


Turmeric Fingers: Quality Standards for export to EU & N-A

Appended are the standards such as applied by the European Spice Association (ESA) for “Export Quality turmeric fingers”. It is **important** that all players in the supply chain are aware of these and comply with them. It is for the Government to enforce compliance and penalize abuse.

Good Post Harvest grading, cleaning, curing (cooking) and drying: are key to reach Export Quality. Standards help to ensure: 1) curing/cooking to release curcumin content and ensure consistent yellow colouring; 2) proper drying down to < 10% moisture; 3) separating bulbs from fingers; 4) polishing fingers.


Immediately after harvesting, turmeric must be steamwashed/cooked for max 30 minutes (“curing”) whereby the yellow/orange colour spreads fully and curcumin expresses itself. Too long curing will damage the colour (it becomes dark) and reduces the curcumin content strongly.		
Right: overcooked turmeric finger	Ethiopian turmeric: Orange-yellow, 4% curcumin	Madras: Light-yellow, 2% curcumin
		

Export Quality Turmeric must adhere to EU regulation no. 1881/2006 for Aflatoxins/ochratoxins AND EU regulation concerning Maximum Residue Levels on pesticides: no. 396/2005		
Fingers & bulbs	Grade & Clean	Dry on raised beds
		

To give reassurance to potential buyers, about quality and volume they paid for in advance (FOB – Incoterms 2010), send **Representative pre-shipment samples according to ISO 948 standard**

for a 20 ft fcl of 25 kg bags containing 15 tons and 600 bags:

- The # of samples equals the square root of the # of bags + 1
 $\text{SQRT } 600 = 24 + 1 = 25 \text{ stitches of } 200 \text{ gr each}$
- The aggregate sample of $25 * 200 \text{ grs} = 5 \text{ kg}$ must be homogenised, so that sub samples of 200 gr will be fully representative for the 15 tons lot

Stitching a 200 gr sample	Weighing a 25 kg bag
	

INCOTERMS: International buyers apply Incoterms-2010 rules for purchasing spices.

Most common is CFR – Cost & Freight port of destination, whereby the buyer only pays upon arrival of the goods. Either after control or CAD – Cash Against Documents.

Some suppliers prefer FOB – Free On Board, whereby the buyer pays against the B/L – Bill of Lading, once the cargo is on board ship. The buyer can issue a Letter of Credit (LC) with payment term 30-60 days, which allows for a quality check upon arrival.

Ensure that transport from the collecting/processing point to the place of containerization takes place under dry conditions. Ensure that the container is clean and have the walls and ceiling covered with kraft paper to absorb moisture and avoid mould formation.

Container stowing	Export Documentation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Packing List Original Bill of Lading Certificate of Origin Health Certificate Phytosanitary Certificate Certificate of Fumigation Certificate of Analysis of cargo¹

¹ Foreign buyers rely on these, as collateral for their FOB payment. It is for the authorities to enforce this sampling practice and to penalize malfunctioning in this respect.