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1. PRODUCT NAME

COUSCOUS

PRODUCT RISK		
LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH

2. DESCRIPTION



Couscous is a product prepared from durum wheat semolina (*Triticum durum*) the elements of which are bound by adding potable water and which has undergone physical treatment such as cooking and drying. It is prepared from a mixture of coarse and fine semolina, but may also be prepared from “coarse medium” semolina.

3. INGREDIENTS

3.1. ESSENTIAL INGREDIENTS

Semolina proportion in the mixture intended for the preparation of couscous are: (i)20-30% for fine semolina; (ii)70-80% for coarse semolina.

Coarse medium semolina is semolina obtained from a mixture of (i) 25-30% for coarse semolina and (ii) 70-75% for medium semolina.

3.2. OTHER PERMITTED INGREDIENTS

No food additives shall be added.

4. PROCESSING

Processing

4.1. CODEX “CAC/RCP 1-1969, Rev. 4-2003; Code of Practice- General Principles of Food Hygiene including annex on HACCP systems and guidelines for application.

4.2. CODEX STAND 176-1991 STANDARD FOR DURUM WHEAT SEMOLINA AND DURUM WHEAT FLOUR

5. MICROBIOLOGICAL CRITERIA

FOOD SAFETY PARAMETERS


- The product shall comply with any microbiological criteria established in accordance with Codex Guideline CAC/GL: 21-1997 “Principles for the Establishment and Application of microbiological criteria for food;
- The product shall be free from microorganisms in amounts which may represent a hazard to health and shall be free from any substance originating from microorganisms in amounts which may represent a hazard to health.

6. CHEMICAL CRITERIA

SAFETY PARAMETERS	MAXIMUM LIMITS
Moisture content (Max)	≤ 9.0 % (m/m)
Aflatoxin Total (B ₁ ,B ₂ G ₁ ,G ₂):	Total: ≤ 4 ppb, B ₁ : ≤ 2 ppb
QUALITY PARAMETERS	LIMITS
Ash (max)	≤ 1.1%
Protein (min)	≥ 11 % (on dry basis)

7. PHYSICAL CRITERIA

PARAMETER	LIMITS
Appearance and colour	Homogeneous golden yellow, with a grain appearance;

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Odour and flavour	Shall have no stale, rancid or “rope” or “mouldy” odour; shall possess a natural milled semolina aroma;
Texture	Grain texture
Foreign matter	Shall be free from heavy metals in amounts which may present a hazard to human health. and free from filth (impurities of animal origin including dead insects).
Granularity (Min-Max)	630 -2000 microns with a tolerance of 6%
Storage and Transportation Temperature	15°C to 25°C

8. CONTAMINANTS

- 8.1. The product shall comply with maximum residue limits established by Codex Alimentarius (See: CAC / MRL: 2009 Maximum residue Limits (MRLs) for pesticides).
- 8.2. The product shall comply with the Maximum Levels of the Codex General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Foods (Codex Stan: 193-1995).

9. NUTRITIONAL FACTS (Approximate values per 100 g)

NUTRIENTS	AMOUNT PER 100 g OF PRODUCT
Energy	360 Kcal
Carbohydrates	73 g
Protein	13.0 g
Fat	1.6 g

10. PACKAGING

PARAMETER	LIMITS
Primary packaging	Food grade plastic sealed or equivalent recyclable/biodegradable packaging that maintains the integrity, sanitary and organoleptic qualities of the product and withstands the rigor of transport and handling.
Secondary packaging	Corrugated paper box or packing that protects integrity of the primary packages, and withstands the rigors of transport and handling.
Primary packaging net weight	From 500 g to 3 Kg
Warranty at delivery location	Minimum 4 Months.

11. LABELLING

- 11.1. UNSTD-GEN-02 “UN Product Labelling”

12. OTHER REQUIREMENTS

- 12.1. UNSTD-GEN-03: “UN Inspection”
- 12.2. UNSTD-GEN-04: “UN Certification”
- 12.3. CODEX STAN 202-1995 CODEX STANDARD FOR COUSCOUS