

F. No. 1-13/Standards/SP(Sweet Confectionery)-13/FSSAI-2018  
**Food Safety and Standards Authority of India**  
(A Statutory Authority established under the Food Safety & Standards Act, 2006)  
(Regulation division)  
**FDA Bhawan, Kotla Road, New Delhi-110 002**

Dated, the <sup>1<sup>st</sup></sup> July ~~June~~, 2020

**Subject: Direction under Section 18(2)(d) read with Section 16 (5) of Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 regarding operationalization of the Food Safety and Standards (Food Product Standards and Food Additive) Amendment Regulations, 2019.**

Standards for honey were notified vide gazette notification no. Stds/CPL&CP/ Draft Notification/FSSAI-2017 dated 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2018. Subsequently a direction vide even number dated 29.10.2019 was issued for revision of the parameter pollen count and deletion of parameters viz., specific marker for Rice Syrup (SMR), Trace marker for Rice Syrup (TMR) and Foreign oligosaccharides.


2. However, a direction vide even number dated 05.06. 2020 was issued to reinstate the parameter specific marker for Rice Syrup (SMR) based on the approval of Food Authority on the method of detection of 2-Acetylfuran-3-Glucopyranoside (2-AFGP)/3-O-Alpha-D-Glucosyl Isomaltol, the specific marker for Rice Syrup (SMR), LC-MS.

3. Further, The Scientific Panel on Methods of Sampling and analysis in its 28<sup>th</sup> Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> June, 2020 has recommended the method for determination of Foreign Oligosaccharides in Honey. Hence, it has been decided to reinstate the parameter Foreign Oligosaccharides also in the standards of Honey.

4. The amendment regulations in this regard and also including some other revisions of the standards of Honey are in the process of being notified and the process of draft notification, considerations of comments, if any that may be received thereon and the finalization of these regulations are likely to take some time. Meanwhile, in order to address the trade issue particularly on adulteration, it has been decided to operationalise these amendment regulations, as enclosed.

5. This direction will supersede the earlier directions issued vide even number dated 29.10.2019 and 05.06.2020 as mentioned above and will come into force with immediate effect. However, in respect of the provisions, other than the parameters and limit thereof as prescribed under the item (V) of enclosed amendment regulations, the compliance shall commence after six months from the date of issuance of this direction.

6. This issues with the approval of the Competent Authority in exercise of the power vested with Food Authority under Section 18(2)(d) read with Section 16 (5) of Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.

  
(N. Bhaskar) 11/7/2020

Advisor (Science & Standards)

To

1. All Food Safety Commissioner
2. All Authorised Officer, FSSAI
3. All Central Designated Offices of FSSAI

Copy for information to:

1. PPS to Chairperson, FSSAI
2. PS to CEO, FSSAI
3. All Directors, FSSAI

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**Notice for operationalisation of draft Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additive) Amendment Regulations, 2020 w.r.t. revision of standards for Honey.**

1. The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India, hereby makes the following regulations operational with immediate effect. The Food Business Operators shall follow these regulations. However, in respect of the provisions, other than the parameters and limit thereof as prescribed under the item (V) of these amendment regulations, the compliance shall commence after six months from the date of issuance of this direction.
2. In the Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011, in regulation 2.8 relating to Sweetening agents including Honey, in the sub-regulation 2.8.3 related to Honey and its by products,

(1) under Clause (1) related to Honey, the item (I) shall be substituted with the following, namely-

“(I) Honey is the natural sweet substance produced by honey bees from the nectar of plants or from secretions of living parts of plants or excretions of plant sucking insects on the living parts of plants, which the bees collect, transform by combining with specific substances of their own, deposit, dehydrate, store and leave in the honey comb to ripen and mature.

a) Blossom Honey or Nectar Honey is the honey which comes from nectars of plants.

b) Honeydew Honey is the honey which comes mainly from excretions of plant sucking insects (Hemiptera) on the living parts of plants or secretions of living parts of plants.

(2) table under the item (V) shall be substituted with the following, namely-

Sl. No.	Parameters	Limits
1.	Specific gravity at 27° C, Min.	1.35
2.	Moisture, per cent. by mass, Max.	20
3.	Total reducing sugars, per cent. by mass, Min.	
	(a) For the Honey not listed below	65
	(b) Carviacallosa and Honeydew honey	60
	(c) Blends of Honeydew honey with blossom honey	45
4.	Sucrose, per cent. by mass, Max.	

	(a)	For the Honey not listed below	5.0
	(b)	Carviacallosa and Honeydew honey, Max.	10
5.		Fructose to Glucose ratio (F/G Ratio)	0.95-1.50
6.		Total Ash, per cent. by mass, Max.	0.50
7.	(a)	Acidity expressed as formic acid, per cent. by mass, Max.	0.20
	(b)	Free Acidity milliequivalents acid/ 1000 g, Max.	50.0
8.		Hydroxymethylfurfural (HMF) mg/kg, Max.	80.0
9.		Diastase activity, Schade units per gram, Min.	3
10.		Water insoluble matters, per cent. by mass, Max.	
	(a)	For the Honey not listed below	0.10
	(b)	For Pressed honey	0.5
11.		C4 Sugar, per cent. by mass, Max.	7.0
12.		Pollen count and plant element/g, Min.	5000
13.		2-Acetylfuran-3-Glucopyranoside (2-AFGP) as Marker for Rice Syrup	Absent**
14.		Foreign oligosaccharides (Max. Percent Peak)	0.7
15.		Proline, mg/kg, Min.	180

16.	Electrical Conductivity:		
	(a)	Honeys not listed under Honeydew, Max.	0.8 mS/cm
	(b)	Honeys listed under Honeydew, Min.	0.8 mS/cm
17.	(a) $\Delta\delta^{13}\text{C}$ Max*. (Maximum difference between all measured $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ values); per mil		$\pm 2.1$
	(b) $\Delta\delta^{13}\text{C}$ Fru - Glu (The difference in $^{13}\text{C}/^{12}\text{C}$ ratio between fructose and glucose); per mil		$\pm 1.0$
	(c) $\Delta\delta^{13}\text{C}$ Protein - Honey (The difference in $^{13}\text{C}/^{12}\text{C}$ between honey and its associated protein extract); per mil		$\geq -1.0$

\* $\Delta\delta^{13}\text{C}$  Max. is the maximum difference observed between all possible isotopic ratios measured ( $\Delta\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{fructose-disaccharides}} / \Delta\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{fructose-trisaccharides}} / \Delta\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{fructose-protein}} / \Delta\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{glucose-disaccharides}} / \Delta\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{glucose-trisaccharides}} / \Delta\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{glucose-protein}} / \Delta\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{disaccharides-trisaccharides}} / \Delta\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{disaccharides-protein}} / \Delta\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{trisaccharides-protein}}$ ).

\*\*Minimum Required Performance Level- 1mg/kg

(3) the item (VII) and (VIII) shall be substituted with the following, namely-

“(vii) In addition to the labelling provisions as given in the Food Safety and Standards (Packaging and Labelling) Regulations, 2011, the following specific provisions shall be applicable for labelling of honey:

(a) Honey shall be labelled as:

- A. Honeydew Honey - If the product complies with the definitions given in part 1 (i) of this standard;
- B. Blend of Honeydew Honey and Blossom Honey – If the product is mixture of Blossom or Nectar Honey and Honeydew honey
- C. CarviaCallosa Honey - If the honey is derived from flower of *Carviacallosa* plant which is described as thixotropic and is gel like extremely viscous when standing still and turns into liquid when agitated or stirred.

(b) If the honey is obtained by pressing broodless combs, honey shall be labeled as “Pressed Honey”. If honey belongs to any of the categories mentioned at a) above and also falling into the category of pressed honey, it shall be labeled as “Pressed Honeydew Honey” or “Pressed and Blend of Honeydew Honey and Blossom Honey” or “Pressed CarviaCallosa Honey”.

(viii) Honey may be labeled as follows, according to floral or plant source, if it comes from any particular source and has the organoleptic, physicochemical and microscopic properties corresponding with that origin. It shall be in addition to the labeling requirements as given at vii) above:

- A. Monofloral Honey - If the minimum pollen content of the plant species concerned is not less than 45 percent of total pollen content;
- B. Multi Floral Honey - If the pollen content of any of the plant species does not exceed 45 percent of the total pollen content;"

(4) after item (viii), item (ix) shall be inserted, namely:

"(ix) The said standards are applicable to packaged/ processed honey."