

AGMARK

Background

- The Directorate of Marketing and Inspection (DMI) under Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare was set up in the year 1935
- Goal was to implement the agricultural marketing policies and programmes for the integrated development of marketing of agricultural and other allied produce
- Safeguard the interests of farmers as well as the consumers

AGMARK

- Agricultural Produce (Grading and Marking) Act, 1937
- Provides for the grading and marking of agricultural and other produce
- "Agricultural produce" includes all produce of agriculture or horticulture and all articles of food or drink wholly or partially manufactured from any such produce
- "Grade designation" means a designation prescribed as indicative of the quality of any scheduled article

Provisions

- "Agmark grading" means grading of an article in accordance with the grade standards prescribed under the Act
- "Agmark label" means the label specifying name of the commodity, grade designation and bearing prescribed insignia
- "Agmark replica" means a grade designation mark in lieu of Agmark label consisting of prescribed design with the word "AGMARK" and the Certificate Authorisation number

Organic Food Processing

- Processing and handling of organic products should be done separately in time or place from handling and processing of non-organic products
- Pollution sources shall be identified and contamination avoided
- Flavouring extracts shall be obtained from organic sources by means of physical processes

Standards for Organic Food Processing

- Organic products shall be protected from co-mingling with non-organic products
- All products shall be adequately identified
- The certification programme shall set standards to prevent and pollutants and contaminants
- Organic and non-organic products shall not be stored and transported together except when labelled or physically separated

Standards for Organic Food Processing

- Products should be stored at ambient temperature and special conditions are allowed - controlled atmosphere, cooling, freezing, drying, and humidity regulation
- Ethylene gas is permitted for ripening
- Pests should be avoided by GMP's - includes general cleanliness and hygiene

Recommended treatments are physical barriers, sound, ultrasound, light, and UV light, temperature control (irradiation is prohibited)

Ingredients, Additives, Processing Aids

- All ingredients shall be certified organic
- The production of enzymes and other microbiological products the medium shall be composed of organic ingredients
- Water and salt may be used in organic products
- Minerals (including trace elements), vitamins and similar isolated ingredients shall not be used
- Use of additives, and gmo's is not permitted

Processing Methods

- Methods shall be based on mechanized, physical, and biological processes
- Vital quality of an organic ingredient shall be maintained throughout each step of its processing
- Processing methods shall be chosen to limit the number and quantity of additives and processing aids
 - Mechanical and physical
 - Smoking
 - Extraction
 - Precipitation and filtration

Packaging

- Ecologically sound materials should be used for the packaging of organic products
- Use of PVC material is prohibited
- Laminates and aluminium should be avoided
- Recycling and reusable systems shall be used wherever possible
- Biodegradable packaging materials shall be used

Labelling

- Labelling shall convey clear and accurate information on the organic status of the product
- When all the standard requirements are fulfilled, products shall be sold as “produce of organic agriculture”
- Single ingredient products may be labelled as “products of organic agriculture”
- Where a minimum of 95% of the ingredients are of certified organic origin products may be labelled “certified organic”

Storage and Transport

- Product integrity should be maintained during storage and transportation of organic products
- Organic products must be protected at all times from contact with materials and substances not permitted for use in organic farming and handling
- Bulk stores for organic product should be separate from conventional product stores clearly labeled to that effect
- Storage areas and transport containers for organic product should be cleaned using methods and materials permitted in organic production