

### 3.3.1 **Product Definition:**

**Dates are the product prepared from sound fruit of the date tree (*Phoenix dactylifera* L.), which fruit:**

- (a) Is harvested at the appropriate stage of maturity;
- (b) Is sorted and cleaned to remove defective fruit and extraneous material;
- (c) May be pitted and capped;
- (d) May be dried or hydrated to adjust moisture content;
- (e) May be washed and/or pasteurized;
- (f) Is packaged in suitable containers to assure preservation and protection of the product; and
- (g) Free from preservatives and any genetically modified materials.

### 3.3.2 **Varietal Types:**

Invert Sugar Varieties (containing mainly invert sugar-glucose, and fructose) **Naghal Dates**.

### 3.3.3 **Styles:**

Styles may be;

- (a) Unpitted; and/or (Method of Test= Physical Test)
- (b) Pitted; (Method of Test= Physical Test)

### 3.3.4 **Sub-Style:**

Sub-styles are as follows:

- (a) Pressed- dates which are compressed into layers using mechanical force.
- (b) Unpressed or loose- dates, which are free- flowing or packaged without mechanical force or compression.
- (c) Clusters- dates with the main bunch stem attached.

### 3.3.5 **Essential Composition and Quality Factors:**

- 3.3.5.1 Composition
- 3.3.5.2 Optional Ingredients
- 3.3.5.3 Glucose syrup, sugars, flour, vegetable oils.

### 3.3.6 **Quality factors**

#### 3.3.6.1 **General Requirements:**

Dates shall be prepared from such fruit and under such practices that the finished product shall possess a characteristic color and flavor for the variety and type, be of proper stage of ripeness, be free of live insects and insect eggs mites and meet the following additional requirements:

- (a) **Moisture content:** 30 % Maximum (Method of Test= Physical Test/ Gravimetry)
- (b) **Size**  
Each 500 gram of “ Naghal Dates” maximum quantity is 90 pcs and each dates minimum weight is 5.5 gram (Method of Test= Physical Test/ Gravimetry)
- (c) **Pits (Stones)**  
(In Pitted Style) Not more than 2 pits or 4 pieces of pit per 100 dates.
- (d) **Mineral Impurities** Not more than 1 g/kg (Method of Test= ICP)

3.3.7 **Defects: Limit of Defect:**

Sr. No	Name of defects	Definition of defects	Allowance for defects	Method of Test
1.	Blemishes	Scars, discoloration, sunburn, dark spots, black nose or similar abnormalities in surface appearance affecting an aggregate area greater than that of a circle 7 mm in diameter.	A total of 7% by count of dates with defect.	Physical/Visual
2.	Damaged	(Unpitted dates only) – Dates affected by mashing and/or tearing of the flesh exposing the pit or to such an extent that it significantly detracts from the visual appearance of the date.	A total of 6% by count of dates with defect.	Physical/Visual
3.	Unripe Dates	Dates which may be light in weight, light in color, have shriveled or little flesh or a decidedly rubbery texture.	A total of 6% by count of dates with defect.	Physical/Visual
4.	Unpollinated Dates	Dates not pollinated as evidenced by thin flesh, immature characteristics and no pit in unpitted dates.	A total of 6% by count of dates with defect.	Physical/Visual
5.	Dirt	Dates having embedded organic or inorganic material similar to dirt or sand in character and affecting an aggregate area greater than that of a circle 3 mm in diameter.	A total of 6% by count of dates with defect.	Physical/Visual
6.	Insects and Mites	Dates damaged by insects or mites or contaminated by damaged and contamination the presence of dead insects or mites, fragments of insects or mites or their excreta.	A total of 6% by count of dates with defect.	Physical/Visual
7.	Scouring	Breakdown of the sugars into alcohol and acetic acid by yeasts and bacteria.	A total of 1% by count of dates with defect.	Physical/Visual
8.	Mould	Presence of mould filaments visible to the naked eye.	A total of 1% by count of dates with defect.	FDA/BAM
9.	Decay	Dates that are in a state of decomposition and very objectionable in appearance.	A total of 1% by count of dates with defect.	Physical/Visual

3.3.8 **Hygiene:**

- 3.3.8.1 To the extent possible in Good Manufacturing Practice, the product shall be free from objectionable matter.
- 3.3.8.2 When tested by appropriate methods of sampling and examination, the product;
- Shall be free from microorganism in amounts which may represent a hazard to health;
  - Shall be free from parasites which may represent a hazard to health; and
  - Shall not contain any substance originating from microorganisms in amounts which may represent a hazard to health.