

**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE**  
**(Department of Agriculture and Co-operation)**  
**NOTIFICATION**

New Delhi, the 24th January, 2012

**G.S.R. 41(E).**—Whereas the draft of Soybeans Grading and Marking Rules, 2011, was published as required by section 3 of the Agricultural Produce (Grading and Marking) Act, 1937 (1 of 1937) in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (i), vide notification number G.S.R.573(E), dated the 28<sup>th</sup> July, 2011 inviting objections and suggestions from all persons likely to be affected thereby within forty-five days from the date on which copies of the said notification published in the Gazette of India were made available to the public;

And whereas copies of the said notification were made available to the public on the 3<sup>rd</sup> August, 2011;

And whereas the objections and suggestions received from the public in respect of the said draft rules have been duly considered.

Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by section 3 of the Agricultural Produce (Grading and Marking) Act, 1937 (1 of 1937), and in supersession of the Soybeans Grading and Marking Rules, 1993, except as respects things done or omitted to be done before such supersession, the Central Government hereby makes the following rules, namely:-

**Rules**

**1. Short title, application and commencement:-**

- (1) These rules may be called the Soybeans Grading and Marking Rules, 2012.
- (2) They shall apply to Soybeans obtained from plant *Glycine max* (L.) Merr. of family *Fabaceae*
- (3) They shall come into force from the date of their publication in the Official Gazette.

**2(1). Definitions.-** (a) "Agricultural Marketing Adviser" means the Agricultural Marketing Adviser to the Government of India.

(b) "Authorised packer" means a person or a body of persons who has been granted a certificate of authorisation to grade and mark Soybeans in accordance with the grade standards and procedure made under these rules;

(c) "Certificate of Authorisation" means a certificate issued under the provisions of the General Grading and Marking Rules, 1988 authorising a person or a body of persons to grade and mark Soybeans with the grade designation mark;

(d) "General Grading and Marking Rules" means the General Grading and Marking Rules, 1988 made under section 3 of the Agricultural Produce (Grading and Marking) Act, 1937 (1 of 1937);

(e) "Grade designation mark" means the "Agmark Insignia" referred to in rule 5.

(f) "Schedule" means the Schedule appended to these rules.

(2) Words and expressions used in these rules and not defined but defined in the Agricultural Produce (Grading and Marking) Act, 1937 shall have the same meaning as are assigned to them under that Act.

3. Grade designations. - The Grade designations to indicate the quality of Soybeans shall be as set out in column I of Criteria for Grade Designation of Schedule II.

4. Quality. - For the purpose of these rules, the quality of Soybeans shall be as specified in Schedule II.

5. Grade designation mark.- The grade designation mark shall consist of "AGMARK insignia" consisting of a design incorporating the certificate of authorization number, the word "AGMARK", name of commodity and grade designation resembling the design as specified in Schedule- I.

6. Method of packing.- (1) Soybeans shall be packed in jute bags or new or unmended B-Twill bags or polywoven bags or cloth bags with inner lining or poly pouches, High Density Poly Ethylene laminated paper bags, or any other packing material as approved by the Agricultural Marketing Adviser.

(2) The packing material shall be clean, sound, free from insect and/or fungal infestation and should not impart any toxic substance or undesirable odour or flavour to the product.

(3) Soybeans shall be packed in pack sizes as per provisions in the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011 or as per the instructions issued by Agricultural Marketing Adviser from time to time.

(4) Graded material of small pack sizes of the same lot/batch and grade may be packed in a master container with complete details thereon along with grade designation mark.

(5) Each package shall contain Soybeans of the same type and of the same grade designation.

(6) Each package shall be properly and securely closed so as to disallow spilling.

7. Method of Marking.- (1) The grade designation mark shall be securely affixed to or printed on each package in a manner approved by the Agricultural Marketing Adviser or an officer authorized by him in this behalf in accordance with rule 11 of the General Grading and Marking Rules, 1988.

(2) In addition to the grade designation mark, following particulars shall be clearly and indelibly marked on each package.

- (a) Name of the Commodity
- (b) Grade;
- (c) Variety or trade name; (optional)
- (d) Date of packing;
- (e) Place of packing;
- (f) Lot or Batch number;
- (f) Crop year (optional);
- (g) Net weight;
- (h) Name and address of the packer;
- (i) Maximum retail Price (inclusive of all taxes);
- (j) BEST BEFORE \_\_\_\_\_ MONTH \_\_\_\_\_ YEAR;
- (k) any other particulars as may be specified by the Agricultural Marketing Adviser

(3) The ink used for marking on packages shall not contaminate the Soybeans.

(4) The authorised packer, may, after obtaining prior approval of the Agricultural Marketing Adviser or an officer authorized by him in this behalf, mark his private trade mark or trade brand on the graded packages provided that the same do not indicate quality other than that indicated by the grade designation mark affixed to the graded packages in accordance with these rules.

8. Special conditions of certificate of authorisation:- (1) In addition to the conditions specified in sub-rule (8) of rule 3 of the General Grading and Marking Rules, 1988 every authorized packer shall follow all instructions of the Agricultural Marketing Adviser from time to time;

(2) The authorised packer shall either set up his own laboratory as per the specified norms or have access to an approved State Grading Laboratory or cooperative or association laboratory or a Private Commercial laboratory manned by a qualified chemist approved by the Agricultural Marketing Adviser or an officer authorized by him in this behalf in accordance with rule 9 of the General Grading and Marking Rules, 1988 for testing the quality of Soybeans.

(3) The premises shall be maintained in hygienic and sanitary conditions with proper ventilations and well lighted arrangement and the personnel engaged in these operations shall be in sound health and free from any infectious, contagious or communicable diseases.

(4) The premises shall have adequate storage facilities with pucca floor and free from rodent and insect infestation.

(5) The authorised packer and the approved chemist shall observe all instructions regarding testing, grading, packing, marking, sealing and maintenance of records which may be issued by the Agricultural Marketing Adviser or any other officer authorised by him in this behalf from time to time.

## SCHEDULE-I

(See rule 5)  
(Design of Agmark insignia)



Name of the Commodity.....

Grade.....

SCHEDULE -II  
(see rule 3 and 4)

GRADE DESIGNATION AND QUALITY OF SOYBEANS [*Glycine max* (L.) Merr.]

1. Soybeans shall be obtained from *Glycine max* (L.) Merr. of family *Fabaceae*.

2. Minimum Requirements:

(i) Soybeans shall be-

- (a) mature, clean and dried seeds ;
- (b) wholesome;
- (c) uniform in size, shape, colour;
- (d) of characteristic taste and flavour;
- (e) free from living and dead insects, insect fragments;
- (f) free from fungus infestation, moulds and mites;
- (g) free from added colouring matter;
- (h) free from rodent hair and excreta;
- (i) free from non edible and toxic seeds such as Mahua, Khesari, Castor, Neem, Argemone etc;
- (j) free from rancidity and mustiness;
- (k) the seed shall not emit foul odour, or found deformed due to moist condition.

(ii) It shall comply with the restrictions in regard to residual levels of metal contaminants, insecticides and pesticides, crop contaminants, naturally occurring toxic substances and other food safety requirements as specified

under the Food Safety and Standards (Contaminants, Toxins and Residues) Regulations, 2011 and the Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011.

(iii) It shall comply with the residual limits of heavy metals, pesticides and other food safety requirements as laid down by the Codex Alimentarius Commission, or importing countries requirement for exports.

### 3. CRITERIA FOR GRADE DESIGNATION

| Designation | Extraneous matter              |                                    | Split or cracked seed percent by mass (max.) | Immature, shriveled and green seeds percent by mass (max.) | Damaged and Weevilled seeds percent by mass (max.) | Other edible seeds percent by mass (max.) | Moisture, percent by mass (max.) | Oil content, percent by mass on dry basis (Min.) | Colour of extracted oil on Lovibond scale expressed as (Y+10R) in 1/16" cell |
|-------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|             | Organic percent by mass (max.) | *Inorganic, percent by mass (max.) |                                              |                                                            |                                                    |                                           |                                  |                                                  |                                                                              |
| (1)         | (2)                            | (3)                                | (4)                                          | (5)                                                        | (6)                                                | (7)                                       | (8)                              | (9)                                              | (10)                                                                         |
| Special     | 0.10                           | 0.10                               | 2.0                                          | 2.0                                                        | Nil                                                | Nil                                       | 7.0                              | 20.0                                             | 20.0                                                                         |
| Standard    | 0.50                           | 0.25                               | 3.0                                          | 3.0                                                        | 0.5                                                | 0.5                                       | 9.0                              | 18.0                                             | 30.0                                                                         |
| General     | 0.75                           | 0.25                               | 4.0                                          | 7.0                                                        | 2.0                                                | 1.0                                       | 12.0                             | 15.0                                             | 40.0                                                                         |

\* Impurities of animal origin shall not exceed 0.10%.

Note. - The total of column (2) to (7) shall not exceed 11% in General grade.

#### 4. Other requirements:

- (i) The condition of the Soybeans shall be of that quality as to -
  - withstand transport and handling and
  - arrive in satisfactory condition at the place of destination.
- (ii) Soybeans shall be stored in appropriate cool and dry place maintained in a clean and hygienic condition.

Explanation. - For the purposes of these rules. -

- (a) "Extraneous matter" means-
  - (i) Organic matter consists of leaves, twigs, stems, organic matters other than the Soybeans;
  - (ii) Inorganic matter consists of metallic pieces, sand, gravel, dirt, pebbles, stones, lumps of earth, clay and mud, animal filth.
- (b) Damaged and Weevilled seeds that are partially or wholly bored or eaten by insect or are internally damaged as a result of heat, moisture, insect or microbial action.
- (c) Immature and shriveled seeds which are not fully mature or properly developed and shrunk out of shape.
- (d) Split or cracked seeds means mechanically damaged seeds or pieces with broken seed coat.

[F. No. 18011/2/2011-M. II]

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