



**NATIONAL AGENCY FOR FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION AND  
CONTROL (NAFDAC)**

**HONEY REGULATIONS 2019**

**COMMENTS ARE WELCOMED FROM STAKEHOLDERS WITHIN 60 CALENDAR  
DAYS (ending 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2020).**

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## HONEY REGULATIONS 2019

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## HONEY REGULATIONS 2019

[ ] Commencement

In exercise of the powers conferred on it Sections 5 and 30 of the National Agency for Food and Drugs Administration and Control Act Cap N1 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria (LFN) 2004 and Section 12 of the Food, Drugs and Related Products (Registration, Etc.) Act Cap F33 LFN 2004 and all other powers enabling it in that behalf, the Governing Council of the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control with the approval of the Honorable Minister of Health makes the following Regulations –

### 1. Scope of application

These Regulations shall apply to all honeys defined in the First Schedule, produced by honey bees and covers all styles of honey presentations which are processed and ultimately intended for direct consumption. These Regulations also applies to honey for industrial uses or as ingredients in other foods which are imported, exported, advertised, sold, distributed or used in Nigeria.

### 2. Prohibitions

A person shall not package, import, export, distribute, store, advertise, sell or use honey specified in these Regulations unless it has been registered in accordance with the provisions of these Regulations.

### 3. Labelling

- (1) In addition to the provisions of the Pre-Packaged Food water and Ice Labelling Regulations 2019, the following specific labeling shall apply:
  - (a) The term 'honey' shall be applied only to the product defined in section 1 of the First Schedule to these Regulations, and shall be used in trade to designate that product.
  - (b) The product names referred to in sections 2 and 3 of the First Schedule shall apply only to the products defined therein and shall be used in trade to designate them. These names may be replaced by the simple product name 'honey', except in the case of filtered honey, comb honey, chunk honey or cut comb honey and baker's honey.
  - (c) In the case of baker's honey, the words 'intended for cooking only' shall appear on the label in close proximity to the product name;
  - (d) Except in the case of filtered honey and baker's honey, the product names may be supplemented by information referring to:
    - (i) floral or vegetable origin, if the product comes wholly or mainly from the indicated source and possesses the organoleptic, physico-chemical and microscopic characteristics of the source,
    - (ii) regional, territorial or topographical origin, if the product comes entirely from the indicated source,
    - (iii) specific quality criteria;
  - (e) Where baker's honey has been used as an ingredient in a compound food product, the term honey' may be used in the product name of the compound food instead of the term 'baker's honey'. However,

in the list of ingredients, the term as referred to in section 3 of the First Schedule to these Regulations shall be used.

- (f) The country or countries of origin where the honey has been harvested shall be indicated on the label.
- (g) In the case of filtered honey and baker's honey, bulk containers, packs and trade documents shall clearly indicate the full product name, as referred to in sections 4 and of the First Schedule to these Regulations.

#### **4. Name of Honey and product Descriptions**

- (1) Products conforming to the scope of these Regulations shall be designated 'honey'.
- (2) The name and descriptors of the honey shall be as described in the First Schedule to these Regulations.

#### **5. Quality factor (criteria)**

- (1) Honey shall consist essentially of different sugars, predominantly fructose and glucose as well as other substances such as organic acids, enzymes and solid particles derived from honey collection.
- (2) The colour of honey may vary from nearly colourless to dark brown.
- (3) The consistency may be fluid, viscous or partly to entirely crystallized.
- (4) The flavour and aroma may vary, but are derived from the plant origin.
- (5) When placed on the market as honey or used in any product intended for human consumption, honey shall not have added to it any food ingredient, including food additives, nor shall any other additions be made other than honey.
- (6) Honey shall, as far as possible, be free from organic or inorganic matters foreign to its composition.
- (7) With the exception of honey indicated in section 5 of the First Schedule to these Regulations, it shall not have any foreign tastes or odours, have begun to ferment, have an artificially changed acidity or have been heated in such a way that the natural enzymes have been either destroyed or significantly inactivated.
- (8) The acidity of honey shall not be changed artificially.
- (9) Without prejudice to section 4 of the First Schedule to these Regulations, no pollen or constituent particular to honey may be removed except where this is unavoidable in the removal of foreign inorganic or organic matter.
- (10) Chemical or biochemical treatments shall not be used to influence honey crystallization

#### **6. Packaging and storage**

Honey shall be packaged appropriately in food grade containers.

#### **7. Offences and Penalties**

- (1) Any person who contravenes any of the provisions of these Regulations shall be guilty of an offence and liable on conviction. In case of :
  - (a) an individual, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year or to a fine not exceeding N500,000 or to both such imprisonment and fine; and
  - (b) a body corporate, to a fine not exceeding N750, 000.

- (2) Where an offence under these Regulations is committed by a body corporate, firm or other association of individuals every:-
- (a) director, manager, secretary or other similar officer of the body corporate;
  - (b) partner or officer of the firm;
  - (c) trustee of the body concerned;
  - (d) person concerned in the management of the affairs of the association ;or
  - (e) person who purports to act in a capacity referred to in paragraphs (a) to (d) of this sub-regulation, is severally liable to be proceeded against and punished for that offence in the same manner as if he had himself committed the offence, unless he proves that the act or omission constituting the offence took place without his knowledge, consent or connivance.

#### 8. **Forfeiture after conviction**

- (1) A person convicted of an offence under these Regulations shall forfeit to the Federal Government-
- (a) any asset or property constituting proceeds derived from or obtained, directly or indirectly, as a result of the offence;
  - (b) any of the person's property or instrumentalities used in any manner to commit or to facilitate the commission of the offence.
- (2) In this regulation, "**proceeds**" means any property derived or obtained, directly or indirectly, through the commission of the offence.

#### 9. **Interpretation**

For the purpose of these Regulations unless the context otherwise requires, the following words mean:-

**Agency** means National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control.

**Honey** means the natural sweet substance produced by *Apis mellifera* bees from the nectar of plants or from secretions of living parts of plants or excretions of plant sucking insects on the living parts of plants, which the bees collect, transform by combining with specific substances of their own, deposit, dehydrate, store and leave in honeycombs to ripen and mature

#### 10. **Citation**

These Regulations may be cited as Honey Regulations, 2019.

## FIRST SCHEDULE

### Names, Product Descriptions and Definitions

1. The main types of honey are as follows:
  - (1) According to origin:
    - (a) blossom honey or nectar honey obtained from the nectar of plants;
    - (b) honeydew honey; is honey obtained mainly from excretions of plant sucking insects (Hemiptera) on the living part of plants or secretions of living parts of plants;
  - (2) According to style:
    - (a) comb honey is honey stored by bees in the cells of freshly built broodless combs or thin comb foundation sheets made solely of beeswax and sold in sealed whole combs or sections of such combs;
    - (b) chunk honey or cut comb in honey is honey which contains one or more pieces of comb honey;
  - (3) According to method of removal from the comb:
    - (a) drained honey is honey obtained by draining decapped broodless combs;
    - (b) extracted honey is honey obtained by centrifuging decapped broodless combs;
    - (c) pressed honey is honey obtained by pressing broodless combs with or without the application of moderate heat not exceeding 45°C;
  - (4) Filtered honey is honey obtained by removing foreign inorganic or organic matter in such a way as to result in the significant removal of pollen.
  - (5) Baker's honey is honey which is suitable for industrial uses or as an ingredient in other food products which are then processed and may:
    - (a) have a foreign taste or odour,
    - (b) have begun to ferment or have fermented, or
    - (c) have been overheated.

## SECOND SCHEDULE

### Composition Criteria for Honey

Honey placed on the market or used in any product intended for human consumption, shall meet the following composition criteria:

#### 1. Sugar content

(1) Fructose and glucose content (sum of both)

(a) blossom honey - not less than 60 g/100 g

(b) honeydew honey, blends of honeydew honey with blossom honey - not less than 45 g/100g

#### 2. Sucrose content

(1) Honey not listed in section 2 (2) and 2 (3) below - not more than 5 g/100 g

(2) False acacia (*Robinia pseudoacacia*), alfalfa (*Medicago sativa*), Menzies Banksia (*Banksia menziesii*), French honeysuckle (*Hedysarum*), red gum (*Eucalyptus camadulensis*), leatherwood (*Eucryphia lucida*, *Eucryphia milliganii*), Citrus spp. - not more than 10 g/100 g

(3) lavender (*Lavandula* spp.), borage (*Borago officinalis*) not more than 15 g/100 g

#### 3. Moisture content

(1) Honey not listed in section 3 (2) and (c) below - not more than 20%

(2) Heather (*Calluna*) and baker's honey in general not more than 23%

(3) Baker's honey from heather (*Calluna*) - not more than 25%

#### 4. Water-insoluble content

(1) Honey other than pressed honey - not more than 0.1 g/100 g

(2) Pressed honey - not more than 0.5 g/100g

#### 5. Electrical conductivity

(1) honey not listed in section 4(b) and 4 (c), and blends of these honeys - not more than 0.8mS/cm

(2) honeydew and chestnut honey and blends of these – not less than 0.8 mS/cm except with those listed under (4(iii))

(3) Exceptions: Strawberry tree (*Arbutus unedo*), bell heather (*Erica*), eucalyptus, lime (*Tilia* spp.), ling heather (*Calluna vulgaris*), manuka or jelly bush (*Leptospermum*), tea tree (*Melaleuca* spp.)

#### 6. Free acidity

- (1) The free acidity of honey shall not be more than 50 milli-equivalents acid per 1,000 grammes
- (2) Free acidity baker's honey not more than 80 milli-equivalents acid per 1,000 grammes.

- 7. The diastase activity of honey after processing and/or blending, in general shall not be less than 8 Schade units and in the case of honey with low natural enzyme content not less than 3 Schade Units.
- 8. Hydroxymethylfurfural Content (HMF)  
The hydroxymethylfurfural content of honey after processing and/or blending shall not be more than 40mg/kg. However, in the case of honey of declared origin from countries or regions with tropical ambient temperatures, and blends of these honeys, the HMF content shall not be more than 80mg/kg.

**11. Citation**

These Regulations may be cited as Honey Regulations, 2019

**MADE at Abuja this ..... day of .....2019**

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**Inuwa Abdulkadir Esq**  
**Chairman Governing Council**  
**National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC)**