

THE SAFFRON GRADING AND MARKING RULES

1. **Short title and application**---(1) These rules may be called the Saffron Grading and Marking Rules, 1973.

2. They shall apply to saffron (*Crocus sativus*, Linnacus) produced in India

2. **Definitions**—In these rules, unless the context otherwise requires;

(a) Agricultural Marketing Adviser means the Agricultural Marketing Adviser to the Government of India;

(b) “Schedule” means a Schedule appended to these rules.

3. **Grade designation**—The grade designations to indicate the quality of saffron shall be as set out in column 2 of schedule I. .

4. **Definition of quality**---The quality of saffron indicated by the respective grade designations shall be as set out against each grade designation in columns 3 to 11 of Schedule I.

5. **Grade designation marks**---The grade designation mark shall consist of either,

(i) a design incorporating the number of the Certificate of Authorization, the word “Agmark” and the grade approved by the Agricultural Marketing Adviser, or

(ii) a label specifying the grade approved by the Agricultural Marketing Adviser and bearing the design (consisting of an outline map of India with the word “Agmark and the figure of the rising sun with the words “Produce of India” “Hkkjrh; mRikn and resembling the one as set out in Schedule I.

6. **Method of Marking**-- (1) The grade designation mark shall be securely affixed to or printed on each container in a manner approved by the Agricultural Marketing Adviser.

(2) In addition to the above, the following particulars shall also be clearly and indelibly marked on each container namely:-

(a) Date of packing in code or plain letter;

(b) Crop year; and

(C) Net weight

3) An authorized packer may, after obtaining the prior approved of the Agricultural Marketing Adviser, mark his private trade mark on a container, in a manner approved by the said officer, provided that the private trade mark does not represent a quality or grade of saffron different from that indicated by the grade designation mark affixed to the container in accordance with these rules.

7. **Method of packing**:--(1) Saffron shall be packed in only new and clean tins, glass or plastic containers, polythene bags or any other suitable container.

(2) The container shall be securely closed and sealed in a manner approved by the Agricultural Marketing Adviser.

(3) Each container shall contain saffron of one grade designation only.

8. **Special conditions of certificate of authorization**:-- In addition to the conditions specified in rule 4 of the General Grading and Marking Rules, 1937, the following special conditions shall be observed by packers to the satisfaction of the Agricultural Marketing Adviser, namely:----

(1) An authorized packer shall make such arrangement for testing saffron as the Agricultural Marketing Adviser may specify by general or special order Time to time.

(2) An authorized packer shall provide such facilities to the Inspecting Officer duly authorized by the Agricultural Marketing Adviser in this behalf as may be necessary for them to discharge their duties under these rules.

SCHEDULE-I
(See Rules 3 & 4)

Grade designation and definition of quality of Saffron produced in India

| Sl. No. | Grade Designation | Colour | Special Characteristics | | | | | | | General characteristics |
|---------|-------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| | | | Floral waste content percent maximum | Foreign matter percent maximum | Matter volatile at 103°C % by weight maximum | Total ash% by weight maximum | Ash in soluble in HCL % by weight maximum | Aqueous extract %by weight minimum | Total Nitrogen %by weight minimum | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 1 | Special | Deep red | 5 | 0.5 | 14 | 8.0* | 1.5* | 55.0* | 2* | Saffron shall :- (a) be the dried full, cut or broken stigmas of the plant botanically known as <i>Crocus sativus</i> Linnacus; (b) have the characteristics strong, aromatic, pleasant and slightly iodinated smell with bitter and slightly pungent taste and be free from any foreign taste or smell, or taste. (c) be free from living insects and moulds and shall be free from dead insects fragments and rodent contamination visible to the naked eye (corrected, if necessary for abnormal vision) with such magnification as may be necessary in any particular case; and (d) not contain any added foreign colouring matter. |
| 2 | Standard | Light reddish to bright red | 15 | 1.0 | 14 | 8.0* | 1.5* | 55.0* | 2* | |
| 3 | Non Specified @ | -- | -- | 1.0% | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |

Definitions :

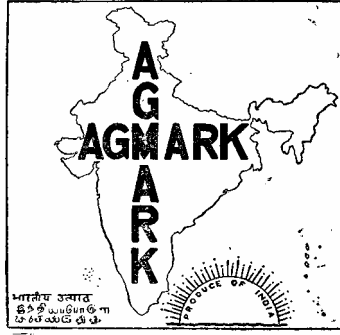
1. Floral waste - Yellow filaments, pollen, stamens, part of ovary and other parts of the flower of *crocus sativus* Linnaeus.

Note: -

* **Foreign matter** - Sand, earth, dust, leaf, stem, chaff and other vegetable matter. On dry basis i.e moisture and volatile matter free basis as calculated from columns 6 matter volatile at 103°C. Sulphuric acid- Diphenylamine test shall be positive, floral waste content shall be determined by standard method.

Nos-specified @ - Saffron under non-specified grade shall be exported only against the agreement between buyers and sellers in a firm order, subject to limitations as mentioned under column 5 of the Schedule.

SCHEDULE-II
(See Rule 3)
(Design for the Grade designation mark)



Note : The Tamil and Telugu words will not occur in the labels in case where commodities are graded for the purpose of export