



agriculture, forestry & fisheries

Department:
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Directorate Food Safety and Quality Assurance, Private Bag X343, PRETORIA, 0001

TO: 1. ALL CANNERS AND IMPORTERS OF CANNED VEGETABLES
2. DIRECTORATE: INSPECTION SERVICES
3. APPOINTED ASSIGNEE – P.P.E.C.B.

FROM: The Executive Officer

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|-------------------|---------------------|----------------|-------------------------------|
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Subject

DISPENSATION: CANNED PICKELD CUCUMBERS AND BEETROOT

Background

Regulations 20 and 25 of the canned vegetables regulations (No. R. 1532 of 24 October 2003) as well as Items 4 and 9 of Part II of the export standards and requirements for canned vegetables (Notice 1925 of 10 September 2004) pertaining to canned beetroot and canned pickled cucumbers respectively currently do not –

- make provisions for the use of **“sweet & tangy”** as one of the types of styles to describe the sensory characteristics of the pickled cucumbers;
- allow for the addition of other vegetables (e.g. chopped onion, sliced red peppers, etc.) to the pickled cucumbers for the purpose of mainly enhancing the visual appearance/presentation and/or flavour of the product; and
- allow for the use of the descriptor **“crinkle cut”** in the case of beetroot slices that have been cut corrugated.

The Department has received various requests to address the above-mentioned shortcomings by means of an industry wide dispensation. Sweet & tangy pickled cucumbers were therefore compared (sensory evaluation) against other packing media and it was found to be distinctively different from the types of styles already provided for. The addition of small quantities of other vegetable ingredients to pickled cucumbers is also a common practice. The Department is also of the opinion that the use of “crinkle cut” versus “corrugated” as a descriptor for corrugated cut beetroot slices would be more acceptable to consumers, retailers and manufacturers.

In view of the above, the department has therefore decided to issue the following dispensation to all canners of canned pickled cucumbers and beetroot destined for sale on the local market and export as well as the importers of these products:

Dispensation

Permission is hereby granted by the Executive Officer: Agricultural Product Standards in terms of section 3(1)(c) and 4(4) of the Agricultural Product Standards Act, 1990 (Act No. 119 of 1990), to all manufactures, packers, importers, exporters and retailers of canned vegetables to:

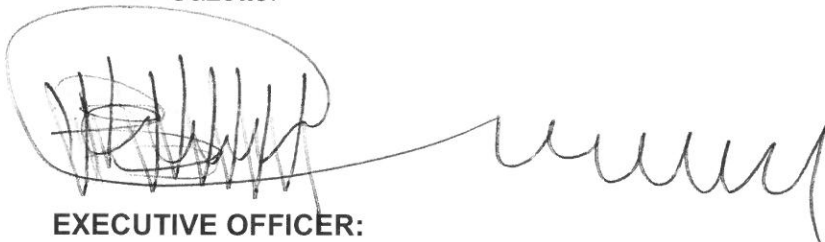
- (a) Use the following type of style to describe the sensory characteristics of the pickled cucumbers:

| Type | Characteristic flavour |
|-----------------|--|
| Sweet and Tangy | Sweet and pungent, piquant or spicy note |

- (b) Add small quantities of other types of vegetables (e.g. chopped onion, sliced red peppers, etc.) to the pickled cucumbers for the purpose of mainly enhancing the visual appearance/presentation and/or flavour of the product: Provided that ---
- (i) such additional vegetable ingredients shall be of a good quality and practically free from defects; and
 - (ii) the minimum prescribed drained mass for the style of pickled cucumbers concerned shall still be complied with.
- (c) Use the descriptor “**crinkle cut**” in the case of beetroot slices that have been cut corrugated.

This permission is subject to the following conditions:

- (a) All other conditions of the relevant regulations shall be complied with.
- (b) It may be withdrawn at any time should a valid complaint be received.
- (c) All manufactures, packers, importers, exporters and retailers of canned vegetables indemnify this Directorate and the Department from any detrimental effect, financially or otherwise, which may emanate as a result of this permission.
- (d) Termination date: When the amendment to the relevant local regulations and notice of the amendment to the relevant export standards and requirements are published in the Government Gazette.



EXECUTIVE OFFICER:
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCT STANDARDS ACT, 1990 (ACT 119 OF 1990)
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