

## Grade designation and Quality of Cardamom Whole Capsules

Grade Designation	Quality									
	Special Characteristics									
	Organic extraneous matter % (m/m)	Inorganic extraneous matter % (m/m)	Empty and malformed capsules percent by count	Immature and shrivelled capsules % (m/m)	Blacks and splits percent by count	Mass in g/l	Moisture % (m/m)	Total ash % (m/m)	Volatile oil % (ml/100 gm)	General Characteristics
	Max.	Max.	Max.	Max.	Max.	Min.	Max.	Max.	Min.	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)
Special	1.0	0.5	2.0	2.0	Nil	435	11.0	8.0	3.5	(1) Cardamom capsules shall be dried, nearly ripened fruits of <i>Elettaria cardamom</i> (L);
Standard	2.0	1.0	5.0	5.0	10.0	385	12.0	9.5	3.0	(2) Capsules shall be oblong in shape with a rounded part or three cornered and having ribbed appearance; (3) Capsules shall be well formed and contain sound seeds; (4) Capsules shall have characteristic odour and shall be free from foreign odours or flavours, including those of rancidity and mustiness; (5) Colour of the capsules may be (a) Light Green, (b) Green, (c) Deep Green or (d) Pale Brownish. Capsules shall be packed according to the colour group and it shall be indicated on the label. At least 95 per cent of the capsule shall correspond to the respective colour group; (6) In addition to grade, cardamom may be marked as described below. This marking shall be done only when the product is produced only in the particular area: (a) Alleppey Green Extra Bold (AGEB) when retained on sieve having holes of diameter 7.0 mm; (b) Coorg Green Extra Bold (CGEB) when retained on sieve having holes of diameter 8.0 mm

**Contd.**

- (c) Alleppy Green Bold(AGB) when retained on sieve having holes of diameter 6.0 mm;:
  - (d) Coorg Green Bold (CGB)when retained on sieve having holes of diameter 7.5 mm,
  - (e) Alleppey Green Superior (AGS) when retained on sieve having holes of diameter 5.0 mm;
  - (f) Coorg Green Superior (CGS) when retained on sieve having holes of diameter 6.0 mm;
- (7) Capsules shall be free from added colouring matter,
  - (8) It shall be free from mould growth and living insects and practically free from dead insects, insect fragments and rodent contamination
  - (9) It shall comply with restrictions in regard to Aflatoxins, Metallic Contaminants: Insecticide or Pesticide residue, Poisonous metals, naturally occurring contaminants. Microbial load and the like as specified by the Codex Alimentaries Commission or as per buyers requirements for export purposes and the Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955 for domestic trade;

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**Definitions:**

- (a) "Blacks" includes capsules which are blackish to black in colour
- (b) "Empty and Malformed capsules" means capsules which have no seeds or are scantily filled with seeds;
- (c) "Immature and Shrivelled capsules" means capsules which are not fully developed;
- (d) "Inorganic extraneous matter" includes stones, dust, earth or any other inorganic foreign matter:
- (e) "Organic extraneous matter" includes pieces of Calyx, stalk and foreign matter of plant origin:
- (f) "Splits" includes capsules which are open at corners for more than half the length.

**Note:** Volatile oil content shall be determined on seeds obtained from the capsules.

**END**

