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DRAFT EAST AFRICAN STANDARD

Natural vanilla extract — Specification

EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

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East African Community
P.O. Box 1096,
Arusha
Tanzania
Tel: + 255 27 2162100
Fax: + 255 27 2162190
E-mail: eac@eachq.org
Web: www.eac-quality.net

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Foreword

Development of the East African Standards has been necessitated by the need for harmonizing requirements governing quality of products and services in the East African Community. It is envisaged that through harmonized standardization, trade barriers that are encountered when goods and services are exchanged within the Community will be removed.

The Community has established an East African Standards Committee (EASC) mandated to develop and issue East African Standards (EAS). The Committee is composed of representatives of the National Standards Bodies in Partner States, together with the representatives from the public and private sector organizations in the community.

East African Standards are developed through Technical Committees that are representative of key stakeholders including government, academia, consumer groups, private sector and other interested parties. Draft East African Standards are circulated to stakeholders through the National Standards Bodies in the Partner States. The comments received are discussed and incorporated before finalization of standards, in accordance with the Principles and procedures for development of East African Standards.

East African Standards are subject to review, to keep pace with technological advances. Users of the East African Standards are therefore expected to ensure that they always have the latest versions of the standards they are implementing.

The committee responsible for this document is Technical Committee EASC/TC 005, *Food additives*.

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Introduction

Commercial vanilla products are produced from the cured, dried, and conditioned pods of fully mature fruit of the orchid genus *Vanilla* by alcohol extraction. Of the 110 known species of vanilla, only *Vanilla planifolia* Andrews, *Vanilla tahitensis* Moore, and *Vanilla pompona* Shiede are of commercial importance today. The vanilla species of commerce, *V. planifolia* is used for a variety of purposes fragrance, vanilla flavouring and medicinal. Vanillin content of *V. planifolia* can yield 2 to 2.5 % and *V. tahitensis* normally will produce no more than 1.2 to 1.5 % even under optimum conditions.

This draft East African standard has been developed to keep up with advancements of the natural vanilla extract and their products and to ensure the safety and quality of the product traded in the markets in order to safeguard the health of the consumers.

Natural vanilla extract — Specification

1 Scope

This draft East African Standard specifies the requirements, sampling and test methods for natural vanilla extract products obtained from pods of *V. planifolia*, *V. tahitensis* and *V. pompona* species of vanilla orchid for use as a flavouring agent in food products.

2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

AOAC 999.11, *Determination of Lead, Cadmium, Copper, Iron, and Zinc in Foods, Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometry after Dry Ashing*

AOAC 2015.01, *Heavy Metals in Food Inductively Coupled Plasma–Mass Spectrometry*,

AOAC 2000.09 *Ochratoxin A in Roasted Coffee Immunoaffinity column HPLC method*,
CAC/GL 50, *General guidelines on sampling*

Codex 193, *General standard for contaminants and toxins in food and feed*

EAS 39, *Code of practice for hygiene in the food and drink manufacturing industry*

EAS 104, *Alcoholic beverages — Methods of sampling and test*.

CODEX STAN 107, *General standard for the labelling of food additives when sold as such*

ISO 4833, *Microbiology of food and animal feeding stuffs — Horizontal method for the enumeration of microorganisms – Colony-count technique at 30°C*

ISO 6579, *Microbiology of food and feeding stuffs — Horizontal method for the detection of salmonella spp*

ISO 21527-2, *Microbiology of food and animal feeding stuffs — Horizontal method for the enumeration of yeasts and moulds — Part 2: Colony count technique in products with water activity less than or equal to 0,95*

EAS 38, *Labelling of pre-packaged foods — General requirements*

ISO 16649-1, *Microbiology of the food chain — Horizontal method for the enumeration of beta-glucuronidase-positive Escherichia coli — Part 1: Colony-count technique at 44 degrees C using membranes and 5-bromo-4-chloro-3-indolyl beta-D-glucuronide*

ISO 16050, *Foodstuffs — Determination of aflatoxin B1, and the total content of aflatoxins B1, B2, G1 and G2 in cereals, nuts and derived products — High-performance liquid chromatographic method*

ISO 7952, *Fruits, vegetables and derived products — Determination of copper content — Method using flame atomic absorption spectrometry*.

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in

standardization at the following addresses:

— ISO Online browsing platform: available at <http://www.iso.org/obp>

3.1

vanilla pods

whole fruit which is botanically a capsule of the vanilla plant

3.2

vanilla extract

solution in aqueous ethyl alcohol of the sapid and odorous principles extractable from vanilla pods

3.3

vanillin

component from which vanilla derives its flavour character and flavouring strength

3.4

food grade material

material made of substances which are safe and suitable for their intended use and which will not impart any toxic substance or undesirable odour or flavour to the product

4 Ingredients

4.1 Essential ingredient

Vanilla pod extractives, ethyl alcohol and water

4.2 Optional Ingredients

Natural vanilla extract may contain one or more of the following optional ingredients and shall comply to the relevant East African standard:

- a) glycerin;
- b) propylene glycol (usually no more than 2 %);
- c) sugar (including invert sugar);
- d) dextrose; and
- e) corn syrup (or corn syrup solids).

65 Requirements

5.1 General requirements

Natural vanilla extract shall:

- a) have the characteristic aroma, flavour and colour depending on the vanilla pod; and
- b) not be mixed with any synthetic flavour material.

5.2 Specific requirements

Natural vanilla extract shall comply with the physicochemical requirements in Table 1 when tested in accordance with the test methods specified therein.

Table 1 — Physicochemical requirements for natural vanilla extract

S/N	Characteristic	Requirement (Single fold (x1) ^a	Test method
i	Alcohol % (v/v), min	35	EAS 104
iii	Specific gravity, min	0.83	Annex A
iv	Vanillin content (mg/mL), min	1.0	ISO 5565-2
^a A unit of vanilla constituent to be 378.5 g of pods containing not more than 25 % moisture per 3.785 liters of finished extract			

7 Hygiene

7.1 Natural vanilla extract shall be prepared and packaged in premises built and maintained under hygienic condition in accordance with EAS 39.

7.2 The product shall comply with microbiological limits given in Table 2 when tested in accordance with the test methods specified therein.

Table 2 — Microbiological limits for natural vanilla extract

S/N	Microorganism	Maximum limit	Test method
i.	Total viable count, cfu/ml	10 ⁴	ISO 4833-1
ii.	Yeast and moulds, cfu/ml	10 ²	ISO 21527-1
iii.	<i>Salmonella spp</i> in 25 ml	Absent	ISO 6579-1
iv.	<i>E. Coli</i> , cfu/ml	Absent	ISO 16649-2

8 Contaminants

8.1 Pesticide residues

Natural vanilla extract shall comply with pesticide residue limits established by the Codex Alimentarius Commission for this commodity.

8.2 Heavy metals

Natural vanilla extract shall comply with the maximum levels for the heavy metals given in Table 3 when tested in accordance with the test methods specified therein.

Table 3 — Permitted maximum level of heavy metals in natural vanilla extract

S/N	Heavy metal	Maximum limit mg/kg	Test method
i.	Lead (Pb)	0.3	AOAC 999.11
iii.	Arsenic (As)	0.05	ISO 2590
iv	Cadmium (Cd)	0.01	AOAC 999.11
v	Mercury (Hg)	0.01	ISO 6637

8.3 Other contaminants

Natural Vanilla Extract shall comply with the contaminant limits specified in the latest edition of CODEX STAN 193.

10 Packaging

Natural vanilla extract shall be packaged in food grade material to safeguard the safety, hygienic, nutritional and organoleptic qualities of the product.

11 Labelling

11.1 In addition to the requirements in CODEX STAN 107, each package shall be legibly and indelibly labelled with the name of the product as "Natural vanilla extract";

11.2 The labelling shall be in English or any other official language used in the importing East African Partner State.

12 Sampling

Sampling shall be done in accordance with CAC/GL 50.

Bibliography

The US Code of Federal Regulations for Vanilla, 21 CFR 169.175–169.182

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