



Organización Internacional del Café
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Organisation Internationale du Café

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1 February 2002
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International Coffee Council
Eighty-fifth Session (Special)
1 February 2002
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Resolution number 407

APPROVED AT THE PLENARY MEETING,
1 FEBRUARY 2002

Coffee Quality-Improvement Programme – Implementation

WHEREAS:

By Resolution number 406 the International Coffee Council established a Quality Committee to be responsible for drafting and presenting, through the Executive Board, recommendations to the Council for a Coffee Quality-Improvement Programme;

The Committee has agreed a series of recommendations contained in document EB-3806/02;

The Executive Board has considered these recommendations and modified them in the light of comments received; and

In the light of these recommendations as modified by the Board it is deemed appropriate to take the necessary steps to implement the Programme,

THE INTERNATIONAL COFFEE COUNCIL

RESOLVES:

Sequencing of the Programme

1. The Programme shall comprise a first stage that shall commence on 1 October 2002. In order to make an assessment of the Programme, its progress, costs and impact on quality and prices shall be reviewed in September 2003.

Action from 1 October 2002

A. Minimum standards for exportable coffee

2. Exporting Members shall not export coffee that:
 - (a) for Arabica, has in excess of 86 defects per 300 g sample (New York green coffee classification/Brazilian method, or equivalent¹); and, for Robusta, has in excess of 150 defects per 300 g (Vietnam, Indonesia, or equivalent);
 - (b) for both Arabica and Robusta, has a moisture content below 8 percent or in excess of 12.5 percent, measured using the ISO 6673 method.
3. Where moisture percentages below 12.5 percent are currently being achieved, Members shall endeavour to ensure that these are maintained or decreased.
4. Exceptions to the 12.5 percent maximum moisture content shall be permitted for speciality coffees that traditionally have a high moisture content, e.g. Indian Monsooned coffees. Such coffees shall be clearly identified by a specific grade nomenclature.

B. Certificates of Origin

5. Exporting Members shall only issue ICO Certificates of Origin for consignments of coffee that meet both the minimum defect and moisture standards.

C. Cooperation by importing Members in verifying compliance

6. Importing Members shall make their best endeavours to support the objectives of the Programme.

D. Measures to be taken in cases of non-compliance

7. If coffee failing to comply with the above standards is identified through the normal course of trade, importing Members shall endeavour to notify the ICO of such shipments.

¹ *As an example of what is meant by 'equivalent', 20 broken beans shall be considered as equal to 1 defect rather than 5 broken beans per defect in the case of coffees containing large numbers of broken beans arising naturally, as a feature of a particular cultivar. Such coffees shall be clearly identified by a specific grade nomenclature.*

E. Measures for controlling the application of the standards in exporting Member countries

8. Each exporting Member shall develop and implement national measures which ensure that no exports of green coffee fail to meet exportable standards.

9. Exporting Members shall also endeavour to ensure that sub-standard green coffee is not included in the manufacture of processed coffee (roasted and soluble) that is exported.

F. Other measures

Alternative uses

10. Members shall seek immediately to identify sources of external finance from appropriate institutions for studies and measures that support the implementation of the Programme and, in particular, efforts to identify and put into practice cost-effective alternative uses for coffee of non-exportable quality.

11. The need for a continuation of such studies and measures shall be assessed following a review in September 2003.

Labelling

12. All coffee supplied for export shall be labelled to indicate that it is coffee as defined in Articles 2 and 36 of the International Coffee Agreement 2001. Coffee by-products shall be labelled as such.

Reporting

13. Members shall report to the Council on the measures they have taken to implement this Resolution and inform the Council of any difficulties in this connection. If such be the case the Council, if so requested by a Member, may agree to give that Member time to resolve such difficulties.