

Decree No. 2-17-463 of 25 Safar 1439 (November 14, 2017) relating to the quality and safety of honey and other hive products marketed.

(OG. No 6628 of 07/12/2017, page 1326).

THE HEAD OF GOVERNMENT,

Having regard to Law No. 28-07 relating to the safety of food products, promulgated by Dahir No. 1-10-08 of Safar 26, 1431 (February 11, 2010), in particular its articles 5 and 8;

Having regard to Law No. 13-83 relating to the repression of fraud on goods, promulgated by Dahir No. 1.83.108 of Moharrem 9, 1405 (October 5, 1984), in particular its article 16;

Having regard to Decree No. 2-10-473 of Chaoual 7, 1432 (September 6, 2011) taken for the application of certain provisions of Law No. 28-07 relating to the safety of food products, in particular its articles 4, 5.48, 53 and 75;

Having regard to Decree No. 2-12-389 of Joumada 2nd 11, 1434 (April 22, 2013) setting the terms and conditions for the labelling of food products, as amended and supplemented;

After deliberation in the government council at its meeting of Safar 6, 1439 (October 26, 2017),

DECREES:

FIRST ARTICLE. - In accordance with the provisions of articles 5 and 8 of the Law No 28-07 relating to the sanitary safety of food products, this decree shall set the conditions likely to ensure the quality and sanitary safety of honey and other hive products marketed.

ARTICLE 2. - For the purposes of this decree, the following terms shall mean:

- 1) **Honey:** The natural sweet substance produced by bees of the species *Apis mellifera* from the nectar of plants or from secretions from living parts of plants or from excretions of sucking insects left on living parts of plants that they forage, transform, deposit, dehydrate, store and leave to refine and mature in the combs of the hive.
- 2) **Flower honey or nectar honey:** Honey obtained from the nectar of plants;
- 3) **Honeydew honey:** Honey obtained mainly from excretions left on living parts of plants by sucking insects (Hemiptera) or from secretions from living parts of plants;
- 4) **Beehive products, other than honey:**
 - a) **Royal jelly:** The whitish, gelatinous substance secreted by nurse bees between the fifth and fourteenth day of their life;
 - b) **Propolis:** The resinous, viscous, yellow or dark brown substance collected by bees from certain plants and which they use to seal their hive, sanitize the cells before the queen lays eggs and fight against foreign bodies;
 - c) **Pollen:** Tiny ovoid-shaped grains a few tens of micrometers in diameter, produced by flowers and easily carried by the wind, which accumulate on the hind legs of bees ;
 - d) **Beeswax:** The substance produced by bees to be used in the manufacture of the hexagonal cells present in the hive and in which honey is stored and the larvae are reared.

ARTICLE 3. - Honey is essentially composed of fructose and glucose and contains other substances, such as organic acids, enzymes, and possibly solid particles from the honey harvest. It can have a

fluid, thick or crystallized consistency in part or in whole.

The honey can be presented for marketing on the comb, or with or without pieces of the comb.

ARTICLE 4.- Honey marketed as such or used as an ingredient in a food product shall be free of organic and inorganic matter foreign to its composition and shall meet the physico-chemical characteristics of honey as set by an Order of the government authority in charge of agriculture. This very Order shall fix the physico-chemical characteristics which the other hive products shall have to meet.

ARTICLE 5.- During the organoleptic examination, the honey must not show any foreign taste or smell or the beginning of fermentation. It must not have an artificially altered acidity. It must not have been heated in such a way that the natural enzymes have been destroyed or significantly inactivated.

No chemical or biochemical treatment should be used to influence the crystallization of honey.

ARTICLE 6.- No pollen or other honey constituents should be removed unless unavoidable during the removal of extraneous organic or inorganic matter.

When honey is marketed without comb or without pieces of comb, it must be filtered after extraction.

ARTICLE 7.- The content of contaminants and residues of phytosanitary products and veterinary medicinal products of the products referred to in article 2 above shall comply with the regulations in force or, failing that, with the standards of the Codex Alimentarius.

ARTICLE 8.- The products referred to in article 2 above shall be packaged in suitable containers and own compounds of materials intended to come into contact with food products that meet the specifications and requirements as per the provisions of article 53 of Decree No. 2-10-473 referred to above.

ARTICLE 9.- The name "honey" can only be used to designate honey as defined in 1) of article 2 above. The use of the term "honey" to designate any other food product shall constitute a fraud within the meaning of Law No. 13-83 referred to above.

When honey is used as an ingredient in a food product, the name "honey" may be used in the name of said food product.

ARTICLE 10.- The labelling of honey and other hive products, at all stages of their marketing, shall be carried out in accordance with the provisions of Decree No. 2-12-389 referred to above.

In addition, when honey is packaged in containers for sale to an end consumer, its labelling shall bear:

- the mention: "honey from Morocco", if the honey was entirely produced in Morocco;
- the statement: "imported honey", if the honey has been repackaged in Morocco after its importation;
- the mention: "mixture of honey from Morocco and imported honey", in the event of a mixture of imported honey with honey from Morocco.

However, the mention "mixture of honey from Morocco and imported honeys" must only appear on the honey label if the proportion, in the mixture, of honey produced in Morocco exceeds 50%. Otherwise, the label must bear the words "imported honey".

ARTICLE 11. - In addition to the labelling information referred to in article 10 above, the labelling of honey and other hive products, as well as, where applicable, food products containing it, may be supplemented by:

- the indication of the floral or vegetable origin, if the honey or other hive products come entirely or essentially from the origin indicated and possesses the organoleptic, physico-chemical and microscopic characteristics;
- the indication of the geographical origin, if the honey or other hive products come entirely from the place indicated;
- mention of specific quality characteristics;
- the statement as appropriate: "flower honey" or "nectar honey" or "honeydew honey".

ARTICLE 12. - The addition to honey of any other food product and/or food additive, when marketed under the name "honey" or when used in a food product under this name.

ARTICLE 13. - The packaging workshops for honey and other hive products must obtain a sanitary authorization in accordance with the provisions of Decree No 2-10-473 mentioned above.

The operators of these packaging workshops shall ensure the traceability of their products in accordance with the provisions of article 75 of the said decree.

ARTICLE 14. - Importers of the products referred to in article 2 above shall ensure that the said products meet the provisions of this decree and the requirements set out in article 48 of the aforementioned Decree No 2-10-473.

They shall ensure that the labelling of imported products mentions their country of origin or provenance in accordance with the provisions of article 11 of Decree No 2-12-389 mentioned above.

ARTICLE 15. - Honey imported for repackaging in Morocco shall be intended exclusively for processing establishments or honey packaging workshops.

ARTICLE 16. - This decree shall enter into force one (1) year after its date of publication in the Official Bulletin.

From the date of its entry into force, articles 5, 6 and 7 of III of the Order of Ramadan 12, 1346 (March 5, 1928) regulating the manufacture and trade of sugars, glucoses, honeys, jams, jellies and marmalades shall be repealed.

ARTICLE 17. - The Minister of Agriculture, Maritime Fisheries, Rural Development and Waters and Forests shall be responsible for the implementation of this decree which shall be published in the Official Gazette.

Done in Rabat, on Safar 25, 1439 (November 14, 2017)

The Head of Government, SAAD DINE EL OTMANI

FOR COUNTERSIGNATURE:

The Minister of Agriculture, Maritime Fisheries, Rural Development and Waters and Forests, AZIZ AKHANNOUCH