

Grade Designation	Quality								
Special Characteristics (percent by mass)									
	Organic Extraneous matter (Maximum)	Inorganic extraneous matter (Maximum)	Empty and malformed capsules per cent by count (Maximum)	Immature & shriveled capsules (Maximum)	Insect damaged matter * (Maximum)	Mass in gm/litre (Minimum)	Moisture (Maximum)	Total ash on dry basis (Maximum)	Volatile oil on dry basis % (v/w) (Minimum)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
Special	0.2	0.1	2.0	2.0	0.20	435	11.0	8.0	4.0
Standard	0.7	0.3	3.0	3.0	0.50	385	13.0	9.5	3.5
General Characteristics									
(11)									
(1) Cardamom capsules shall be dried, sound and wholesome (without split and black) fruits of <i>Elettaria cardamomum</i> (L.) of family <i>zingiberaceae</i>; (2) It shall be oblong in shape with a rounded part or three cornered and having ribbed appearance; (3) It shall be well formed and contain sound seeds; (4) It shall have all characteristic odour and flavor of Cardamom; (5) It shall be free from any foreign odour or flavors including those of rancidity and mustiness; (6) Colour of the capsules may be (a) Light Green (b) Green (c) Deep Green or (d) pale Brownish, (e) pale cream to white when bleached with sulphur dioxide. Capsules shall be packed according to the colour group and it shall be indicated on the label. At least 95% of the capsules shall correspond to the respective colour group; (7) 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) Corg Green Extra Bold (CGEB) when retained on sieve having holes of diameter 8.0 mm. (c) Alleppey Green Bold (AGB) when retained on sieve having holes of diameter 6.0 mm. (d) Corg 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) Corg Green Superior (CGS) when retained on sieve having holes of diameter 6.0 mm. (8) It shall be free from any added coloring matter and other harmful substances; (9) It shall be free from mould growth, living and dead insects, insect fragments and rodent contamination; (10) It shall comply with restrictions in regard to Aflatoxins, Heavy Metals, Insecticide or Pesticide residue, naturally occurring toxic substances, Microbial load or other food safety requirements as specified in 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 or any other Regulation notified under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 for domestic trade. (11) It shall comply with restrictions in regard to Aflatoxins, Heavy Metals, Insecticide or Pesticide residue, naturally occurring toxic substances, Microbial load or other food safety requirements as specified by the Codex Alimentarius Commission or importing Countries requirements for exports.									

Explanations.

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| (a) | “Empty and Malformed capsules” | capsules which have no seeds or are scantily filled with seeds; |
| (b) | “Immature and Shriveled capsules” | capsules which are not fully developed; |
| (c) | “Inorganic extraneous matter” | Such as dust, dirt, stones and lumps of earth; |
| (d) | “Organic extraneous matter” | Such as chaff, stems, straw; |
| (e) | Insect damaged matter | The produce internally or partially bored or damaged by pest/insect. |

Note:- (1) The determination of Volatile Oil shall be made immediately after grinding the seeds obtained by separating the skin.

* Thrip marks alone should not lead to the conclusion that the capsules have been infested with insects.