

Canadian Grade Compendium: Volume 6 - Honey

Although the [Safe Food for Canadians Regulations](#) (SFCR) came into force on January 15, 2019, certain requirements may apply in 2020 and 2021 based on food commodity, type of activity and business size. For more information, refer to the [SFCR timelines](#).

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Interpretation

1. The following definition applies in this volume.

"colour class" in respect of honey, means its hue or shade of colour as set out in [Table 1 Colour Classes for Consumer Prepackaged Honey](#) and [Table 2 Colour Classes for Prepackaged Honey Other than Consumer Prepackaged Honey](#) as determined by the use of a honey classifier or by the use of the Pfund honey grader. (classe de couleur)

Grades and Grade Names

2. (1) There are three grades of honey produced in Canada with the grade names Canada No. 1, Canada No. 2 and Canada No. 3 (see [Volume 9, Import Grade Requirements](#) for grade names used for imported honey).

(2) There are three grades of honey that is a blend of imported honey and Canadian honey with the grade names No. 1, No. 2, and No. 3.

Canada No. 1

3. Honey graded Canada No. 1 must

- a) be the food derived from the nectar of blossoms or from secretions of or on the living parts of plants by the work of honey bees;

- b) have a consistency that is fluid, viscous or partly or wholly crystallized;
- c) meet the composition requirements set out in section 10;
- d) have a diastase activity, determined after processing and blending, as represented by a diastase figure on the Gothe scale of:
 - (i) not less than eight if the hydroxymethylfurfural content is not more than 40 mg/kg; or
 - (ii) not less than three if the hydroxymethylfurfural content is not more than 15 mg/kg;
- e) have no deterioration seriously affecting its edibility, appearance or shipping quality;
- f) contain not more than 17.8% moisture or, if its container bears the word "pasteurized" or "pasteurisé", not more than 18.6% moisture;
- g) be free from any foreign material that would be retained on a screen having a sieve opening of 0.1778 mm and made of wire having a diameter of 0.09 mm;
- h) contain not more than 0.1% water insoluble solids or, if its container bears the word "pressed" or "de presse", not more than 0.5% water insoluble solids;
- i) have a flavour characteristic of its colour class and be free from any objectionable flavour, aroma or taint;
- j) if its container bears the word "liquid" or "liquide", be clear, bright, uniform in colour and free from visible crystals; and
- k) if its container bears the word "creamed", "en crème" or another word indicating that the contents are granulated, have a smooth fine texture and complete and uniform granulation.

No. 1

4. Honey that is a blend, referred to in subsection 2(2), graded No. 1 must meet the requirements set out in paragraphs 3(a) to (k).

Canada No. 2

5. Honey graded Canada No. 2 must

- a) meet paragraphs 3(a) to (e) and 3(h);
- b) contain not more than 18.6% moisture or, if its container bears the word "pasteurized" or "pasteurisé", not more than 20% moisture;
- c) be free from any foreign material that would be retained on a screen having a sieve opening of 0.2489 mm and made of wire having a diameter of 0.125 mm;
- d) have a flavour that may be slightly off but with its honey flavour being not substantially impaired;
- e) if its container bears the word "liquid" or "liquide", have a colour that may be dull and cloudy or turbid or slightly uneven and show not more than slight signs of crystallization in the form of a light suspension or minor sedimentation of crystals; and

- f) if its container bears the word "creamed", "en crème" or another word indicating that the contents are granulated, have a texture that may be medium coarse or gritty, but not extremely coarse or gritty, and have a complete and fairly uniform granulation.

No. 2

6. Honey that is a blend, referred to in subsection 2(2), graded No. 2 must meet the requirements set out in paragraphs 5(a) to (f).

Canada No. 3

7. Honey graded Canada No. 3 must

- a) meet paragraphs 3(a) to (e), 3(h) and 5(d); and
- b) contain not more than 20% moisture.

No. 3

8. Honey that is a blend, referred to in subsection 2(2), graded No. 3 must meet the requirements set out in paragraphs 7(a) and (b).

Colour Classes

9. (1) There are four colour classes of consumer prepackaged honey: "White", "Golden", "Amber", and "Dark".

(2) There are six colour classes of prepackaged honey other than consumer prepackaged honey: "Extra White", "White", "Golden", "Light Amber", "Dark Amber", and "Dark".

(3) The colour class, referred to in subsections (1) and (2), set out in [Table 1 Colour Classes for Consumer Prepackaged Honey](#) or [Table 2 Colour Classes for Prepackaged Honey Other than Consumer Prepackaged Honey](#) must have a designation on a Honey Classifier set out in the table or a reading on a Pfund Honey Grader set out in the table, as applicable.

Table 1: Colour Classes for Consumer Prepackaged Honey				
Item	Designation on Honey Classifier		Reading on Pfund Honey Grader	
	Darker than	Not darker than	More than	Not more than
1.	"White"	White		30 mm
2.	"Golden"	Golden	30 mm	50 mm
3.	"Amber"	Golden	50 mm	85 mm
4.	"Dark"	Amber	85 mm	
Table 2: Colour Classes for Prepackaged Honey Other than Consumer Prepackaged Honey				
Item	Designation on Honey Classifier		Reading on Pfund Honey Grader	
	Darker than	Not darker than	More than	Not more than
1.	"Extra White"	Extra White		13 mm

Table 2: Colour Classes for Prepackaged Honey Other than Consumer Prepackaged Honey

Item	Colour Class	Designation on Honey Classifier		Reading on Pfund Honey Grader	
		Darker than	Not darker than	More than	Not more than
2.	"White"	Extra White	White	13 mm	30 mm
3.	"Golden"	White	Golden	30 mm	50 mm
4.	"Light Amber"	Golden	Amber	50 mm	85 mm
5.	"Dark Amber"	Amber	Dark	85 mm	114 mm
6.	"Dark"	Dark		114 mm	

10. The compositional requirements set out in the Table of Composition of Specific Kinds of Honey, for a kind of honey specified in the table, must meet the requirement set out in the table, as applicable.

Table of Composition of Specific Kinds of Honey

Item	Composition of Honey	Honeydew Honey	Lavender, Rubinia, Alfalfa or Banksia Menziesii Honey	Blossom Honey other than the kinds named in Column 3
1.	Apparent reducing sugar calculated as invert sugar	not less than 60%	not less than 65%	not less than 65%
2.	Moisture	not more than 20%	not more than 20%	not more than 20%
3.	Apparent sucrose	not more than 10%	not more than 10%	not more than 5%
4.	Water-insoluble solids if not pressed	not more than 0.1%	not more than 0.1%	not more than 0.1%
5.	Water-insoluble solids if pressed	not more than 0.5%	not more than 0.5%	not more than 0.5%
6.	Ash	not more than 1%	not more than 0.6%	not more than 0.6%
7.	Acid	not more than 40 milliequivalents per 1000 grams	not more than 40 milliequivalents per 1000 grams	not more than 40 milliequivalents per 1000 grams