



RM Curtis & Co Ltd

Product Specification

Product Information	
Product name	Chopped Dates Special Cleaned
Product code	808136
Product description	Special Cleaned Chopped Dates
Legal name	Dried Chopped Dates
Brand	N/A
Pack size	12.5kg

Head Office Contact Details	
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Composition Table

Component name	% In final product	Grade	Country of origin	Additive or processing function
Dates	96.5	Dried, chopped	Iran	
Compound ingredients:				
Rice flour	3		Turkey	
Compound ingredients:				
Cottonseed oil	0.5		Turkey	
Compound ingredients:				
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Compound ingredients:				
Compound ingredients:				
Compound ingredients:				
Compound ingredients:				

Ingredient Declaration

Dates (96.5%), Rice flour, Cottonseed oil.

Please note: parameters are not applicable if shaded

Additive Table			
E-number	Name	Function	Amount (mg/kg)

Allergen Table			
Allergens	Contains	May contain	Does not contain
Cereals containing gluten*			
Crustaceans and products thereof			
Eggs and products thereof			
Fish and products thereof			
Peanuts and products thereof			
Soybeans and products thereof			
Milk and products thereof			
Nuts**			
Celery and products thereof			
Mustard and products thereof			
Sesame seeds and products thereof			
Sulphur dioxide and sulphites at concentrations of more than 10 mg/kg			
Lupin and products thereof			
Molluscs and products thereof			

*Namely: wheat, rye, barley, oats, spelt, kamut or their hybridised strains, and products thereof

**Namely: almonds (*Amygdalus communis* L.), hazelnuts (*Corylus avellana*), walnuts (*Juglans regia*), cashews (*Anacardium occidentale*), pecan nuts (*Carya illinoensis* (Wangenh.) K. Koch), Brazil nuts (*Bertholletia excelsa*), pistachio nuts (*Pistacia vera*), macadamia or Queensland nuts (*Macadamia ternifolia*), and products thereof

'Contains' indicates that the allergen is intentionally present as an ingredient.
'May contain' indicates a risk of contamination by an allergen not intentionally present as an ingredient.
'Does not contain' indicates that the allergen is not intentionally present as an ingredient and there is no probable risk of contamination.

Dietary Suitability		
Dietary Principals	Suitable	Accredited
Diabetics	No	No
Vegetarian	Yes	No
Vegan	Yes	No
Kosher	Yes	No
Halal	Yes	No
Coeliac	Yes	No
Organic	No	No

Please note: parameters are not applicable if shaded

Nutritional Information		
Parameter	Typical values per 100g	Source
Energy (kJ)	1235	Calculated
Energy (kcal)	295	Calculated
Protein (g)	3.3	McCance & Widdowsons 6th Ed
Carbohydrates (g)	68.0	McCance & Widdowsons 6th Ed
Starch (g)	0.0	McCance & Widdowsons 6th Ed
Sugar (g)	68.0	McCance & Widdowsons 6th Ed
Fat (g)	0.2	McCance & Widdowsons 6th Ed
Saturates (g)	0.0	McCance & Widdowsons 6th Ed
Mono-unsaturates (g)	0.0	McCance & Widdowsons 6th Ed
Poly-unsaturates (g)	0.0	McCance & Widdowsons 6th Ed
Fibre (g)	4.0	McCance & Widdowsons 6th Ed
Sodium (mg)	10.00	McCance & Widdowsons 6th Ed
Sodium (g)	0.01	Calculated
Salt (mg)	25.00	Calculated
Salt (g)	0.03	Calculated

Irradiated Material

In compliance with directive 1999/2/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 February 1999 and all subsequent amendments on the approximation of the laws of the Member States concerning foods and food ingredients treated with ionising radiation, we confirm that this product has not been treated with ionising radiation and nor does it contain ingredients that have been treated with ionising radiation.

Genetically Modified Material

In compliance with regulation (EC) No 1831/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 September 2003 and all subsequent amendments concerning the traceability and labelling of genetically modified organisms and the traceability of food and feed products produced from genetically modified organisms, we confirm the following:

This product does not consist of and nor does it contain genetically modified material.

This product, including all ingredients, has not been produced from genetically modified material.

Genetically modified organisms have not been used as processing aids or used in connection with the production of this product or any of its ingredients.

Please note: parameters are not applicable if shaded

Organoleptic parameters	
Flavour	Characteristic of dates, free from objectionable foreign flavours
Aroma	Characteristic of dates, free from objectionable foreign odours
Typical profile descriptors	Sweet, fruity
Appearance (including colour)	Mid to dark brown pieces of fruit with fine white coating of rice flour
Texture	Soft to firm

Size	Target	Max or range	Sample size
Length(mm)			
Width(mm)		8-12	
Height(mm)		8-12	
Diameter(mm)			
Whole			
Pieces			
Ground/fine			
Under or over sized pieces		15%	
Size count			
Retained on sieve size(mm)			
To pass through sieve size(mm)			
Any additional size criteria - detail below			

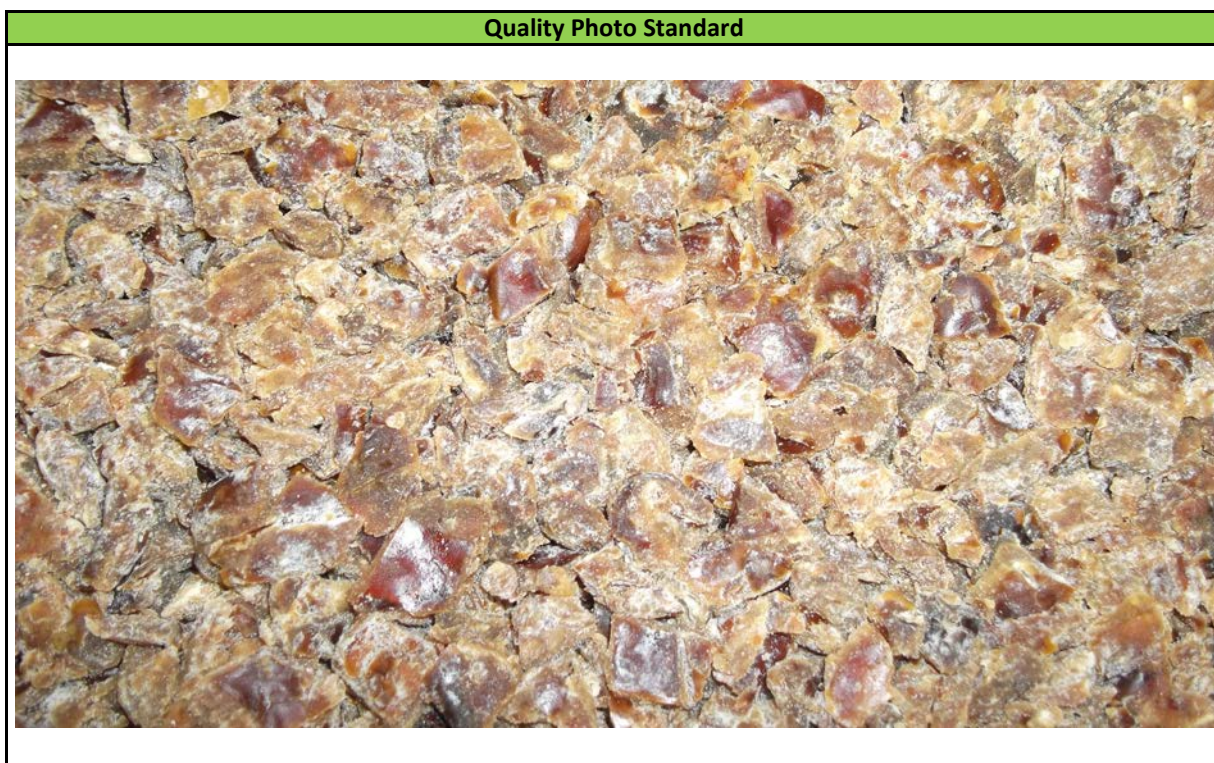
Material Defects	Target	Max or range	Sample size
Discoloured			
Rotten/mouldy	Absent	0.5%	
Broken or incomplete			
Mechanically damaged or bruised			
Infestation - dead	Absent	0.5%	
Evidence of insect damage	Absent	0.5%	
Under developed			
Rancid/bitter/other undesirable flavours	<1%	1%	
Soft/rubbery/hard or other undesirable textures	<1%	1%	
Rancid/musky or other undesirable odours	<1%	1%	
Over roasted/burnt			
Shrivelled			
Sugared berries			
Peduncles and part peduncles			
Residual free syrup			
Any additional material defects - detail below			

Please note: parameters are not applicable if shaded

Foreign bodies and contaminants intrinsic to the product	Target	Max or range	Sample size
Total EVM	<2 pcs	2 pcs	12.5kg
Pips/seeds/pits and fragments thereof	Absent	1pcs	100 kg
Skin			
Stalk >10mm			
Stalk <10mm			
Total stalk			
Capstems			
Leaves			
Septa			
Shell and shell fragments			
Any additional intrinsic foreign bodies - detail below			
Retained Calyx: Target - Absent, Max - 1 pcs per 12.5kg			

Foreign bodies and contaminants extrinsic to the product	Target	Max or range	Sample size
Dust and grit			
Mineral stones >2mm			
Mineral stones <2mm			
Total mineral stones			
Any additional extrinsic foreign bodies - detail below			
Human hair: Target - Absent, Max - 1 pc per 100kg.			
Dirt >2mm: Target - Absent, Max - 1%			

In all cases, parameters expressed as a percentage shall be taken as representative of a production batch.



Please note: parameters are not applicable if shaded

Microbiological Standards				
Criteria	Test method	Test frequency	Target	Maximum acceptable value
Aerobic Colony Count	BS EN ISO 4833:2003	Annual	<10,000 cfu/g	20,000cfu/g
Enterobacteriaceae	BS ISO 21528-2:2004			
<i>E. Coli</i>	BS ISO 16649-1:2001	Annual	<10cfu/g	10cfu/g
<i>Salmonella Spp.</i>	single selective enrichment in RV Broth and plating on XLD and BGA	Annual	Absent in 25g	Absent in 25g
Yeast	BS 21527-1.:2008 or BS 4285-3	Annual	<500 cfu/g	1,000cfu/g
Mould	BS 21527-1.:2008 or BS 4285-3	Annual	<1,000 cfu/g	5,000cfu/g
<i>Coliforms</i>	BS ISO 4832:2006	Annual	<100 cfu/g	100 cfu/g
Coagulase Positive Staphylococci	BS EN ISO 6888-1:1999			
Bacillus Cereus	Based on Practical Food Microbiology 3rd edition 2003 or ISO 5763-11			
<i>E. Coli 0157</i>	EN ISO 16654-2001			

Chemical Parameters			
Criteria	Test frequency	Testing method	Maximum or range
Moisture %	Annual	Oven or vacuum method	18
Water activity (aW) %			
Free fatty acids (FFA) % in oleic		ISO 660:2009	
Peroxide value (PV) meq/kg		ISO 3960:2007	
pH		Electrometric method	
Brix			
% Solids			
Heavy metals - Arsenic		Atomic fluorescence	Compliant with UK and EU legislative limits
Heavy metals - Cadmium	Annual	FAAS or ICP-OES	
Heavy metals - Lead	Annual	FAAS or ICP-OES	
Heavy metals - Mercury		Atomic fluorescence	
Pesticides	Annual	Mass spectroscopy	
Ochratoxin A	Annual	HPLC Fluorescence Detection	
Aflatoxin B1	Annual	HPLC Fluorescence Detection	
Total aflatoxins	Annual	HPLC Fluorescence Detection	
Any additional chemical parameters - detail below			

Please note: parameters are not applicable if shaded

Packaging	
Packaging Format Description	
Plastic liner in a cardboard carton	

Primary Packaging	
Food contact packaging material type	Plastic
Colour	Blue or red
Method of closure	Folded
Capacity per 'inner'	g 12.5 kg
Number of 'inners' per outer	1

Secondary Packaging	
Outer case/carton/bag packaging material type	Cardboard
Colour	Brown or white
Method of closure	Tape
Capacity per 'outer' (kg)	12.5kg

Barcode	
Consumer unit barcode	N/A
Trade unit barcode	N/A
Outer trade unit barcode	N/A

The product shall be distributed in clean undamaged packaging. All primary packaging materials shall be food grade and of sufficient durability to ensure the integrity of the product. In compliance with Regulation (EC) No 1935/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 October 2004 and all subsequent amendments, materials and articles in contact with food shall not transfer their constituents to food in quantities which could endanger human health, bring about an unacceptable change in the composition of the food or bring about a deterioration in the organoleptic characteristics thereof. The labelling, advertising and presentation of a material or article shall not mislead consumers.

Shelf Life and Storage	
Provide a description of the storage conditions required	
Cool dry ambient conditions away from direct sunlight and strong odours. All food products are prone to infestation and it is essential to check regularly during prolonged storage . Once opened, store in sealed containers and use within one month.	
Shelf life from production date (months)	12 months or to BBE date indicated on package markings or release certificate
Minimum shelf life on delivery (months)	4
Recommended storage temperature range (°C)	4-15
Recommended relative humidity range (%)	60-70

It is the responsibility of the customer to ensure appropriate storage conditions are maintained and no concern or complaint will be considered after 28 days from the point of delivery.

Please note: parameters are not applicable if shaded

Maximum Durability

This is a long-life ambient product and there is generally no food safety concern associated with the use of this product beyond the recommended best before end date given. As with all food and beverage products, the organoleptic characteristics may change over time. The organoleptic changes that occur during storage will be influenced by the storage conditions that the product is subject to and in light of the fact that these conditions are beyond the control of RM Curtis, it is our position that:

A decision to use the products supplied beyond the best before end date stated may be taken at the sole discretion of the customer.

RM Curtis is not in a position to advise customers on a decision to use the products supplied beyond the best before date stated, and any such decision should be made by the customer.

RM Curtis accepts no liability or responsibility for loss or damage resulting from the use of goods beyond the best before end date stated.

Validity

Version Number		3
Approval on behalf of RM Curtis & Co Ltd		
Specification prepared by		Specification approved by
Name	Kathryn Hill	Florina Brooks
Position	Specifications Technologist	Technical Manager
Date	08/10/2015	10/11/2015

The specification approval and countersign feature is an internal tool which facilitates the monitoring and continuous improvement of the documents held. A specification shall be considered valid provided this is indicated by at least one representative of RM Curtis & Co Ltd. The validity of a specification is not contingent on secondary approval.

Approval on behalf of the customer

Name	
Position	
Date	

This specification shall be considered to be acceptable to all parties in the event that no dispute is raised within a 14 day period of submission.

Document Control

From time to time, updates and improvements may be made to the formatting of the specification template. These updates may include logos, contact details, syntax and other features which do not influence product quality or the specification agreement between RM Curtis & Co Ltd and its customers. Any such changes will not result in a new specification version number, but may be reflected in the document control parameters detailed below.

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Author	Duncan Lacey
Authorised	Florina Brooks