

Decree No. 2-22-136 of the 16 Chaoual 1443 (17 May 2022) relating to the quality and health safety of marketed couscous and pasta.

(OG No. 7096 of 02/06/2022, page 723)

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 26 Safar 1431 (11 February 2010), especially its articles 5 and 8; and

Having regard to Law No 13-83 relative to the repression of frauds on the goods, promulgated by Dahir No 1-83-108 of 9 Moharrem 1405 (5 October 1984), particularly its article 16;

Having regard to Decree No 2-10-473 of 7 Chaoual 1432 (6 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;

Considering the Decree No 2-12-389 of 11 Jumada II 1434 (22 April 2013) setting the terms and conditions for the labeling of food products, as amended and completed;

After deliberation of the Government Council at its meeting of 4 chaoual 1443 (5 may 2022),

DECREES:

ARTICLE 1. - In accordance with the provisions of articles 5 and 8 of the aforementioned Law No. 28-07 relating to the health safety of food products, this decree shall set the conditions that will ensure the quality and health safety of the marketed couscous and pasta.

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

- **Couscous:** the product prepared from products derived from the milling of cereals or legumes or seeds or their mixture, the elements of which are agglomerated by the addition of drinking water and subjected to appropriate physical treatments;
- **Pasta:** products prepared by kneading, without fermentation, from products resulting from the milling of cereals or legumes or seeds or their mixture added to drinking water and subjected to appropriate physical treatments giving them the appearance consecrated by usage.

ARTICLE 3. – Couscous shall be marketed under the denomination "couscous", without any further indication, when it is prepared exclusively from durum wheat semolina (Triticum durum). The denomination "couscous" can be supplemented by the qualifier "whole" if this couscous is prepared from whole durum wheat flour.

For couscous prepared from cereals other than durum wheat, or from legumes or seeds or a mixture thereof, the denomination "couscous" shall be followed by a mention of the cereals, legumes or seeds used. However, when the couscous is prepared from more than three cereals or legumes or seeds, this denomination may be replaced by the denomination "multi-cereal couscous" or "multi-legume couscous" or "multi-grain couscous", depending on the case.

The names indicated above can be supplemented by the terms "fine", "medium" or "thick", depending on the grain size of the couscous.

ARTICLE 4. – Pasta can be marketed under the following denominations:

- 1) "Pasta", without further indication, when the pasta is prepared exclusively from ground durum wheat. However, the denomination "pasta" can be replaced by the name established by usage and reserved for each category of pasta such as vermicelli, spirals, spaghetti, angel hair, lasagna.

The denomination indicated above may be supplemented by the qualifier "whole" when the pasta is prepared from whole durum wheat flour.

The above-mentioned name must be followed by an indication of the product used when the pasta is prepared from products obtained from the milling of cereals other than durum wheat or from legumes or seeds or their mixture. However, when the pasta is prepared from more than three (3) cereals or legumes or seeds, this name may be followed by the indication "multi-cereals" or "multi-legumes" or "multi-grains", depending on the case;

- 2) "Egg pasta", when eggs enter in the preparation of the pasta at a rate of at least 140 grams of whole eggs (without shell), or egg yolks, or the equivalent weight of powdered whole eggs without shell or egg yolk powder, per kilogram of product used;
- 3) "Milk pasta", when powdered milk is incorporated in such a proportion that 100 grams of pasta contains at least 1.5 grams of non-fat milk extracts;
- 4) "Pasta with/with.....(name of vegetables used).....", when the pasta contains at least 20 grams of vegetable powder or their equivalent in concentrate per kilogram of products used.

ARTICLE 5. – Couscous and pasta shall meet the physical and chemical specifications set by order of the government authority in charge of agriculture.

ARTICLE 6. – Fresh pasta can be treated with hot water or steam, pasteurized, chilled or frozen.

ARTICLE 7. – The operations below shall be considered as illicit within the meaning of article 16 of the aforementioned law No 13-83 :

- The mixture of soft wheat with products from the milling of other cereals, including durum wheat, legumes or seeds for the preparation of couscous, with the exception of

couscous prepared according to traditional methods in establishments producing one (1) ton per day at maximum;

- The mixture of soft wheat with products from the milling of other cereals, including durum wheat, legumes or seeds for the preparation of pasta.

ARTICLE 8. - Establishments and companies for the production, processing, packaging, distribution, transportation, storage or conservation of couscous and pasta shall have to obtain health authorization in accordance with the provisions of the Decree No. 2-10-473.

The operators of these establishments and companies shall ensure the traceability of their products in accordance with the provisions of article 75 of said Decree No 2-10-473.

ARTICLE 9. – The processing, handling and transformation operations for the preparation of couscous and pasta shall be carried out exclusively with drinking water, as defined by the regulations in force.

ARTICLE 10. - Only the additives, authorized by the regulations in force relating to the categories of products mentioned in article 2 above, shall be used for their manufacture.

ARTICLE 11. - The microbiological criteria, the levels of contaminants and residues of phytosanitary products in the products marketed mentioned in article 2 above shall not exceed the maximum limits set by the regulations in force.

ARTICLE 12. - Couscous and pasta shall be wrapped or packaged in suitable, watertight, hermetically sealed, clean and dry containers, to preserve their quality and ensure their health safety.

These containers shall be made of materials that meet the specifications and requirements as set by article 53 of the aforementioned Decree No. 2-10-473.

ARTICLE 13. - Importers shall ensure that the imported couscous and pasta meet the requirements provided for by this decree and by article 48 of the Decree No 2-10-473 referred to above.

ARTICLE 14. - The labeling of couscous and pasta shall comply with the provisions of Decree No. 2-12-389

In addition, this labeling shall include :

- The mention "fresh" after the name "pasta", when the pasta is not dehydrated or is slightly dried ;
- The mention "fresh" after the name "egg pasta" if fresh eggs are used in their preparation.

ARTICLE 15. - The provisions of this decree shall enter into force as from the date of the publication in the Official Gazette of the Order mentioned in article 5 above.

As from this date, the Order of 21 hijja 1374 (10 August 1955) relating to the manufacture of pasta shall be repealed.

The establishments and enterprises as well as the importers referred to in articles 8 and 13 above operating on the date of entry into force of this Decree shall have a period of twelve (12) months from this date to comply therewith.

ARTICLE 16.- 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 16 Chaoual 1443 (17 may 2022).

The Head of Government, AZIZ AKHANNOUCH.

FOR COUNTERSIGNATURE:

The Minister of Agriculture, Maritime Fisheries, Rural Development and Water and Forests, MOHAMMED SADIKI.