

PROCEDURE FOR ISSUE OF ATTESTATION OF EQUIVALENCE

Attestation of Equivalence for the consignments of hops and its products destined to EU countries shall be issued by Export Inspection Council (EIC) / Export Inspection Agencies (EIAs) located at Chennai/ Delhi/Kochi/Kolkata/ Mumbai.

A) General

Processor / manufacturer of hops & its products desires to export to EU countries shall have to register with EIA to get an approval code. The EIC will draw up a list of approved hop production areas/ certification centers with the approval code and communicate the same to European Commission (EC). Any changes will be regularly communicated to EC.

B) Definitions concerning the hops sector

1. "Hops" means the dried inflorescences, also known as cones, of the (female) climbing hop plant (*Humulus lupulus*); these inflorescences, which are greenish yellow and of an ovoid shape, have a flower stalk and their longest dimension generally varies from 2 to 5 cm.
2. "Hop powder" means the product obtained by milling the hops, containing all the natural elements thereof.
3. "Hop powder with higher lupulin content" means the product obtained by milling the hops after mechanical removal of a part of the leaves, stalks, bracts and rachides.
4. "Extract of hops" means the concentrated products obtained by the action of a solvent on the hops or on the hop powder.
5. "Mixed hop products" means a mixture of two or more of the products referred to in points 1 to 4.

C) Responsibilities to be followed by producer/manufacturer/exporter

The exporter/ processing unit desirous to export hops and its products (Regulation EC No. 2013/1308) to EU countries shall have to follow the following:

- 1) Producer/ manufacturer of hops shall maintain the hygienic and sanitary requirements of processing areas.
- 2) In the case of hop powder, hop powder with higher lupulin content, extract of hops and mixed hop products, the certificate may only be issued if the alpha acid content of these products is not lower than that of the hops from which they have been prepared.
- 3) Every consignment of hops presented for attestation of equivalence shall be accompanied by a written declaration signed by the producer as in **Annex A**.
- 4) The hops and its products to be exported to EU country (s) must comply the marketing requirements given at *Annex I* in Commission Delegated Regulation EC No. 2024/602 (reproduced as **Annex B**) and sampling & test methods as per Annex IV of EC no. 2024/601 (reproduced as **Annex C**)

- 5) In case of blending of hops products processor shall ensure that hops are from same production / harvest area / variety and the blending operation is being done under surveillance of EIC / EIA officer.
- 6) Manufacturer / processor shall ensure the access of their establishment to the representative of concerned EIC / EIA (Competent Authority) during the processing time.
- 7) The processor shall provide all the information to representative of EIC / EIA like technical lay out, measures put in place to ensure that in the case of hop powder, hop powder with higher lupulin content, extract of hops and mixed hop products, the alpha acid content of those products is not lower than that of the hops from which they have been prepared, place of production, harvesting details, batch record, process record (weight etc.), detail of varieties used etc. and maintain the record for same for at least 3 years.
- 8) The records are to be kept by processing plants for each batch of hop product to allow traceability of each input product to the final hop products
- 9) Each package of hops products shall bear the entries namely seeded / seedless / prepared / unprepared hops, variety(s) and reference number of the certificate in one of the EC language as given in Annex I and III of EC No. 2024/601 (see Annex **D & E**),
- 10) A written harvest declaration should be drawn up and signed by the producer for each consignment of unprepared hops presented for certification.
- 11) In order to ensure traceability, hop should be marketed in sealed packages, which should bear markings concerning the description of the product, the variety, the harvest year and the unique reference number of the consignment, which must be identical to the reference number of the certificate issued.
- 12) Each package shall bear at least the following markings in one of the official languages of the Union:
 - a) the description of the product including the mention ‘prepared hops’ or ‘unprepared hops’, as the case may be;
 - b) the variety or varieties;
 - c) the year of harvest;
 - d) the unique reference number of the certificate issued in accordance with Article 4.

D) Procedure for issue of Attestation of Equivalence to be followed by EIAs (Competent Authority)

In order to issue Attestation of Equivalence the hops and its products consignments meant for EU countries EIC / EIAs, the Competent Authority, shall follow the following procedure:

- 1) On receipt of application from producer/ manufacturer / exporter as per **Annex A**, an officer of EIA shall be deputed to draw sample(s) as per procedure given in **Annex C** to test it as per specifications (marketing requirements) given in **Annex B**.
- 2) In addition to above, it shall also be ensured that in the case of hop powder, hop powder with higher lupulin content, extract of hops and mixed hop products, the certificate may only be issued if the **alpha acid** content of these products is not lower than that of the hops from which they have been prepared.
- 3) Sample(s) shall be tested in EIA or any EIC approved laboratory and expense incurred on testing shall be borne by applicant.
- 4) In order to get register with EIAs for getting approval code applicant processing establishment shall have to pay @ Rs. 5,000 as approval fee to concerned EIA.
- 5) In addition to approval fee and laboratory test charges, applicant shall also pay certification fee @ 0.2% of F.O.B. value of consignment.
- 6) On compliance of samples, EIA shall issue the Attestation of Equivalence as given in format, **Annex-F**.
- 7) A qualified technologist approved by the Competent Authority (EIA) shall be present at all times when processing is taking place. EIA will carry out regular surveillance to ensure that the laid down conditions are complied with.

ANNEX - A

APPLICATION FORM FOR ISSUE OF ATTESTATION OF EQUIVALENCE

(to be submitted by producer/exporter to the nearest office of EIAs)

To

The Joint Director,
Export Inspection Agency-Chennai/Delhi/Kolkata/Kochi/Mumbai

Subject: Request for issue of Attestation of Equivalence for the consignments of hops
and its products to be exported to EU countries.

Sir,

Kindly issue me an Attestation of Equivalence for (product name)
to be exported to (country (s)). The consignment details are given
below:

- a) producer's name & address
- b) harvest year
- c) variety (s) (% wt. in case of blends)
- d) reference no. of certificate
(in case of blend product)
- e) place/ area(s) of production
- f) place of processing
- g) date of processing
- h) parcel reference
- g) number of packages in the consignment
- h) description of product
- i) invoice no. and date
- j) lot No. / batch No.
- k) expiry date of product, if any
- l) quantity of product:
- m) shipping mark, if any
- n) date of shipment & place

o) probable date of loading

p) place of loading

q) FOB value

Online Fee receipt number.....dated.....
for Rs..... is enclosed

Date:

Signature

Place:

Name & Address

Annex - B

OJ L, 16.2.2024

EN

ANNEX I

Minimum marketing requirements for hop cones referred to in Article 8(2)

Characteristics	Description	Maximum content (% of weight)	
		Prepared hops	Unprepared hops
(a) Moisture	Water content	12,0	14,0
(b) Leaves and stalks	Leaf fragments from branch tendrils, branch tendrils, leaf or cone strigs; to be classed as stalk, cone strigs must be at least 2,5 cm long	6,0	6,0
(c) Hop waste	Small particles resulting from machine harvesting, varying in colour between dark green and black and which generally do not come from the cone; the maximum contents indicated may include particles of varieties of hops other than those to be certified, amounting to up to 2 % of the weight	3,0	4,0
(d) Seed content in the case of 'seedless hops'	Mature fruit of the cone	2,0	2,0

ANNEX IV

METHODS REFERRED TO IN ARTICLE 7

A. SAMPLING METHOD

The following procedure shall be used to take samples of hop cones for determining the moisture content and, where applicable, the extraneous matter content:

1. Sampling

(a) Packed hops

A weight of hops proportional to the weight of the package shall be taken from the number of packages specified in Article 7(3). Enough samples shall be taken to ensure that there are enough cones to be representative of the package.

(b) Hops in a loose pile

Take equal portions from five to ten different places in the pile both at the surface and at various depths to constitute a sample. Place the sample in the container as soon as possible. To avoid rapid deterioration, the quantity of hops must be sufficiently large to be highly compressed when the container is closed.

The sample must weigh at least 250 gram.

2. Mixture

The samples must be carefully mixed to be representative of the consignment.

3. Sub-sampling

After mixing, take one or more representative samples and place them in a waterproof, airtight container such as a metal box, a glass jar or a plastic bag, except where only the extraneous matter content is to be checked.

4. Storage

Except during transport, samples must be stored in a cold place. Care should be taken to allow the samples to return to room temperature inside the container before opening for examination or analysis.

B. METHODS FOR CHECKING THE MOISTURE CONTENT OF HOPS

1. Method (i)

Samples for moisture content must not be ground. They should be exposed to the air only for the minimum time necessary for their transfer from the container to the weighing vessel (which must have a lid).

Apparatus

Balance sensitive to 0,005 grams.

Drying oven electrically heated and thermostated to 105 to 107 °C (the efficacy of the oven should be checked by the copper sulphate test).

Metal dishes 70 to 100 mm in diameter, 20 to 30 mm deep and provided with well-fitting lids.

Ordinary desiccators, suitable for accommodating the dishes and containing a desiccant such as indicator silica gel.

Method

Transfer 3 to 5 grams of hops to a dish and close the lid before weighing. Weigh as quickly as possible. Remove the lid and place the dish in the oven for one hour exactly. Replace the lid, place the dish in a desiccator to cool for at least 20 minutes and then weigh the dish.

Calculation

Calculate the loss of weight as a percentage of the original weight of hops. The maximum deviation for individual estimation is 1 %.

2. Method (ii)

Method using either an electronic weighing machine which dries the hops with infra-red rays or hot air, or an electric measuring apparatus, which registers on a scale the degree of humidity of the sample taken.

C. METHOD FOR CHECKING THE EXTRANEEOUS MATTER CONTENT

1. Determination of the leaf, stalk and waste content

Sieve five 100 gram samples (or one 250 gram sample) using a 2 to 3 mm sieve. Collect the lupulin, waste and seeds and separate the seeds by hand. Place the samples on one side. Transfer the contents of the 2 to 3 mm sieve to a 8 to 10 mm sieve and sieve again.

The hop cones, leaves, stalks and extraneous matter are collected by hand from the sieve while cone leaves, seeds, lupulin, waste and some leaves and stalks pass through. All this is sorted by hand and divided into the following groups:

- (a) leaves and stalks;
- (b) hops (cone leaves, hop cones and lupulin);
- (c) waste;
- (d) seeds.

Whereas it is extremely difficult to separate the waste and the lupulin precisely it is possible, using a sieve with a mesh size of 0,8 millimetres, to determine approximately the relative proportions of the waste and the lupulin.

When estimating the proportion of lupulin, it should be taken into account that the density of the lupulin is four times greater than that of the waste.

The various groups are weighed and the percentage which each group represents in the weight of the original sample is determined.

2. Determination of the seed content

Place a 25 gram sample in a metal container with a lid and heat in a drying oven for two hours at 115 °C in order to neutralise the sticky resin.

Wrap the dried sample in coarse cotton cloth and rub vigorously or beat mechanically in order to detach the seeds from the hops. Separate the dried and finely fragmented hops from the seeds with a grinder or a 1 mm metal sieve.

Separate any items remaining with the seeds using either a sloping surface covered with emery paper or any other method which gives the same result, i.e. retains the stems and other matter and permits the seeds to roll off.

Weigh the seeds and determine the percentage of seeds relative to the weight of the original sample.

Annex -D

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OJ L, 16.2.2024

ANNEX I

MARKING OF PACKAGES REFERRED TO IN ARTICLE 3

Packages shall be marked as follows, depending on the type of package:

- (a) for hop cones put up in bales or ballots:
 - printing on the package, or
 - printing on adhesive seal;
- (b) for hop powder in packets:
 - printing on the packet, or
 - printing on adhesive seal;
- (c) for hop powder or hop extract in containers:
 - printing on the container,
 - printing on adhesive seal or stamping into the container;
- (d) for sealed packages containing a consignment of packets or containers of powder or extract:
 - printing on the sealed package or the adhesive seal, and
 - printing on each packet or container of powder or extract in the sealed package, or on its adhesive seal.

ANNEX III

ENTRIES REFERRED TO IN ARTICLE 4(2), FIRST SUBPARAGRAPH, POINT (b), AND ARTICLE 4(3), POINT (i)

in Bulgarian:	Сертифициран продукт – Регламент за изпълнение (ЕС) 2024/601
in Spanish:	Producto certificado – Reglamento de Ejecución (UE) 2024/601 de la Comisión
in Czech:	Ověřený produkt – Prováděcí nařízení Komise (EU) 2024/601
in Danish:	Certificeret produkt – Kommissionens gennemførelsesforordning (EU) 2024/601
in German:	Zertifiziertes Erzeugnis – Durchführungsverordnung (EU) 2024/601 der Kommission
in Estonian:	Sertifitseeritud toode – Komisjoni rakendusmäärus (EL) 2024/601
in Greek:	Πιστοποιημένο προϊόν – Εκτελεστικός κανονισμός (ΕΕ) 2024/601 της Επιτροπής
in English:	Certified product – Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2024/601
in French:	Produit certifié – Règlement d'exécution (UE) 2024/601 de la Commission
in Croatian:	Certificirani proizvod – Provedbena uredba Komisije (EU) 2024/601
in Irish:	Táirge deimhnithe – Rialachán Cur Chun Feidhme (AE) 2024/601
in Italian:	Prodotto certificato – Regolamento di esecuzione (UE) 2024/601 della Commissione
in Latvian:	Sertificēts produkts – Komisijas Īstenošanas regula (ES) 2024/601
in Lithuanian:	Sertifikuotas produktas – Komisijos įgyvendinimo reglamentas (ES) 2024/601
in Hungarian:	Tanúsított termék – A Bizottság (EU) 2024/601 végrehajtási rendelete
in Maltese:	Prodott lcertifikat – Regolament ta' Implimentazzjoni tal-Kummissjoni (UE) 2024/601
in Dutch:	Gecertificeerd product – Uitvoeringsverordening (EU) 2024/601 van de Commissie
in Polish:	Produkt certyfikowany – Rozporządzenie wykonawcze Komisji (UE) 2024/601
in Portuguese:	Produto certificado – Regulamento de Execução (UE) 2024/601 da Comissão
in Romanian:	Produs certificat – Regulamentul de punere în aplicare (UE) 2024/601 al Comisiei
in Slovak:	Certifikovaný výrobok – Vykonávacie nariadenie Komisie (EÚ) 2024/601
in Slovenian:	Certificiran pridelek – Izvedbena uredba Komisije (EU) 2024/601
in Finnish:	Varmennettu tuote – Komission täytäntöönpanoasetus (EU) 2024/601
in Swedish:	Certifierad produkt – Kommissionens genomförandeförordning (EU) 2024/601

Annex- F

Attestation of Equivalence

1. Consignor (full name and address)	2. No	ORIGINAL	
3. Consignee (full name and address)	ATTESTATION OF EQUIVALENCE FOR THE IM-PORTATION OF HOPS AND HOP PRODUCTS INTO THE EUROPEAN UNION		
	Виж превода на гърба – Véase traducción al dorso – Viz překlad na druhé straně – Oversættelse se bagsiden – Übersetzung siehe Rückseite – Vaata tõlget pöördel – Δείτε μετάφραση στην πίσω σελίδα – See translation overleaf – Voir traduction au verso – Féach an t-aistriúchán ar an taobh thall – Vidjeti prijevod na poleđini – Vedi traduzione a tergo – skatīt tulkojumu nākamajā lappusē – Žr. vertimą kitame puslapyje – a fordítást lásd a túlsó oldalon – Ara t-traduzzjoni mnizzla fuq wara – Zie vertaling aan ommezijde – Zob. tłumaczenie na odwrocie – Ver tradução no verso – A se vedea traducerea pe verso – Pozri preklad na druhej strane – Glej prevod na hrbtni strani – Katso kääntöpuolella oleva käännös – För översättning se baksidan		
IMPORTANT NOTES A. This attestation must be submitted to the customs authorities in the Union when the products are released for free circulation in the Union or when the consignment is split up before it is released for free circulation. B. When the consignment is split up, the customs authorities, after endorsing the attestation, shall retain the original and forward a copy to the authorities responsible for hops in the Member State concerned. C. When the products are released for free circulation, after endorsing the attestations, the customs authorities should retain the original, return one copy to the declarant and forward one copy to the authorities responsible for hops in the Member State concerned.	4. Country of Origin		
	5. Place of production of hops		6. Harvesting year
	7. Place of processing		8. Date of processing
9. Marks, numbers, number and kind of packages – description of products – variety		10. Gross weight (kg)	
11. ATTESTATION BY ISSUING AUTHORITY I the undersigned certify that the products described above comply with the rules on hops and hop products applicable in the European Union.			
12. Issuing authority (full name and address)		At	on (Stamp)
13. RESERVED FOR THE CUSTOMS AUTHORITIES IN THE UNION The products described above have been released for free circulation ⁽¹⁾ This attestation has been replaced by the extracts noted in Section 18 ⁽¹⁾ At , on <div style="text-align: right;">(Signature)</div>		(Stamp)	
⁽¹⁾ Delete as appropriate.			

back side

14. ATTRIBUTIONS Indicate the quantity available in part 1 of column 16 and the quantity attributed in Part 2 thereof.			
15. Gross weight (kg)		18. Extract No	19. Name, Member State, stamp and signature of the attributing authority
16. In figures	17. In words for the quantity attributed		
1			
2			
1			
2			
1			
2			
1			
2			
1			
2			
1			
2			
1			
2			
1			
2			
20. Extension to be attached hereto.			