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**SRI LANKA STANDARD 410 : 1977**

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**CODE OF PRACTICE FOR THE HARVESTING,  
HANDLING AND PACKAGING OF ORCHIDS**

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**BUREAU OF CEYLON STANDARDS**



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HANDLING AND PACKAGING OF ORCHIDS**

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**BUREAU OF CEYLON STANDARDS**

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# SRI LANKA STANDARD CODE OF PRACTICE FOR THE HARVESTING, HANDLING AND PACKAGING OF ORCHIDS

## FOREWORD

This Sri Lanka Standard Code of Practice was prepared by the Drafting Committee of the Bureau on Cut Flowers. It was approved by the Agricultural and Chemicals Divisional Committee of the Bureau of Ceylon Standards and was authorised for adoption and publication by the Council of the Bureau on 1977-05-02.

This Code includes only the common genera of orchids. Exotic multigeneric hybrids of orchids could be incorporated in the Code when more flowers of these types are available.

The Standard values given in this code are in metric units.

### 1. SCOPE

This Code of Practice recommends requirements to be observed in the harvesting, storing, packaging and transport of orchids.

### 2. TERMINOLOGY

For the purpose of this standard the following terms shall apply :

- 2.1 **Spike (raceme)** — shall refer to the entire length of the floral axis from the point of cutting to the terminal bud.
- 2.2 **Stalk (peduncle)** — shall refer to the length of the floral axis from the point of cutting to the first flower.

### 3. GENERA

The following ten genera (including inter-generic hybrids) are dealt with in the standard.

3.1 **Dendrobium** — this genus consists of the following three types :

- (a) Phalaenopsis type (round type, eg. Lady Hamilton)
- (b) Intermediate type (eg. Madame Pompadour × Gouddi Blue)
- (c) Cane type (curly type, eg. Beach Girl)

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**3.2 Vanda** — this genus consists of the following three types :

- (a) Terete leaved (eg. Miss Joaquim)
- (b) Strap leaved (eg. Rothschildiana)
- (c) Semi-terete leaved (includes all crosses between Terete and Strap types, eg. T.M.A.)

**3.3 Ascocenda** — (eg. Meda Arnold)

**3.4 Aranda** — (eg. Wendy Scott)

**3.5 Renantanda** — (eg. Renantanda Ammani)

**3.6 Aranthera** — (eg. James Storie)

**3.7 Arachnis** — (eg. Maggi Oei)

**3.8 Oncidium alliance** — (eg. Golden Shower)

**3.9 Cattleya** — (special type ; eg. Bow Bells)

**3.10 Phalaenopsis** — (eg. Doris).

**4. HARVESTING REQUIREMENTS**

Except where instructions are issued by the customer the following requirements shall apply :

- 4.1** At the time of harvest, orchids shall be whole and shall as far as practicable be fresh and brightly coloured. They shall be free from all visible disfiguration. Particular notice should be taken of yellow beetle larval infestation or damage.
- 4.2** The length of the stalk shall be adequate for use in a vase or other floral arrangement.
- 4.3** Orchids shall preferably be picked early in the morning and put into clean and fresh water immediately after cutting at least for a few seconds.
- 4.4** Orchids belonging to the different genera specified in Clause 3, other than Aranda Wendy Scott, Cattleya and Phalaenopsis, should be harvested when at least 7/8ths of the spike consists of fully opened flowers, and at least one bud unopened.

The Aranda Wendy Scott should be harvested before the last flower in the spike is fully opened. The flowers of the Cattleya alliance should be fully opened at the time of harvest.

Harvesting of the Phalaenopsis flowers should be governed by the customers' requirements.

## 5. PACKAGING AND TRANSPORT TO DEALER

- 5.1 In instances where the transport of orchids to a dealer is carried out within half-an-hour after harvesting, they may be transported in closed boxes or covered with a damp muslin cloth; where it takes over half-an-hour a swab of wet cotton wool should be attached to each cut end and secured. The orchids should be supplied preferably within 6 hours.
- 5.2 Orchids should be placed head to stem in a suitable box and each stem should be placed in such a manner so as to prevent any damage to the flowers.
- 5.3 Every precaution should be taken
  - (i) to prevent direct sunlight playing on the box,
  - (ii) to avoid parking or leaving the vehicle carrying flowers in the sun,
  - (iii) to avoid storage in a confined space during transport, eg. in a luggage boot,
  - (iv) to avoid excessive handling.

## 6. STORAGE REQUIREMENTS PRIOR TO PACKAGING FOR EXPORT

- 6.1 The selected orchids shall be stored in a clean, cool and well ventilated room free from draughts and any type of contamination.
- 6.2 The flowers shall be stored in non-metallic containers of cool, clean water such that as much of the stalk as possible is submerged.
- 6.3 The tip of the stalk shall be cut off and the water replaced daily.

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- 6.4 Flowers for export shall preferably be packed within 24 hours of being harvested, but not later than 48 hours.
- 6.5 Flowers shall be delivered to the airline within 8 hours of the scheduled time of departure.

## 7. PACKAGING FOR EXPORT

Except where instructions are issued by the foreign buyer, the following requirements shall apply :

- 7.1 The flowers shall be packed in boxes of the full telescopic type made of corrugated cardboard (at least 3 ply). These boxes should not be more than 150 mm in height. Each box should be lined with two or more layers of newsprint or similar material.
- 7.2 The flowers should not be wet at the time of packing.
- 7.3 The end of each stem shall be kept moist by wrapping the end with a swab of cotton wool or a material which will retain its moisture over a fair period of time, soaked in clean and fresh water free of chlorine. The said wrapping shall be covered with a piece of polythene which should be fastened by suitable means. The flower spikes should be placed in such a manner so as to prevent any damage to the flowers.
- 7.4 The flower spikes of the different genera of orchids should be packed in the following manner :
- (i) **All Scorpion Types** — about a dozen spikes to be placed in a perforated polythene bag and a number of such bags placed in a box.
  - (ii) **Dendrobium** — The flower spikes are packed in a box which shall have a wrap-around lining of polythene and tissue paper. The flower spikes shall preferably be buffered with shredded tissue paper.
  - (iii) **Vanda alliance** — Each spike shall be buffered with shredded tissue paper, rolled in tissue paper and the ends closed. The box should be lined with a wrap-around polythene sheet.
  - (iv) Other genera of orchids shall be packed as required by the buyer.



**7.5** Health and Customs inspection shall preferably be carried out in the shipper's premises, at the time of packing.

**7.6** The lids of the boxes shall be securely placed in position and these boxes shall in turn be collectively packed tightly in a master carton also made of corrugated cardboard (at least 5 ply). These cartons shall conform in size to the requirements of the buyer and the recommendations of the carrier.

**7.6.1** For winter packing where special instructions are not issued by the buyer, each carton should be lined with five layers of newsprint. Rigifoam may be used if available.

**7.7** The master cartons shall be sealed using gummed tape.

**Note :** In instances where a master carton is not used, each box shall be sealed using gummed tape.

## **8. MARKING FOR EXPORT**

In order to facilitate careful handling of the packages such that damage to the flowers is minimised, the following markings are recommended :

- (i) The words "fresh cut flowers".
- (ii) The words "keep away from extremes of heat or cold".
- (iii) Pictorial marking for "perishable goods". (see Figure 1.)
- (iv) Pictorial marking for "this way up" (see Figure 2.)

The text for the markings should be in languages appropriate to the mode of transport and the destination.

## **9. TRANSPORT**

Packages meant for export should be transported in a sheltered vehicle and kept indoors before despatch.



Fig. 1 - Pictorial Making for "perishable goods".

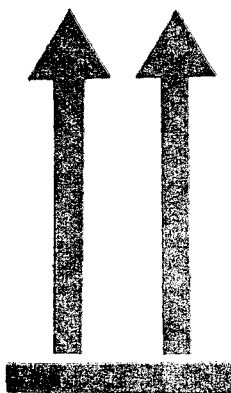


Fig. 2 - Pictorial Making for "this way up"

## **SLS CERTIFICATION MARK**

*The Sri Lanka Standards Institution is the owner of the registered certification mark shown below. Beneath the mark, the number of the Sri Lanka Standard relevant to the product is indicated. This mark may be used only by those who have obtained permits under the SLS certification marks scheme. The presence of this mark on or in relation to a product conveys the assurance that they have been produced to comply with the requirements of the relevant Sri Lanka Standard under a well designed system of quality control inspection and testing operated by the manufacturer and supervised by the SLSI which includes surveillance inspection of the factory, testing of both factory and market samples.*

*Further particulars of the terms and conditions of the permit may be obtained from the Sri Lanka Standards Institution, 17, Victoria Place, Elvitigala Mawatha, Colombo 08.*



## **SRI LANKA STANDARDS INSTITUTION**

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The principal objects of the Institution as set out in the Act are to prepare standards and promote their adoption, to provide facilities for examination and testing of products, to operate a Certification Marks Scheme, to certify the quality of products meant for local consumption or exports and to promote standardization and quality control by educational, consultancy and research activity.

The Institution is financed by Government grants, and by the income from the sale of its publications and other services offered for Industry and Business Sector. Financial and administrative control is vested in a Council appointed in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

The development and formulation of National Standards is carried out by Technical Experts and representatives of other interest groups, assisted by the permanent officers of the Institution. These Technical Committees are appointed under the purview of the Sectoral Committees which in turn are appointed by the Council. The Sectoral Committees give the final Technical approval for the Draft National Standards prior to the approval by the Council of the SLSI.

All members of the Technical and Sectoral Committees render their services in an honorary capacity. In this process the Institution endeavours to ensure adequate representation of all view points.

In the International field the Institution represents Sri Lanka in the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), and participates in such fields of standardization as are of special interest to Sri Lanka.