than 12.0 % m/m moisture,

(b) more than 3.0 % m/m total ash,

(c) more than 1.0 % m/m acid insoluble ash, and

(e) more than 10.0 % m/m crude fibre.

ii) Mace-powder shall contain -

(a) not less than 20.0 % m/m and more than 30.0 % m/m total non-volatile ether extract, and

(b) not less than 7.0% v/m volatile essential oil.


i.) Mustard-whole shall contain not more than 7.0 % m/m extraneous matter.

ii.) Mustard-whole shall contain not less than 2.5 % v/m of volatile essential oil.

27. **MUSTARD- POWDER** shall be the powder obtained exclusively by grinding the clean, dried seeds of *Brassica alba* L. , *Brassica compestris* L. , *Brassica juncea* L. , *Brassica nigra* L.

i.) Mustard powder shall not contain -

(a) more than 7.0 % m/m moisture,

(b) more than 8.0 % m/m total ash,

(c) more than 2.0 % m/m acid insoluble ash, and

(e) more than 8.0 % m/m crude fibre.

ii.) Mustard-powder shall contain -

(a) not less than 22.0 % m/m total non-volatile ether extract, and

(b) not less than 2.5 % v/m volatile essential oil.

28. **NUTMEG-WHOLE** shall be the dried seeds of *Myristica fragrans* Houtt..

i.) Nutmeg-whole shall not contain more than 3.0 % m/m extraneous matter.

ii.) Nutmeg-whole shall contain not less than 7.0 % v/m of volatile essential oil.
29. **Nutmeg-Powder** shall be the powder obtained exclusively by grinding the clean, dried seeds of *Myristica fragrans* Houtt.

   i) Nutmeg powder shall not contain -

   (a) more than 8.0 % m/m moisture,
   (b) more than 5.0 % m/m total ash,
   (c) more than 0.5 % m/m acid insoluble ash, and
   (d) more than 10.0 % m/m crude fibre.

   ii.) Nutmeg powder shall contain -
   (a) not less than 25.0 % m/m total non-volatile ether extract, and
   (b) not less than 7.0 % v/m volatile essential oil.

30. **Black Pepper-Whole**, shall be the clean dried mature berries of *Piper nigrum* L. brown to black in colour with wrinkled surface.

   i) Black pepper- whole shall not contain-
   (a) more than 12.0 % m/m moisture,
   (b) more than 3.0 % m/m extraneous matter,
   (c) more than 10% m/m light berries, and
   (d) more than 4% m/m pinheads.

31. **Black Pepper-Powder** shall be the powder obtained exclusively by grinding the clean, dried mature berries of *Piper nigrum* L.

   i.) Black pepper-powder shall not contain -

   (a) more than 12.0 % m/m moisture,
   (b) more than 8.0 % m/m total ash,
   (c) more than 1.5 % m/m acid insoluble ash, and
   (d) more than 18.0 % m/m crude fibre.

   ii.) Black pepper - powder shall contain -

   (a) not less than 5.5 % m/m total non-volatile ether extract, and
   (b) not less than 1.5 % v/m volatile essential oil.

32. **White Pepper-Whole** shall be the dried, mature, decorticated berries of *Piper nigrum* L.

   i.) White pepper -whole shall not contain more than 3.0 % m/m extraneous matter.

33. **White Pepper-Powder** shall be the powder obtained exclusively by grinding the clean, dried, mature decorticated berries of *Piper nigrum* L.
i.) White pepper powder shall not contain -

(a) more than 12.0 % m/m moisture,
(b) more than 3.5 % m/m total ash, and
(c) more than 0.5 % m/m of acid insoluble ash.

ii.) White pepper powder shall contain -

(a) less than 7.0 % m/m total non-volatile ether extract, and
(b) not less than 0.7 % v/m of volatile essential oil.

34. TURMERIC-WHOLE shall be the clean, dried rhizome or bulbous roots of the plant of *Curcuma domestica* Val. or *Curcuma longa* L.

i) Turmeric, whole shall not contain -

(a) more than 3.0 % m/m extraneous matter,
(b) more than 12.0 % m/m moisture, and
(c) more than 9.0 % m/m total ash.

35. TURMERIC-POWDER shall be the powder obtained exclusively by grinding the clean, dried rhizomes or bulbous roots of the plant of *Curcuma domestica* Val. or *Curcuma longa* L.

i.) Turmeric powder shall not contain -

(a) more than 12.0 % m/m moisture,
(b) more than 9.0 % m/m total ash, and
(c) more than 1.5 % m/m acid insoluble ash.

ii.) Turmeric powder shall contain not less than 4.0 % v/m volatile essential oil.

36. CURRY POWDER (CONDIMENT POWDER) shall be the powder obtained by grinding clean, dried and sound coriander, cumin and fennel and any of the spices belonging to the groups of aromatic herbs and seeds such as black pepper, caraway, cinnamon, cloves, cardamom, chillies, dill, fenugreek, garlic, ginger, lemon grass, mustard, mint, turmeric, mace, nutmeg, curry leaves and 'rampe'.

i.) Curry powder shall not contain-

(a) more than 12.0 % m/m moisture,
(b) more than 9.0 % m/m total ash,
(c) more than 1.5 % m/m acid insoluble ash, and
(d) more than 20.0 % m/m crude fibre on dry basis.
ii.) Curry powder shall contain -

(a) not less than 7.5 % m/m non-volatile ether extract, and
(b) not less than 0.25 % v/m volatile essential oil.

(iii) Curry powder shall have labels declaring order all the ingredients, in % m/m, except in the case of ingredients which are less than 5.0 % m/m of the total mass.

(iv) Curry powder shall not be made from any exhausted spices or condiments.

37. **CURRY PASTE** shall be the mixture of two or more types of spices as described in Section 36 of these regulations, and may contain permitted preservatives.

i.) Curry paste shall not contain -

(a) more than 9.0 % m/m total ash on dry basis,
(b) more than 1.5 % m/m acid insoluble ash on dry basis and
(c) more than 5.0 % m/m added salt.

ii.) Curry paste shall contain not less than 0.25 % v/m volatile essential oil on dry basis.

37. **ASAFOETIDA** shall be the oleo-gum resin obtained from the rhizome and roots of *Ferula alliacea* Boiss. or *Ferula rubricaulis* Boiss. and other species of *Ferula*.

i.) Asafoetida shall not contain -

(a) more than 15.0 % m/m of total ash, 
(b) more than 2.5 % m/m acid insoluble ash, and

ii.) Asafoetida shall contain not less than 12.0 % m/m alcohol (90%) extract, and

iii) Asafoetida shall not contain colophony resin, galbanum resin, ammoniacum resin or any other extraneous resin, or other extraneous substances.

39. **TAMARIND** shall be the pulp of the ripe fruit of *Tamarindus indica* L. with or without seeds.

i.) Tamarind, after removal of seeds shall not contain -

(a) more than 18.0 % m/m moisture, 
(b) more than 4.0 % m/m total ash, 
(c) more than 1.0 % m/m acid insoluble ash, 
(d) more than 6.0 % m/m crude fibre, and
(e) more than 10.0 % m/m added salt,
ii.) Tamarind, after removal of seeds shall contain not less than 14.0 % m/m acidity expressed as tartaric acid.

40. **GORAKA** shall be the dried seedless fleshy portion of the ripe fruit of *Garcinia cambogin* Desr.

   i.) Goraka shall not contain more than 14.0 % m/m moisture, and  
   ii.) Goraka shall contain not less than 10.0 % m/m acidity expressed as tartaric acid.

41. **GARLIC** shall be the mature bulbs of *Allium sativum* and shall be in good condition and shall not contain more than 5.0 % m/m unfilled bulbs.