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Honey

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Foreword

This standard was drafted in accordance with the rules given GB/T 1.1-2009.

This standard was first released in 1982, then it is adjusted to be a national standard (GB 18796-2005 “Honey”). On April 20, 2011, GB 14963-2011 “National food safety standard - Honey” was released, now it is adjusted to be an industry standard.

As compared with GB 18796-2005, the main changes of this standard are as follows:

- In accordance with the requirements of “Food Safety Law of the People's Republic of China”, CHANGE it from mandatory standard to recommended standard;
- COMBINE all physiochemical indicators, no matter whether it is mandatory or recommended;
- MODIFY the non-retail packaging requirements;
- MODIFY Appendix A.

This standard was proposed by the All-China Federation of Supply and Marketing Cooperatives Honey Product Standardization Technical Committee Secretariat.

This standard shall be under the jurisdiction of the All-China Federation of Supply and Marketing Cooperatives.

The drafting organizations of this standard: All-China Federation of Supply and Marketing Cooperatives Honey Product Standardization Technical Committee Secretariat, China Bee Product Association Honey Committee, Beijing Baihua Bee Industry Technology Development Corporation.

The main drafters of this standard: Yang Hanbing, Yin Keqing, Tan Lirui.

This standard replaces the standards previously issued as follows:

- GH 012-1982;
- GH/T 1001-1998;
- GB/T 18796-2002, GB 18796-2005.

Honey

1 Scope

This standard specifies the definition of honey and the quality, packaging, marking, storage, and transportation requirements after being separated from the honeycomb.

This standard applies to other products using honey as the product name or main word of product name than the honeycomb honey (honey).

2 Normative references

The following documents are essential to the application of this document. For the dated documents, only the versions with the dates indicated are applicable to this document; for the undated documents, only the latest version (including all the amendments) are applicable to this document.

GB/T 191 Packaging - Pictorial marking for handling of goods

GB 5009.4 National food safety standard - Determination of ash in foods

GB 7718 National food safety standard - Standard for nutrition labelling of prepackaged foods

GB 14963 National food safety standard - Honey

GB/T 18932.1 Method for the determination of C-4 plant sugars in honey - Stable carbon isotope ratio method

GB/T 18932.16 Method for the determination of diastase number in honey - Spectrophotometric method

GB/T 18932.18 Method for determination of hydroxymethylfurfural in honey - HPLC-UV detection method

GB/T 18932.22 Method for the determination of fructose, glucose, sucrose, maltose contents in honey - Liquid chromatography refractive index detection method

GH/T 1015-1999 Honey packing steel drum

SN/T 0852-2000 Method for the inspection of honey for import and export

3 Terms and definitions

The terms and definitions as defined in GB 7718 and the following terms and definitions apply to this document.

3.1

Honey; bee honey

A natural sweet material that is fully-made by bees, which collect plant nectar, secretions or honeydew AND combine with its own secretions.

Note: Honey contains a variety of sugars -- mainly fructose and glucose. In addition, it also contains organic acids, enzymes and solid particles collected from bees such as plant pollen and so on. The smell and color of honey vary with the source of honey. The color is water white, amber or dark. Honey is usually in viscous fluid, it may form part or all crystallization after long time of storage or at low temperature.

3.2

Make

The process of transformation, dehydration, storage, until maturation of the nectar, plant secretions or honeydew (combined with bee secretions) in the honeycomb.

3.3

Unifloral honey, monofloral honey

The honey made by the nectar or secretions collected by bees from a single type of plant.

3.4

Multifloral honey

The honey made by the nectar or secretions collected by bees from two or more nectar plants, as well as the mixture of two or more unifloral honey.

3.5

Honeydew

Sweet material excreted by the insects which suck plant juice.

One of the following names shall be used:

- a) Products meeting the definition of this standard may be referred to as “bee honey” or simply “honey”;
- b) Honey with pollen removed by filtration shall be referred to as “filtered honey”;
- c) Adjectives that indicate color can be added before “honey”;

Example: white honey.

- d) If honey is predominantly from a plant or flower, and possesses the physical, chemical and microscopic properties of such honey, the name of such plant or flower may be added before “honey”;

Note: Common unifloral honey product name is as shown in Appendix A.

Example: Locust honey.

- e) The names of “liquid honey” and “crystalline honey” may be used to indicate the physical state;
- f) It is named in accordance with b), c), d), e) of the preceding paragraph;
- g) If honey is made by one kind of bees, it may add the name of such bees in front of the product name, in a bracket;

Example: (Northeast black bee) honey.

- h) The terms 3.1, 3.3, 3.4 and 3.6 of this standard can be used as the product name.

4.7 Special restriction requirements

Chemical or biochemical methods shall not be used to change the crystalline changes in honey.

Heat treatment temperature shall not be too high, to prevent changes in the basic composition of honey, resulting in quality damage.

5 Test methods

5.1 General

6 Packaging

6.1 Non-retail packaging

6.1.1 Non-retail packaging steel drums shall meet the requirements of GH/T 1015-1999. This type of packaging drum shall have a service life from the date of exit-factory not more than 5 years.

Other covered food containers can also be used.

Galvanized barrels or packaging containers containing medicines, fuel oils, cooking oils or other chemical products shall not be used.

6.1.2 Packaging containers shall be cleaned before use AND is blown-dried or natural-dried.

6.1.3 Packaging site shall be clean and sanitary, away from sources of pollution.

6.1.4 Filling staff shall be hand-disinfected before operation and wear a clean work clothes and cap.

6.1.5 The container inside shall be kept appropriate clearance to prevent honey from spilling over. The lid shall be covered immediately after filling.

6.2 Pre-packaging

6.2.1 The packaging containers and materials in contact with honey shall meet the national food safety and hygiene requirements.

6.2.2 Packaging shall be tight. Reliable means shall be taken to enable other personnel to identify whether the container has been opened after packaging.

7 Marking

7.1 Non-retail packaging mark

On the package it shall be marked with the product name, production date or lot number, the name and address of the producer (processor or packer).

7.2 Pre-packaged labels

7.2.1 It shall meet the requirements of GB 7718.

7.2.2 Product name shall meet the requirements of clause 4.6 of this standard.

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