PRODUCT SPECIFICATION SHEET

Egyptian Hibiscus TBC

Hibiscus sabdariffa L.

DOCUMENT NO.	ISSUE	DATE
OH-SPEC-HBT-01	01	19.11.2026

01 PRODUCT IDENTIFICATION

Product name	**Egyptian Hibiscus TBC**
Botanical name	*Hibiscus sabdariffa* L. (roselle, karkadé)
Plant family	Malvaceae
Part used	Dried calyces
Form / cut	Tea-bag cut (TBC), 0.5–2.0 mm
HS code (reference)	1211.90 *
Country of origin	Egypt
Country of processing	Egypt
Harvest season	October to December
Treatment status	Not heat treated, not irradiated, not fumigated with ethylene oxide. Steam-sterilised grade available on request.

02 DESCRIPTION OF PROCESSING

1. **Harvest & drying**
Fleshy calyces are hand-harvested after flowering, separated from the seed capsule and sun-dried on clean drying floors.

2. **Receiving**
Each lot is opened, sampled and checked against the purchase grade (appearance, odour, moisture, foreign matter).

3. **Pre-cleaning**
Multi-deck sieve pre-cleaner with de-stoner and dust aspiration.

4. **Cutting & sieving**
Calyces are milled and sieved to tea-bag cut; oversize is returned and dust removed by aspiration.

5. **Optical sorting**
Infrared optical sorters reject off-colour particles and foreign material.

6. **Hand inspection**
Final inspection belt fitted with high-intensity magnets.

7. **Metal detection**
Every packed unit passes through a calibrated metal detector.

8. **Packing**
Packed in clean, food-grade packaging, labelled with lot code and stored on pallets.

03 SENSORY & PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Appearance	Fine, uniform calyx particles
Colour	Deep red to purple-red
Flavour	Strongly acidic, fruity
Odour	Characteristic, faintly fruity; no musty or foreign odours
Texture	Dry, free-flowing, suitable for automatic tea-bag filling

04 ANALYTICAL VALUES

PARAMETER	MINIMUM	MAXIMUM	METHOD
Moisture (% w/w)	—	11.0 %	ISO 939
Total ash (% w/w)	—	10.0 %	ISO 928
Acid-insoluble ash (% w/w)	—	1.5 %	ISO 930
Acidity, as citric acid (% w/w)	13.5 %	—	Ph. Eur. monograph 1623

Acidity minimum follows the European Pharmacopoeia monograph for Roselle (Hibisci sabdariffae flos, 1623).

MYCOTOXINS

MYCOTOXIN	MAXIMUM
Aflatoxin B1	5 µg/kg
Aflatoxins total (B1+B2+G1+G2)	10 µg/kg
Ochratoxin A	10 µg/kg

No EU maximum levels for aflatoxins or ochratoxin A exist for this herbal infusion; limits shown are Orient Herbs specification, aligned with the EU levels for spices and dried herbs.

05 PHYSICAL VALUES & FOREIGN-BODY CONTROL

PARAMETER	TARGET	MINIMUM	MAXIMUM
Particle size	0.5–2.0 mm	—	—
Oversize (> 2.0 mm)	—	—	< 5.0 %
Fines (< 0.3 mm)	—	—	< 5.0 %
Extraneous matter	—	—	< 1.0 %
Foreign material (stones, glass, metal, insects)	—	—	Absent

METAL DETECTION – TEST PIECES	FERROUS (FE)	NON-FERROUS (NON-FE)	STAINLESS STEEL (SS)
Metal detector, every packed unit	1.5 mm	1.5 mm	2.0 mm

High-intensity magnets are fitted at the sorter inputs and outputs and on the final inspection belt. Rejected units are quarantined and investigated.

06 MICROBIOLOGICAL VALUES

ORGANISM	MAXIMUM (CFU/G)
Total viable count (TVC)	10^6
Coliforms	10^4
Bacillus cereus	10^3
Escherichia coli	10^3
Salmonella spp.	Absent in 25 g
Yeasts	10^5
Moulds	10^5

Methods: ISO 4833-1 (TVC), ISO 4832 (coliforms), ISO 21528-2 (Enterobacteriaceae), ISO 7932 (B. cereus), ISO 16649-2 (E. coli), ISO 6888-1 (coagulase-positive staphylococci), ISO 6579-1 (Salmonella), ISO 21527 (yeasts & moulds), carried out by an accredited external laboratory.

07 CONTAMINANTS & RESIDUES

Pesticide residues	Within the maximum residue levels of Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 and retained UK legislation. A multi-residue screen is available per lot on request.
Heavy metals	Lead, cadmium and mercury in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2023/915 and current UK contaminants legislation.
Pyrrolizidine alkaloids	Sum of 21 pyrrolizidine alkaloids ≤ 200 µg/kg (herbal infusions, dried product), in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2023/915.
Tropane alkaloids	Sum of atropine and scopolamine ≤ 25 µg/kg (herbal infusions, dried product), in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2023/915.
Ethylene oxide	Not used at any stage. Product complies with the EU MRL for ethylene oxide (sum).
Irradiation	The product is not irradiated and contains no irradiated ingredients.

08 NUTRITIONAL INFORMATION

Not declared: the product is used to prepare herbal infusions and its nutritional contribution per serving is negligible. Typical values available on request.

09 ALLERGEN INFORMATION

ALLERGEN (ANNEX II, REG. (EU) 1169/2011)	IN PRODUCT	ON SITE	PROCESSED ON SITE	SUPPLY-CHAIN RISK
Cereals containing gluten (wheat, rye, barley, oats, spelt, kamut and products thereof)	No	No	No	No
Crustaceans and products thereof	No	No	No	No
Eggs and products thereof	No	No	No	No
Fish and products thereof	No	No	No	No
Peanuts and products thereof	No	No	No	**Yes**
Soybeans and products thereof	No	No	No	No
Milk and dairy products (including lactose)	No	No	No	No
Tree nuts (almond, hazelnut, walnut, cashew, pecan, Brazil nut, pistachio, macadamia, Queensland nut)	No	No	No	**Yes**
Celery and products thereof	No	**Yes**	**Yes**	No
Mustard and products thereof	No	No	No	No
Sesame seeds and products thereof	No	**Yes**	**Yes**	No
Sulphur dioxide and sulphites (> 10 mg/kg or 10 mg/L as SO_2)	No	No	No	No
Lupin and products thereof	No	No	No	No
Molluscs and products thereof	No	No	No	No

Allergens in product	**None**
*** Supply-chain note**	Traces of peanut and tree-nut protein cannot be fully excluded because herbs are grown, harvested, transported and stored in open agricultural environments.
Allergen control on site	Celery and sesame seeds are handled on site. Segregated storage, scheduled production with validated cleaning between products, and trained staff are used to prevent cross-contact.
'May contain' advice	May contain traces of peanuts and tree nuts due to agricultural and environmental cross-contamination. Customer to risk-assess for final labelling.

10 PRODUCT SUITABILITY

DIET	SUITABLE	CERTIFICATE
Vegetarians	Yes	—
Vegans	Yes	—
Kosher	Yes	Available on request
Halal	Yes	Available on request
Coeliacs (gluten-free)	Yes	—
Organic	On request	Organic grade available from certified farms

11 STATEMENTS

GMO (Reg. (EC) 1829/2003 & 1830/2003)	Neither the product nor any component is produced from genetically modified varieties: **Yes**. Produced from identity-preserved raw materials: **No**. Produced from raw materials of GM origin: **No**. Requires GMO declaration: **No**.
Nut and peanut	Orient Herbs does not process peanuts or tree nuts. Because many herbs are grown and transported near nuts and peanuts at origin, and containers are outside our control, we cannot give a categorical nut-free guarantee.
Infestation	Goods are cleaned and inspected but, unless heat- or vacuum-treated, cannot be guaranteed free from later infestation. Store as stated below.
Foreign matter	Glass and brittle-plastic policy, pest-control programme and metal detection are in place under our HACCP-based food-safety management system.

12 PACKING, LABELLING & TRACEABILITY

Standard packing	Multi-wall paper bags with food-grade PE liner, 25 kg net per bag. Cartons on request.
Palletising	Clean, fumigated or heat-treated (ISPM 15) wooden pallets, stretch-wrapped.
Label on each unit	Product name, botanical name, lot number, net weight, production date, best-before date, country of origin and buyer's shipping marks.
Traceability	Lot code links each unit to farm / grower, harvest date, processing batch and laboratory results. Mock recall tested at least once a year.
Documents per shipment	Certificate of analysis per lot, phytosanitary certificate, certificate of origin (EUR.1 where applicable), packing list and commercial invoice.

13 STORAGE & SHELF LIFE

Storage	On pallets in cool, dry, hygienic, pest-controlled conditions; away from direct sunlight and strong odours. Recommended < 25 °C and < 65 % RH.
Shelf life	24 months from production in unopened original packaging. Delivered with at least 75 % of shelf life remaining.

14 COMPLIANCE & CERTIFICATION

Legislation	The material complies with all relevant EU and UK food legislation for herbal infusions at the date of issue.
Factory	HACCP-based food-safety management system; current certificates available on request.
Farms	Selected Egyptian growers working to Good Agricultural Practice (GAP), with farm-level traceability.
Quality control	Each lot is checked on receipt, during processing and before release. Retained samples are kept for the full shelf life.

15 APPROVAL

Document no.	OH-SPEC-HBT-01
Issue / date	01 / 19.11.2026
Prepared by	Quality Control Department
Approved by	

NAME & TITLE

SIGNATURE

COMPANY STAMP

** HS code for reference only; the importer should confirm classification with its customs broker. This specification supersedes all previous issues. Changes are notified to the customer in writing before supply.*