



Technical Specifications for
MALAWI COW PEAS

Specification reference: **Malawi Cow peas**

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1. SCOPE

This specification applies to dry **Malawi Cow peas (cow peas)** purchased by WFP.

2. DEFINITIONS

Foreign matter shall mean all foreign matter of organic origin such as seed-coats, parts of stem, pods, leaves other crop seeds and weed seeds, or inorganic matter such as earth, sand, dust, stones ect.

Damaged cow peas shall mean cow peas and pieces of cow peas that are damaged by frost, weather, disease, weevils or other insects and pests or other cause. This shall include broken cow peas and those with cracked seed coats.

Shrivelled cow peas shall mean cow peas that are distinctly shrivelled in contrast to the natural appearance of the designated class of cow peas.

Contrasting classes shall mean cow peas that are of a different colour from cow peas of the designated class.

Split shall mean cow peas that are split into halves or smaller pieces and cow peas the halves of which are loosely held together.

Admixture shall mean seeds of other crop other than cow **peas**.

3. REFERENCE

Codex Standard for certain pulses grains (Codex Stan 171-1989, rev. 1-1995).

Malawi standard- Cow peas specification_MBS 242:1991.

4. PRODUCT SPECIFICATION

4.1 General requirements

Organoleptic	<i>Clean and bright appearance, Natural odour</i>
Moisture content	12.0% m/m max.
Foreign matter	1.0 % m/m max.
Damaged cow peas	1.0 % m/m max.
Shrivelled cow peas	2.0 % m/m max.
Weevil damaged cow peas	1.0 % m/m max.
Contrasting cow peas	1.0 % m/m max.
Splits	1.0 % m/m max.
Admixtures	1.0 % m/m max.
Aflatoxin	3 ppb max.
Live insects	Nil
Dead insect	10 per kg max.
Crop	As per contractual

If required by recipient country, Cow peas need to be obtained from non-genetically modified varieties.

4.2 Toxic or noxious seeds

The product covered by the provisions of this specification shall be free from the following toxic or noxious seeds in amounts which may represent a hazard to human health.

– *Crotalaria* (*Crotalaria* spp.), Corn cockle (*Agrostemma githago* L.), Castor bean (*Ricinus communis* L.), Jimson weed (*Datura* spp.), and other seeds that are commonly recognized as harmful to health.

4.3 Contaminants

4.3.1 Heavy metals

Cow peas shall be free from heavy metals in amounts which may represent a hazard to health.

4.3.2 Pesticide residues

Cow peas shall comply with those maximum residue limits established by the Codex Alimentarius Commission for this commodity.

4.3.3 Mycotoxins

Cow peas shall comply with those maximum mycotoxin limits established by the Codex Alimentarius Commission for this commodity.

4.4 Hygiene

4.4.1 It is recommended that the product covered by the provisions of this standard be prepared and handled in accordance with the appropriate sections of the *Recommended International Code of Practice – General Principles of Food Hygiene* (CAC/RCP 1-1969), and other Codes of Practice recommended by the Codex Alimentarius Commission which are relevant to these products.

4.4.2 To the extent possible in good manufacturing practice, the products shall be free from objectionable matter.

4.4.3 When tested by appropriate methods of sampling and examination, the products:

- shall be free from micro-organisms in amounts which may represent a hazard to health;
- shall be free from parasites which may represent a hazard to health; and
- shall not contain any substance originating from micro-organisms in amounts which may represent a hazard to health.

5. PACKAGING AND MARKING

As per contractual agreement.

6. STORING

Cow peas must be stored under dry, ventilated and hygienic conditions.

7. SAMPLING REQUIREMENTS

Representative samples can be drawn according to international sampling method standards at the bagging section or in the warehouse.

For packed units, sampling frequency and reference method are showed in *table 1*. One laboratory samples of about 3 kg is required by lot or sub-lot of 500MT maximum.

For the bulk (static and flowing), the sampling must follow the rules described in paragraphs 5.2 of ISO 24333-2009.

Table 1: Sampling rules

Lot or sub-lot size (MT)	Number of increment	Place of sampling	Reference (or equivalent)
≤100	3 % of bags and minimum 50 bags (e.g. 60 increments for a lot of 100 MT, packed in 50 kg bag)		
101-500	<p style="text-align: center;">3 % of bags</p> <p><i>Examples:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 120 increments for a lot of 200 MT, packed in 50 kg bag) - 180 increments for a lot of 300 MT, packed in 50 kg bag -240 increments for a lot of 400 MT, packed in 50 kg bag - 300 increments for a lot of 500 MT, packed in 50 kg bag 	Warehouse or during production	GAFTA 124-2

7. ANALYTICAL REQUIREMENTS

The principal analyses/tests in table 2 must be performed in order to check if the quality of the **Cow peas** meets above requirements. Additional analyses shall be defined in case of further quality assessment.

Table 2: List of compulsory analyses/tests and reference method

No	Analyses/tests	Limit	Reference method (or equivalent)
1	Organoleptic	<i>Clean and bright appearance, Natural odour</i>	<i>Organoleptic examination</i>
2	Moisture content	12.0% m/m max.	ISO 711-2009
3	Foreign matter	1.0 % m/m max.	<i>Visual examination</i>
4	Damaged cow peas	1.0 % m/m max.	<i>Visual examination</i>
5	Shrivelled cow peas	2.0 % m/m max.	<i>Visual examination</i>
6	Weevil damaged cow peas	1.0 % m/m max.	<i>Visual examination</i>
7	Contrasting cow peas	1.0 % m/m max.	<i>Visual examination</i>
8	Splits	1.0 % m/m max.	<i>Visual examination</i>
9	Admixtures	1.0 % m/m max.	<i>Visual examination</i>
10	Aflatoxin	3 ppb max.	
11	Live insects	Nil	<i>Visual examination</i>
12	Dead insect	10 per kg max.	<i>Visual examination</i>
13	GMO (only if required)	Negative (< 0.9% of GMO material)	