

THE INSPECTION PROCEDURE IN VOGUE IN INDIA (Adopted by Quality Assurance (QAS-India))

BASIS OF INSPECTION

The inspection of cashew kernels shall be carried out with a view to ensure that they conform to the specifications recognized under section 6 of the Export (Quality Control and Inspection) Act, 1963.

PLACE OF INSPECTION

The inspection of a consignment shall normally be carried out at the premises of the processor/packer. However, the inspection shall also be conducted where adequate facilities such as well ventilated inspection room with sufficient natural light, inspection table, suitable weighing machines, aluminum or plastic receptacles, trays, polythene sheets, vita packing machine for vacuumisation etc. are provided.

PROCEDURE OF INSPECTION

An exporter intending to export a consignment of Cashew Kernels shall give intimation to the agency in writing.

1. The entire lot covered by the intimation for inspection shall be available to the inspecting officer to select the cartons / cases for detailed inspection. The inspecting officer shall physically verify the cartons in the lot and satisfy that the quantity as per the intimation has been correctly and fully represented.
2. Each grade offered for inspection under an intimation shall constitute a lot.
3. As colour is an important factor in determining the quality of cashew kernels, and as a correct assessment of colour could be made only in day light (Natural light) it is necessary that inspection is conducted during day time only.

4. Scale of sampling

If not otherwise specified in the export contract, the scale of sampling shall be in accordance with the table given below :-

No: of cartons in the lot	No: of cartons to be selected
1-5	All the cartons
6-80	5
81-120	6
121-180	7
181-250	8
251-350	10
351-500	12
501-750	14
751-1000	18
1001-1300	22
1301-1600	25
1601-2000	30
2001 and above	40

The number of cartons to be selected is the minimum.

5. The cartons /case shall be serially numbered and while selecting the cartons /cases for the purpose of inspection, method of random sampling as per IS : 4905 – 1968 shall be adopted.
6. From each cartons so selected, a minimum of one container shall be examined in detail.
7. The inspecting officer shall suitably mark the label on the tins to be opened for inspection and shall ensure that the selected tins with his markings on the labels alone are taken out, opened and emptied in his presence.
8. The tins selected for inspection shall be completely emptied into individual receptacles for detailed examination. The contents of each tin shall be examined in general. The kernels in the bottom portion of each receptacle shall be examined carefully for the presence of infestation, foreign matter etc.
9. All samples shall be examined visually for its uniformity. In respect of factors such as count, broken, NLG, NLSG moisture etc., analysis shall be done on composite sample for each grade. The composite sample shall be prepared by the coning and quartering method.
10. For checking count, 454 gm. And for determining other factors 1 kg. of the composite sample shall be taken.
11. Weighment test for each grade in the consignment shall be conducted and it shall be ensured that the nett content of each tin is as per declaration, subject to a tolerance of 10gm. From each grade, at least 25% of the selected tins subject to a minimum of 2 tins shall be subjected to weighment test.
12. The inspecting officer shall also verify whether various other requirements, viz; use of new, clean, dry, leak proof tins, proper vacuumisation, proper affixing of labels etc. have been complied with.
13. The inspecting officer shall issue check labels to be affixed on the tins opened for inspection.
14. The inspecting officer shall personally supervise the refilling and vacuumisation of the tins inspected. The check labels shall be affixed on these tins, in his presence.
15. For additional tests such as aflatoxin, cardol and anacardic acid, free fatty acid, peroxide value etc. samples shall be tested as prescribed. For this required quantity of samples shall be drawn as per item 9 above.
16. The test which are conducted: -
 - (a) Moisture - compulsory for all lots
 - (b) Aflatoxin
 - (c) BHC
 - (d) Microbiology
 - (e) E.Coli
 - (f) Roast test
 - (g) Phytosanitary
 - (h) Hydrogen Cyanide
 - (i) Carbaryl
 - (j) Endosulfan
 - (k) Di-methyl Sulphide
 - (l) Chlorpyrifos.
17. The samples thus drawn for various tests are sent to the laboratory with a covering note for analysis.
18. Field inspection report shall be prepared in the prescribed proforma and certificates are issued accordingly.