



Organización Internacional del Café
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Organisation Internationale du Café

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Resolution number 420

APPROVED AT THE THIRD PLENARY MEETING,
21 MAY 2004

Coffee Quality-Improvement Programme – Modifications

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 agreed a series of recommendations contained in document EB-3806/02 that led to the adoption by the Council of Resolution number 407;

The Programme comprised a first stage that commenced on 1 October 2002. An assessment of the Programme, its progress, costs and impact on quality and prices was presented to the Council in September 2003;

The Executive Board has reviewed the operation of the Programme and considered new comments and proposals submitted by Members; and

In the light of these proposals it is deemed appropriate to take steps to adjust the Programme,

THE INTERNATIONAL COFFEE COUNCIL

RESOLVES:

1. To replace the measures established under Resolution number 407 by those indicated in paragraphs 2 to 11 below.

Action from 1 June 2004

A. Target quality standards for coffee

2. The ICO adopts quality standards for exported coffee that must be met to be labelled as “S” coffee on the ICO Certificate of Origin:

- (a) for Arabica, not to have more than 86 defects per 300 g sample (New York green coffee classification/Brazilian method, or equivalent¹); and, for Robusta, not to have more than 150 defects per 300 g (Vietnam, Indonesia, or equivalent);
- (b) for both Arabica and Robusta, not to have a moisture content below 8% or in excess of 12.5%, measured using the ISO 6673 method.

3. Where moisture percentages below 12.5% are currently being achieved, exporting Members shall endeavour to ensure that these are maintained or decreased.

4. Exceptions to the 12.5% 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. Bearing in mind the voluntary nature of this Programme, in order to indicate the quality of coffee being exported, exporting Members are requested to complete Box 17 in the ICO Certificate of Origin used to accompany each shipment of coffee as follows: “S” if consignments of coffee comply with the target defect and moisture standards; “XD” if the coffee does not conform to the target defect standard, “XM” if the coffee does not conform to the target moisture standard and “XDM” if the coffee does not conform with either standard. Speciality coffees as described in paragraph 4 of this Resolution may be marked “S” together with their specific grade nomenclature even if they do not meet the target moisture standard.

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.*

C. Cooperation by importing Members

6. Importing Members should endeavour to support the objectives of the Programme as appropriate.

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

7. If through the normal course of trade it is found that coffee marked “S” fails to comply with the target standards, importing Members may notify the ICO of such shipments.

E. Measures for controlling the application of the standards by Members

8. Each exporting Member is requested to develop and implement national measures with the objectives of maximising the quality of coffee produced and ensuring that exports of green coffee shall be described as indicated in paragraph 5 above.

F. Future research

Alternative uses for coffee

9. Members are encouraged 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 which does not conform with the standards indicated in Section A.

Grading and labelling systems

10. In particular, Members are encouraged to study the potential advantages of existing private sector grading and labelling systems for improving the income of coffee producers.

G. Reporting

11. Members shall report to the Council on 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.