

TABACCO GRADING (COMERCIAL) RULES

1. Short title commencement and application .-

- (1) These Rules may be called the Tobacco Grading (Commercial) Rules, 1987.
- (2) They shall come into force on the date of their publication in the Official Gazette.
- (3) They shall apply to tobacco (Nicotiana tabacum L. and Nicotiana L.) grown in India and traded in the markets, auction platforms, marketing, cooperatives, ware houses and other similar marketing institutions.

2. Grade designation: - The grade designations to indicate the quality of tobacco referred to in sub-rule (3) or rule 1 are those set out in column 2 of the Schedules.

3. Definition of quality :-

1. General Characteristics: Quality indicated by such grade designations shall be that such tobacco shall consist of whole leaf duly cured @. All the Tobacco

shall be sound*. clean and free from excess moisture and other extraneous matter**.

2. Special characteristics- : Special characteristics as described under column 3 to 7 of the schedule constitute quality prescribed for different grade designations. Important terms used in the Schedule have been defined which form a part of the schedule.

@ Tobacco dried of its sap by either natural or artificial process.

* The tobacco shall be regarded as 'sound' if it is free from the effect of mould, rot, black-rot or other fungus or other bacterial diseases which affect tobacco in its cured state, Including tobacco having the odour of mould, must or rot.

**Any foreign matter or material such as straw, strings rubber bands grass weeds or any excessive amount of dirt or sand.

SCHEDULE-I (See rules 2 and 3)

Grade designation and definition of quality of un manufactured Flue-cured Virginia tobacco grown in Karnataka State

| Plant Position | Grade designation | Colour | Spot/Blemish injury/waste in terms of percentage | Maturity/grain/ texture | Body | Description of leaf |
|----------------|-------------------|----------------------|--|-------------------------|-----------|--|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| Primings (P) | PIL | Bright Lemon | Upto 20% | More ripe and grainy | very thin | 'Priming (P)' consists of first two or three leaves from the bottom of a plant. Being sand leaf shows a material amount of injury and subject to disease to a larger extent compared to other positions. Comparatively short leaf having open face and an earthy nose. |
| | P2L | Fairly bright lemon | 20 to 30% | More ripe and grainy | very thin | " |
| | P3L | lemon | 30 to 55% | More ripe and grainy | very thin | " |
| | P4L | lemon | up to 80% | More ripe and grainy | very thin | " |
| | P5L | lemon | More than 80% | More ripe and grainy | very thin | " |
| | P10 | Bright Orange | Upto 20% | More ripe and grainy | very thin | " |
| | P20 | Fairly bright Orange | 20 to 30% | More ripe and grainy | very thin | " |
| | P30 | Orange | 30 to 40% | More ripe and grainy | very thin | " |
| | P40 | Orange | Up to 80% | More ripe and grainy | very thin | " |
| | P50 | Orange | More than 80% | More ripe | very thin | " |

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|-----------------------|-----|----------------------|---------------|--|-----------------|---|
| | P1J | Pale lemon of orange | Up to 20% | and grainy Unripe to ripe and close grained | very thin | Leaves from 'P' position consisting of slick, sponge, coarse, harsh, scorched, immature and dry natured tabcco. |
| | P2J | Pale lemon to orange | 20 to 30% | Unripe to ripe & close grained | Very thin | " |
| | P3J | Pale lemon to orange | 30 to 55% | Unripe to ripe & close grained | Very thin | " |
| | P4J | Pale lemon to Orange | up to 80% | Unripe to ripe & close grained | Very thin | " |
| | P5J | Pale lemon to Orange | More than 80% | Unripe to ripe & close grained | Very thin | " |
| Lugs and Cutters (X)' | X1L | Bright lemon | up to 20% | Ripe and very grainy | Thin to medium | 'Lugs and Cutters (X)' consist of four to five leaves above "Priming' position. Comparatively broader leaves with wider spread from buttends. Elastic, fine texture with natural lusture, characterized by small midribs and veins. |
| | X2L | Fairly bright lemon | 20 to 30% | Ripe and very grainy | " | " |
| | X3L | Lemon | 30 to 55% | Ripe and very grainy | thin to medium | " |
| | X4L | Lemon | up to 80% | Ripe and very grainy | thin to medium | " |
| | X5L | Lemon | More than 80% | Ripe and very grainy | thin to medium | " |
| | X10 | Bright Orange | Up to 20% | Ripe and very grainy | thin to medium | " |
| | X20 | Fairly bright Orange | 20 to 30% | Ripe and very grainy | thin to medium | " |
| | X30 | Orange | 30 to 55% | Ripe and very grainy | thin to medium | " |
| | X40 | Orange | Up to 80% | Ripe and very grainy | thin to medium | " |
| | X50 | Orange | More than 80% | Ripe and very grainy | thin to medium | " |
| | X1J | Pale lemon to Orange | Up to 20% | Unripe to ripe and close grained | thin to medium | Leaves from 'X' position consisting of slick sponge, coarse, sponge, harsh, scorched, immature and dry natured tobacco. |
| | X2J | Pale lemon To orange | 20 to 30% | Unripe to ripe & close grained | Thin to medium | " |
| | X3J | Pale lemon to orange | 30 to 55% | Unripe to ripe & close grained | Thin to medium | " |
| | X4J | Pale lemon to Orange | up to 80% | Unripe to ripe & close grained | Thin to medium | " |
| | X5J | Pale lemon to Orange | More than 80% | Unripe to ripe & close grained | Thin to medium | " |
| Leaf (L) | L1L | Bright lemon | up to 20% | Ripe and medium grainy | medium to heavy | 'Leaf (L)' consist of four to five leaves above Lugs and Cutter (X) position. Usually long, but not as broad as cutters, gummy but not very elastic. Generally having pronounced |

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|----------|-------|----------------------|---------------|--|------------------|---|
| | | | | | | midrib and veins. They tend to fold along the midrib. |
| | L2L | Fairly bright lemon | 20 to 30% | Ripe and very grainy. | Medium to Heavy | " |
| | L3L | Lemon | 30 to 55% | Ripe and medium Grainy. | Medium to Heavy | " |
| | L4L | Lemon | up to 80% | Ripe and medium Grainy. | Medium to Heavy | " |
| | L5L | Lemon | More than 80% | Ripe and medium Grainy. | Medium to Heavy | " |
| | L10 | Bright Orange | Up to 20% | Ripe and medium Grainy. | Medium to Heavy | " |
| | L20 | Fairly bright Orange | 20 to 30% | Ripe and medium grainy. | Medium to Heavy | " |
| | L30 | Orange | 30 to 55% | Ripe and medium Grainy. | Medium to Heavy | " |
| | L40 | Orange | Up to 80% | Ripe and medium Grainy. | Medium to Heavy | " |
| | L50 | Orange | More than 80% | Ripe and medium grainy | Medium to Heavy | " |
| | L5(R) | Mahagony | More than 80% | Ripe and medium Grainy | Medium to heavy | |
| | L1J | Pale lemon to Orange | Up to 20% | Unripe to ripe and very close grained. | Medium to Heavy | Leaves from 'L' position consisting of slick sponge, harsh, scorched, immature and dry natured tobacco. |
| | L2J | Pale lemon to orange | 20 to 30% | Unripe to ripe and very close grained. | Medium to Heavy | " |
| | L3J | Pale lemon to orange | 30 to 55% | Unripe to ripe and very close grained. | Medium to Heavy | " |
| | L4J | Pale lemon to Orange | up to 80% | Unripe to ripe and very close grained. | Medium to Heavy | " |
| | L5J | Pale lemon to Orange | More than 80% | Unripe to ripe and very close grained. | Medium to Heavy | " |
| Tips (T) | T2L | Lemon | up to 30% | under ripe medium to close grained. | Medium to heavy | 'Tips (T)' consist of three to four leaves above Leaf' Position. Pointed tips, with narrow blade, coarse texture having deep colour intensity. Leaf having prominent midribs and veins. |
| | T3L | Lemon | 30 to 55% | Under Ripe medium to close grained. | Medium to Heavy | " |
| | T20 | Orange | up to 30% | Under Ripe medium to close grained. | Medium to Heavy | " |
| | T30 | Orange | 30 to 55% | Under Ripe medium to close grained. | Medium to Heavy | " |
| | T40 | Orange | Up to 80% | Under Ripe medium to close grained. | Medium to Heavy | " |
| | T50 | Orange | More than 80% | Under Ripe medium to | Medium to Heavy. | " |

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|--|------------------------------------|--|---------------|---|---------------------|--|
| | T4R | Mahagony | Up to 80% | close grained. Under Ripe medium to close grained. | Medium to Heavy. | " |
| | T5R | Mahagony | More than 80% | Under Ripe medium to close grained | Medium to Heavy. | " |
| | T2J | Pale lemon to Orange | Up to 30% | Under ripe, close grained | Medium to Heavy | Leaves from 'T' position consisting of slick sponge, harsh, scorched, immature and dry natured tobacco. |
| | L3J | Pale lemon to orange | 33 to 55% | Under ripe close grained | Medium to Heavy | " |
| | L4J | Pale lemon to Orange | up to 80% | Under ripe Close grained | Medium to Heavy | " |
| | L5J | Pale lemon to Orange | More than 90% | Under ripe Close grained | Medium to Heavy | " |
| Priming Lugs & Cutters | BG (Bottom Green) | Bright yellow or lemon or orange to light brownish yellow or orange or lemon with greenish tinge on | Up to 25% | Ripe, grainly, fine to medium | Thin to medium | Leaves from priming, Lugs and Cutters position |
| | BMG (Bottom medium Green) | Bright yellow or lemon or orange to light brownish yellow or orange or Lemon with green Cast on | Up to 50% | Ripe, grainy, fine to medium | Thin to medium | Leaves from Priming, Lugs and Cutters position, |
| Leaf and Tips | TG (Top Green) | Deep yellow or lemon or orange to light brownish yellow with greenish tinge on | Up to 25% | Under ripe to ripe, less grainy, medium to coarse | Medium to heavy | Leaves from leaf and tips positions, |
| Leaf and Tips | TMG (Top medium Green) | Deep lemon yellow or orange to light brownish orange or yellow with green cast on | Up to 50% | Under ripe to ripe, less grainy, to close grained medium to coarse | Medium to heavy | Leaves from Leaf and tips position |
| Priming, Lugs & Cutters. Leaf and Tips | No-G (No grade) | - | - | - | - | Leaf or part of the leaf (exce- pt stems free of lamina) which includes perished and trashy leaf, scrap and bits from all positions not falling into any of the above grades. Free from any foreign matter extraneous to tobacco. |

Note :- (1) For accidental errors in grading a tolerance limit of not exceeding 10% of the leave corresponding to the specification of the next lower grade will be allowed. For this purpose the grade in each position on the basis of co lour/style (Lemon, Orange and 'J' style grade) will be considered as a separate unit. Green grades (BG, BMG, TG, TMG) will be considered entirely as a separate unit. Admixture of leaves of different plants positions and colors will not be allowed in any grade.

(2) All the above grades of flue-cured Virginia tobacco containing more than 5 per cent admixture of undesirable tobacco produced on saline and low lying areas shall be marked with an additional letter (s) suffixing the grade designation mark. Definitions of various important terms used in the schedules.

1. Plant position : It is position of the leaves on a plant.
2. Grade designation : A grade designation normally consists of three symbols which indicate plant position, quality and color respectively. A letter is used to indicate plant position, a number to indicate quality and a letter to indicate co lour (L-Lemon O-Orange and R-Mahagony)
3. Blemish : It includes damage due to pests and diseases.
4. Body : The thickness and density of leaf or mass per unit of surface.
5. Grain : The structure and arrangement of the cells and fibers of the tobacco leaf resulting weave or texture.
6. Close grain : Abnormal development of leaf, resulting in a tight or close structure of cell and fibers, and a flat surface of the leaf.
7. Open grain : Normal development of leaf, resulting in an open structure of cells and fibers, and wrinkly surface of the leaf.
8. Ripe/unripe : Denote maturity of leaf. Ripped tobacco is matured and open grained whereas, unripe tobacco is immature and close grained.
9. Under ripe : Leaf which is slightly immature.
10. Slick : Very close-grained, immature and heavy bodied tobacco.
11. Sponge : Any discoloration of tobacco, formation of blemish or scars in curing due to run back or by changes in temperatures.
12. Scorched : Tobacco showing a noticeable degree of red caused by excessive heat.
13. Harsh : Tobacco having unpleasant and irritating smell.
14. Dry nature: Any lot of tobacco which meets all the requirements of a grade but is dry in nature shatters or tears easily.