

SRI LANKA STANDARD 454:1979
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**CODE OF PRACTICE FOR
HARVESTING, HANDLING
AND PACKAGING OF
BETEL LEAVES**

BUREAU OF CEYLON STANDARDS

CODE OF PRACTICE FOR HARVESTING,
HANDLING AND PACKAGING OF BETEL LEAVES

SLS 454 : 1979

Gr. 3

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This Standard does not purport to include all the necessary provisions of a contract.

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HANDLING AND PACKAGING OF BETEL LEAVES

FOREWORD

This Sri Lanka Standard was prepared by the Drafting Committee of the Bureau on Betel Leaves. 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 1979-04-18.

The standard values given in this code are in the SI units.

1 SCOPE

This code of practice recommends requirements to be observed in the harvesting, storing, packaging and transport of betel leaves, *Piper betel* L., family *Piperaceae*.

2 TYPES

The following three types of leaves which are produced from the same vine are recognized in the trade:

2.1 "Kandakola"

These are heart shaped, very dark green leaves having a basal notch and a sudden tapering to a point at the tip.

The leaves are broadest near the base, the lobes being fairly symmetrical with a length to breadth ratio of 5:4. These leaves which are very pungent and coarse in taste are produced on the climbing vegetative branches that grow from ground level up to the trellis. These branches have adventitious roots at the nodes by which they stick to the supports.

2.2 "Peethichcha"

These are egg shaped leaves of a colour varying from light to dark green, having a basal notch and a gradual tapering towards the tip. The leaves are broadest a little away from the base, and the lobes are symmetrical. These leaves have a length to breadth ratio of 3:2 and have a less pungent taste than the "Kandakola" leaves. The leaves are produced on the axillary fruiting branches which do not produce adventitious roots at the nodes.

2.3 "Ran"

These leaves are similar in shape to the "Kandakola" leaf, having a colour which may vary from light green to dark green. Pungency is similar to that of the "Peethichcha" leaves. The leaves are produced on the vegetative branches that grow above the trellis.

3 HARVESTING REQUIREMENTS

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

3.1 At the time of harvest, betel leaves shall be whole, fresh, leathery and free from distortions and wrinkles. The colour of the leaves shall vary from light to dark green. The length of a betel leaf measured from tip to base shall be not less than 100 mm while its breadth (at the broadest point) shall be not less than 65 mm. They shall be free from all visible contamination.

3.2 The length of the stalk shall be not less than 3 mm and not more than 6 mm.

3.3 "Peethichcha" and "Ran" types of leaves shall preferably be picked either early in the morning or late in the evening while the "Kandakola" type of leaf shall preferably be picked around mid day.

4 PACKAGING AND TRANSPORT BY DEALER

4.1 Betel leaves transported by a dealer shall be packed in such a manner so as to prevent any damage to the leaves. They may be packed within a lining of plantain leaves as protection.

4.2 Every precaution shall be taken:

- a) to prevent direct sunlight playing on the package,
- b) to avoid parking or leaving the vehicle carrying betel leaves in the sun,
- c) to avoid storage in a confined space during transport, for example: in a luggage boot,
- d) to avoid excessive handling.

5 STORAGE REQUIREMENTS BY DEALER/EXPORTER

5.1 Betel leaves shall be stored in well ventilated rooms.

5.2 Betel leaves shall be wetted and stacked in such a way as to facilitate drainage of excess water and provide adequate ventilation. The height of each such stack shall not exceed 350 mm.

6 PACKAGING FOR EXPORT

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

6.1 Betel leaves for export shall be packed as early as possible after harvest to allow the buyer a maximum shelf life, and delivered as required by the carrier.

6.2 Betel leaves shall be packed in suitable containers constructed in such a manner as to provide the desired ventilation. The containers shall be lined on top and bottom with plantain leaves or other suitable material.

6.3 The leaves shall as far as possible be devoid of water at time of packaging.

6.4 The leaves shall be packed inverted in heaps around the inner circumference of the container in such a way that the central region of the package allows for ventilation throughout the entire height of the container (see Fig. 1).

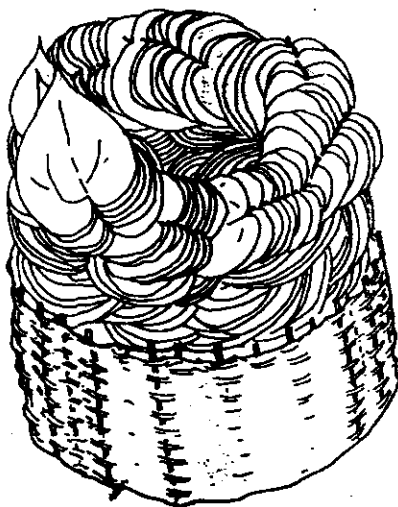


FIG. 1 Leaf arrangement

6.5 Health and customs inspection shall preferably be carried out in the shipper's premises at the time of packaging.

6.6 The lids of the containers shall be placed in position and securely tied with at least eight coir ties (see Fig. 2).

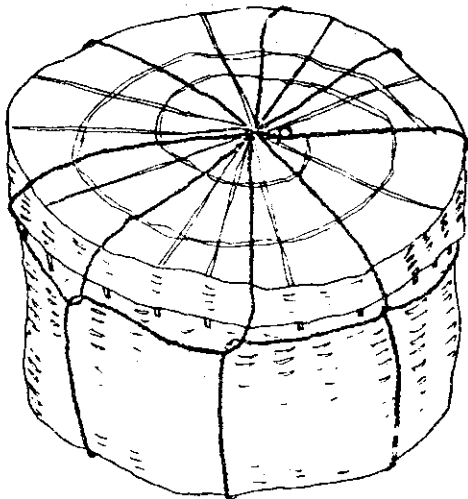


FIG. 2 Sealed export package

7 MARKINGS TO FACILITATE CARE IN HANDLING

In order to facilitate careful handling of packages, such that damage to the leaves is minimised, the following markings in addition to those required by the buyer are recommended:

- a) The words 'Betel Leaves'.
- b) The words 'Keep away from extremes of heat or cold'.
- c) Pictorial marking for 'Perishable goods' (see Fig. 3).



FIG. 3 Pictorial marking for
"perishable goods"

8 TRANSPORT

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

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.



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The Sri Lanka Standards Institution (SLSI) is the National Standards Organization of Sri Lanka established under the Sri Lanka Standards Institution Act No. 6 of 1984 which repealed and replaced the Bureau of Ceylon Standards Act No. 38 of 1964. The Institution functions under the Ministry of Science & Technology.

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.