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MS 1784-4 (2005) (English): GOOD AGRICULTURAL PRACTICE (GAP) - PART 4: COCOA (THEOBROMA CACAO)

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MALAYSIAN MS 1784: PART 4:2005 STANDARD

GOOD AGRICULTURAL PRACTICE (GAP) -PART 4: COCOA (THEOBROMA CACAO)

ICS: 65.020.20

Descriptors: cocoa, sustainable crop production, best developed agricultural practices, food quality and safety, environmental protection, worker welfare and safety

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Committee representation

The Food and Agricultural Industry Standards Committee (ISC A) under whose authority this Malaysian Standard was developed, comprises representatives from the following organisations:

Department of Agriculture
Department of Standards Malaysia
Federal Agricultural Marketing Authority
Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers
Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute
Malaysian Association of Standards Users
Malaysian Palm Oil Association
Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-based Industry
Ministry of Health Malaysia
Ministry of International Trade and Industry
Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia
Universiti Putra Malaysia

The Technical Committee on Good Agricultural Practice for Crop Commodities which supervised the development of this Malaysian Standard consists of representatives from the following organisations:

Cameron Highlands Floriculturists Association Commercial Orchid Growers Association of Malaysia Department of Agriculture Kuala Lumpur Department of Agriculture Sabah Department of Agriculture Sarawak Federal Agricultural Marketing Authority Golden Hope Plantations Berhad Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute Malaysian Herbal Corporation Malaysian Palm Oil Association Malaysian Palm Oil Board Malaysian Rubber Board Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-based Industry Ministry of Health Malaysia Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities National Association of Small Holders Persekutuan Persatuan-persatuan Pekebun-pekebun Sayur-sayuran Malaysia SIRIM Berhad (Secretariat) Q A Plus Asia Pacific Sdn Bhd

The Task Force on Cocoa which developed this Malaysian Standard consists of representatives from the following organisations:

A. Tsen and Company Department of Agriculture Sabah Malaysian Cocoa Board

FOREWORD

This Malaysian Standard was developed by the Technical Committee on Good Agricultural Practice for Crop Commodities under the authority of the Food and Agricultural Industry Standards Committee. Task force on Cocoa was established in drafting this standard.

This Malaysian Standard is intended to be used in certification schemes to recognise and certify farms which adopt Good Agricultural Practice (GAP) for cocoa in Malaysia.

The structure and presentation of this Malaysian Standard follows MS 1784:2005, *Crop commodities – Good Agricultural Practice (GAP)*. Where elements of MS 1784:2005 are not applicable to this Malaysian Standard, they are stated as such.

This Malaysian Standard consists of the following parts under the general title, Good Agricultural Practice (GAP)

- Part 2: Oil Palm (Elaeis guineensis Jacq.)
- Part 3: Rubber (Hevea brasiliensis Muell. Arg.)
- Part 4: Cocoa (Theobroma cacao)
- Part 5: Pepper (Piper nigrum L)

Compliance with a Malaysian Standard does not of itself confer immunity from legal obligations.

GOOD AGRICULTURAL PRACTICE (GAP): PART 4: COCOA (Theobroma cacao)

1. Scope

This Malaysian Standard defines essential elements for agricultural producers to promote Good Agricultural Practice (GAP) for sustainable cocoa production that is legally compliant, environmentally sound, socially acceptable and economically viable to ensure quality produce that is safe and suitable for utilisation and/or consumption.

2. Normative references

The following normative references are indispensable for the application of this standard. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the normative references (including any amendments) applies.

MS 467, Specification for cocoa (Theobroma cacao) seed

MS 1383, Specification for cocoa (Theobroma cacao L.) clonal material for planting

Environment Quality Act 1974 and Environment Quality Regulations 1979

Pesticides Act 1974

Occupational Safety and Health Act 1994 and Regulations

MS 293, Specification for grading of Malaysian cocoa beans

Grading System of Dry Cocoa Bean for Export, Quality Manual, Malaysian Cocoa Board

Quality Manual on Grading System of Dry Cocoa Bean for Export, Malaysian Cocoa Board

Food Act 1983 and Food Regulations 1985

MS ISO/IEC 17025, General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories

Workers' Minimum Standards Housing and Amenities Act 1990.

3. Definitions

For the purposes of this standard, the following definitions apply.

3.1 Essential element

Critical, main or key factor.

3.2 Cocoa producers

Individuals and/or companies involved in cocoa commercial production. Cocoa producers in this standard refer to plantation owners and small holders.

3.3. Legally compliant

Adherence to all existing national and state legislation.

3.4 Socially acceptable

Meeting and addressing issues and concerns on the welfare and safety of persons working, living in and around the farm.

3.5 Economically viable production

Production that gives positive returns on a sustainable basis.

3.6 Sustainable crop production

A holistic, systems-oriented approach to farming that is efficient in resource management and focuses on the interrelationship of social, economic and environmental processes. This approach is based upon environmentally sound, socially responsible and economically profitable practices.

3.7 Environmentally sound

Farm practices that do not have adverse effects on the environment, e.g. chemical pollution of water ways and effluent discharge.

3.8 Quality produce

Produce that is wholesome and safe for consumption and/or suitable for utilisation.

3.9 Pest

Organisms that are capable of causing injury and loss to cocoa. These organisms include insects, other invertebrates, fungi, bacteria, viruses, weeds and vertebrates.

3.10 Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

A management system that uses all suitable techniques and methods in a manner as compatible as possible to maintain pest population at levels below those causing economic injury.

3.11 Competent agriculturist

Individuals with formal training in agriculture and/or organisations with relevant expertise in cocoa cultivation.

4. Requirements

4.1 Traceability

The produce shall be traceable to the farm where it has been originally produced.

4.2 Record keeping and internal audit

4.2.1 Record keeping

Farms shall keep up-to-date records. All records shall be maintained and retained for at least 12 months unless stipulated by any specific legislation. Record keeping system shall be established in which all the essential elements are captured. The records shall be accessible and audited. All farm records shall be treated as confidential.

4.2.2 Internal audit

Internal audit shall be carried out at least once a year based on the requirements of this standard. It shall be completed and documented. Corrective actions need to be implemented and documented.

4.3 Planting materials and rootstocks

- **4.3.1** Choice of planting materials should meet requirements as recommended by the relevant authority or regulatory body (e.g. yield, bean size, bean count, flavour, agronomic performance, environmental impact, minimal dependence on agrochemicals).
- **4.3.2** The use of genetically modified planting materials shall be avoided unless expressed permission has been given by the relevant authorities and should comply with existing regulations in the country of the final consumers.
- **4.3.3** The planting of genetically modified organism (GMO) shall be agreed between crop producers and customers before planting.
- **4.3.4** Where hybrid planting materials are used, seed source should be known and a record of the variety name, variety purity, batch number and seed vendor should be kept. Where available, seed certification records should be retained.
- **4.3.5** Where grafted planting materials are used, records should be kept of the scion, root stock, source, batch number and vendor.
- **4.3.6** Planting materials shall be produced in accordance to the minimum standard as provided in MS 467 and MS 1383.
- **4.3.7** Where protected varieties are used, the farm shall respect intellectual property right legislation on plant variety protection.
- **4.3.8** Varieties used for planting in the farm should preferably possess resistance or tolerance to major pest and diseases, so as to minimise utilisation of pesticide.
- **4.3.9** If seed treatments are carried out, the use of these treatments should be justified and shall be recorded.

4.4 Site history and site management

4.4.1 Site history

- **4.4.1.1** A recording system shall be established for the site history and the layout of fields their crop history.
- **4.4.1.2** For all new cocoa planting, a risk assessment shall be carried out, taking the following into account:
- a) prior use of the land;
- b) potential impacts of the production on adjacent crops and areas; and
- c) potential impact of activities carried out at adjacent areas.

The information of the risk assessment shall be recorded.

- **4.4.1.3** All new cocoa plantings should not be cultivated on land more than 1 000 m above sea level.
- **4.4.1.4** All new cocoa plantings should not be cultivated on land more than 25 $^{\circ}$ slope unless as specified by local legislation.

4.4.2 Site management

- **4.4.2.1** The farm management shall demonstrate that it has legal rights to the cultivation of the land and all necessary regulatory approvals.
- **4.4.2.2** Where cocoa is grown on sloping land (within the permissible level), appropriate soil conservation measures shall be undertaken to prevent soil erosion and silt deposition into drains, waterways, etc.
- **4.4.2.3** A visual identification or reference system for each field shall be established.

4.5 Soil and substrate management

4.5.1 Soil type mapping

- **4.5.1.1** Soil map should be prepared for the farm to facilitate infrastructure planning, land preparation, inter-cropping, livestock integration and replanting programmes.
- **4.5.1.2** Topography map should be used to assist land clearing, preparation and planting.

4.5.2 Cultivation

Cultivation practices proven to improve or maintain soil structure and to avoid soil compaction should be followed.

4.5.3 Soil erosion

Field cultivation techniques that minimise soil erosion shall be adopted.

4.5.4 Soil fumigation

Not applicable.

4.5.5 Substrates

Preference should be given to the use of natural substrates such as soil.

4.6 Fertiliser management (organic and inorganic)

4.6.1 Nutrient requirement

- **4.6.1.1** Management practices should take into consideration the soil types to ensure nutrient balances and minimise nutrient loss
- **4.6.1.2** Fertiliser rates should be based on crop requirement and nutrient levels of soil and leaf.

4.6.2 Fertiliser utilisation

- **4.6.2.1** Usage of fertilisers should be in accordance with science based recommendations or best developed practice.
- **4.6.2.2** The type, quantity, method, timing and frequency of fertiliser application should be carefully observed so as to maximise benefits and minimise losses.

4.6.3 Records of application

All applications of soil and foliar fertilisers shall be recorded. Records shall include location, date of application, type and quantity of fertiliser applied, the method of application and name of operator.

4.6.4 Application machinery

Fertiliser application machinery shall be kept in good working condition and calibrated to ensure the correct quantity is applied.

4.6.5 Fertiliser source and storage

- **4.6.5.1** Fertiliser stock records shall be kept up-to-date and made available for inspection.
- **4.6.5.2** Fertilisers should not be stored in the same room with pesticides. If this is not possible, the fertilisers and the pesticides shall be physically separated and labelled accordingly.
- **4.6.5.3** Fertilisers shall be stored in a covered, clean, dry location where there is no risk of contamination of water sources.
- **4.6.5.4** Fertilisers shall not be stored with nursery stock.
- **4.6.5.5** Fertilisers shall not be stored with fresh produce.
- **4.6.5.6** All hazard and risk areas to human shall be clearly indicated.

4.6.5.7 Record of source and chemical content of fertiliser used shall be made available.

4.6.6 Organic fertiliser

- **4.6.6.1** Organic fertiliser should be stored and handled in an appropriate manner to reduce the risk of contamination of the environment.
- **4.6.6.2** The use of untreated and treated human sewage sludge and pig waste is prohibited.
- **4.6.6.3** To avoid pollution by heavy metals or by nitrate leaching, analysis of nutrients, heavy metals and other potential pollutants in the organic fertiliser, should be completed before application. Proper account shall also be taken of the nutrient contribution of organic fertilisers.
- **4.6.6.4** Organic fertilising in open field cultivation should be based on nutrient management plans.
- 4.6.6.5 Source of organic fertiliser used shall be recorded.

4.7 Irrigation and fertigation

4.7.1 Planning

Cocoa producers are recommended to base their irrigation or fertigation requirement on sound historical and scientific data.

4.7.2 Method

- **4.7.2.1** The most efficient and commercially practical water delivery system should be used to ensure the best utilisation of nutrient and water resources as well as to protect water sources and avoidance of pollution.
- **4.7.2.2** Consideration should be given to a water management plan to optimise water and nutrient usage and reduce wastage (e.g. systems for reuse, application at night, maintenance of equipment to reduce leakage, collection of rainwater, etc.).
- **4.7.2.3** All cocoa producers are encouraged to maintain records of irrigation and fertigation water usage.

4.7.3 Quality of water

- **4.7.3.1** Untreated sewage water is prohibited for use.
- **4.7.3.2** Based on risk assessment, water sources should be analysed at least once a year for microbial, chemical and mineral pollutants. The analysis results should adhere to the Environment Quality Act 1974 and Environment Quality Regulations 1979 and adverse results acted upon.

4.7.4 Supply of water

Water should be derived from sustainable sources. Cocoa producers are encouraged to seek advice from relevant authorities e.g. local Drainage and Irrigation Department (DID), on water sourcing.

4.8 Crop protection

4.8.1 Basic elements of crop protection

- **4.8.1.1** The use of pesticides to protect the crop shall be minimised.
- **4.8.1.2** Wherever possible, cocoa producers shall apply recognised Integrated Pest Management (IPM) techniques. Non-chemical control measures are preferred over chemical treatments.
- **4.8.1.3** Cocoa producers are encouraged to seek advice on IPM from competent authorities.

4.8.2 Choice of chemicals

- **4.8.2.1** The crop protection product utilised shall be appropriate for the control required.
- **4.8.2.2** Cocoa producers shall only use chemicals that are officially registered under the Pesticides Act 1974.
- **4.8.2.3** Selective products that are specific to the target pest and which have minimal effect on populations of beneficial organisms, aquatic life, workers and consumers and are not detrimental to the ozone layer should be used.
- **4.8.2.4** Instructions on the label shall be followed to ensure effective application and to avoid risks to operators, consumers and the environment.
- **4.8.2.5** An anti-resistance strategy should be adopted to avoid reliance on any one chemical.
- **4.8.2.6** Cocoa producers shall not use chemicals that are banned or disallowed in importing countries.
- **4.8.2.7** Cocoa producers should consult their customers to determine if any additional commercial restrictions exist.

4.8.3. Advice on pesticide usage

Cocoa producers are encouraged to seek advice on pesticide usage from competent authorities.

4.8.4 Records of application

All records of pesticide applications shall include crop name, any intercrop and animal integration, location, date and reason for application, trade name of pesticide used, dosage, method of application and name of operator.

4.8.5 Safety, training and instructions

- **4.8.5.1** Operators shall be trained on safe and proper use of pesticides.
- **4.8.5.2** Each area of application should be field marked with appropriate warning sign.

4.8.6 Personal clothing and equipment

- **4.8.6.1** Operators shall be equipped with suitable personal protective clothing and equipment appropriates to the danger posed to health and safety in accordance to the Occupational Safety and Health Act 1994 and Regulations.
- **4.8.6.2** Personal protective clothing and equipment shall be cleaned after use and stored separately from pesticides.

4.8.7 Pre-harvest interval

Pre-harvest intervals as prescribed on pesticide labels should be adhered to.

4.8.8 Spray equipment

- **4.8.8.1** Spray equipment shall be suitable for use in cocoa and shall be kept in good working condition. Calibration should be carried out as and when necessary to ensure accurate delivery of the required quantity of spray.
- **4.8.8.2** When mixing chemicals, the correct quantity of spray mix and the proposed treatment type shall be calculated, accurately prepared and recorded.

4.8.9 Disposal of surplus spray mix

Surplus spray mix and tank washings should be sprayed over an untreated part of the crop as long as the recommended dosage has not been exceeded or on designated fallow land. Records should be kept of such spraying.

4.8.10 Pesticide storage

- **4.8.10.1** Pesticides shall be stored in accordance with local regulations.
- **4.8.10.2** Pesticides shall be stored in a sound, secured, water resistant, well ventilated and well-lit location away from other materials.
- **4.8.10.3** All shelves should be of non-absorbent material.
- **4.8.10.4** The pesticide store shall be able to retain spillage (e.g. to prevent contamination of water courses).
- **4.8.10.5** There shall be adequate facilities for measuring and mixing pesticides.
- **4.8.10.6** There shall be emergency facilities (e.g. plenty of clean water, bucket of sand) to deal with contamination and accidental spillage.
- **4.8.10.7** Keys and access to the store shall be limited to workers with adequate training in the handling of pesticides.
- **4.8.10.8** A procedure to handle accidents, a list of contact telephone numbers and the location of the nearest telephone shall be available within the immediate vicinity of the store. Similar information shall also be available next to the designated telephone.

- **4.8.10.9** An inventory of the pesticide store shall be kept and be readily available for inspection.
- **4.8.10.10** All pesticides shall be stored in their original package.
- **4.8.10.11** Only pesticides registered for use on cocoa or other crops on the farm shall be stored.
- **4.8.10.12** Powders shall be stored on shelves above liquids or separately.
- **4.8.10.13** Warning signs of potential dangers shall be placed on access doors.

4.8.11 Empty pesticide containers

- **4.8.11.1** Empty pesticide containers shall not be reused and the disposal of empty pesticide containers shall be in a manner that avoids exposure to humans and contamination of the environment.
- **4.8.11.2** Official collection and disposal systems should be used if available.
- **4.8.11.3** Empty pesticide containers shall be rinsed at least three times with water, and the washings returned to the spray tank before disposal.
- **4.8.11.4** Unless participating in established recycling programmes or with expressed permission from the authorities, rinsed containers shall be pierced to prevent reuse.
- **4.8.11.5** Empty pesticide containers shall be kept secure until disposal is possible.
- **4.8.11.6** Disposal or destruction of empty pesticide containers shall be in accordance to the Pesticide Act 1974 and/or any other relevant local regulations.

4.8.12 Obsolete pesticides

Obsolete pesticides shall only be disposed through an approved chemical waste contractor.

4.9 Harvesting

4.9.1 Hygiene

- **4.9.1.1** Hygiene protocol should be put in place in order to prevent physical, microbiological and chemical contamination for workers.
- **4.9.1.2** Workers shall undergo training in basic hygiene and safety. They shall be made aware of the requirement to notify management should they contract any transferable diseases.
- 4.9.1.3 Workers shall have access to clean toilet and washing facilities.

4.9.2 Packaging on farm

Not applicable.

4.9.3 Pod harvesting and breaking

Only ripe pod shall be harvested. Harvesting should be conducted in the appropriate manner to avoid damage to the flower cushion. Pod breaking should be conducted in the appropriate manner to avoid damage to the beans.

4.9.4 Wet bean transportation

Wet beans shall be transported immediately in appropriate containers to the processing centres.

4.10 Post-harvest handling

4.10.1 Post-harvest treatment

4.10.1.1 Fermentation

The wet beans shall be fermented in accordance to the recommended practices by the relevant authority or regulatory body.

4.10.1.2 Drying

Drying shall commence upon completion of fermentation in accordance to recommended practices by the relevant authority or regulatory body.

4.10.1.3 Bean sieving

Waste and foreign matter shall be removed from the beans.

4.10.1.4 Packaging

Cocoa beans shall be packed in bags which are clean, sufficiently strong and properly sewn or sealed. The bags shall be made of non-toxic materials. The bags shall be stored to avoid contamination by physical and chemical hazards, as well as pests. It shall be protected from rodents, birds and other animals.

Reusable bags shall be cleaned to ensure that they are free from foreign materials which may be detrimental to the produce and/or consumers' health.

4.10.1.5 Storage

Dry cocoa beans shall be properly stored in accordance to the minimum standard as provided in MS 293.

4.10.1.6 Grading

Dry cocoa beans shall be graded stored in accordance to the minimum standard as provided in MS 293 and/or as stipulated in the Malaysian Cocoa Board Quality Manual on *Grading System of Dry Cocoa Bean for Export*.

4.10.2 Post-harvest washing

Not applicable.

4.10.3 Consignment treatment for dried cocoa beans

- **4.10.3.1** Use of chemical consignment treatments should be minimised. When used, it shall be in accordance with product label or established recommendations.
- **4.10.3.2** When chemicals are used, they shall be in accordance with the relevant legislation including Food Act 1983 and Food Regulations 1985. In addition, where pesticides are involved, they shall be officially registered under the Pesticides Act 1974.
- **4.10.3.3** Cocoa producers should not use chemicals that are banned or disallowed in importing countries.
- **4.10.3.4** Cocoa producers should consult their customers to determine if any additional commercial restrictions exist.
- **4.10.3.5** Cocoa producers should be able to demonstrate their competence and knowledge with regard to the consignment treatment.
- **4.10.3.6** Records for all consignment treatments shall be kept to include consignment number, location, date of treatment, reason for treatment, type of consignment treatment, dosage, and methods of treatment and name of operator.

4.11 Pesticide residue analysis of produce

- **4.11.1** The frequency of pesticide residue analysis shall be based on risk assessment taking into consideration its intended use.
- **4.11.2** Cocoa producers shall provide evidence of residue testing.
- **4.11.3** The test results should be traceable to the crop producer and to the production site.
- **4.11.4** The laboratories used for residue testing shall be accredited by a competent accreditation authority to good laboratory standards (e.g. ISO/IEC 17025).
- **4.11.5** Preventive and corrective action plans shall be in place in the event a maximum residue level (MRL) is exceeded.

4.12 Waste and pollution management, recycling and reuse

- **4.12.1** All possible waste products and sources of pollution should be identified in all areas of cocoa production.
- **4.12.2** Having identified wastes and pollutants, a plan should be developed and implemented, to avoid or reduce wastage and pollution. Whenever possible, avoid land filling or burning, by recycling the waste. Crop debris may be composted and reused for soil conditioning.

4.13 Worker health, safety and welfare

4.13.1 Action plan

There should be an action plan to promote safe and good working conditions.

4.13.2 Training

- **4.13.2.1** Training shall be given to workers operating dangerous or sophisticated equipment.
- 4.13.2.2 Records of training for each employee shall be kept.
- **4.13.2.3** Accident and emergency procedures with clear instructions in the appropriate language of the workforce shall be displayed to all workers.

4.13.3 Facilities and equipment

- **4.13.3.1** First aid boxes shall be available at designated sites and all workers should be informed of these locations and the personnel in charge.
- **4.13.3.2** Hazards should be clearly identified by appropriate warning signage.

4.13.4 Pesticide handling

Workers undertaking pesticide applications on the farm should receive health checks in line with the Occupational Safety and Health Act 1994 and Regulations and Pesticides Act 1974.

4.13.5 Hygiene

- **4.13.5.1** All permanent product packing and storage sites shall have adequate pest control measures, particularly in areas for produce handling, storage of packaging, storage of pesticides and storage of fertilisers.
- **4.13.5.2** Workers should receive basic training in cleanliness requirements. The training program should outline the need for general safety.
- **4.13.5.3** The premises should be kept clean at all times to avoid establishing a breeding ground for pests.

4.13.6 Welfare

- **4.13.6.1** All employment conditions shall comply with relevant regulations.
- **4.13.6.2** If on-site living quarters are provided, they shall be habitable and have basic amenities and facilities in compliance with Workers' Minimum Standards Housing and Amenities Act 1990.

4.14 Environmental issues

4.14.1 Impact of farming on the environment

Cocoa producers shall conform to Environmental Quality Act 1974 and Regulations which covers the concern for air, water, soil, biodiversity and other environmental issues.

4.14.2 Wildlife and biodiversity conservation

4.14.2.1 Cocoa should always be conscious of the need to conserve biodiversity, wildlife, high conservation value areas and the enhancement of agricultural biodiversity.

4.14.2.2 Where Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is required, consideration for the conservation of biodiversity and wildlife shall include the following areas:

- a) a baseline audit to understand existing animal and plant diversity on the farm;
- b) action to avoid damage and deterioration of habitats on the farm; and
- c) an action plan to enhance habitats and increase biodiversity, in particular agricultural biodiversity on the farm.

4.14.3 Unproductive sites

Cocoa producers are encouraged to convert unproductive sites (e.g. swamps, steep slopes, deep peat etc) into conservation areas for natural flora and fauna.

4.15 Record of complaints

Records of complaints on cocoa produce not in compliance with requirements in this standard and their remedial actions shall be made available on site.

5. Legal requirements

All farm activities and produce shall in all other aspects comply with the requirements of the legislations currently in force in Malaysia.

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Malaysian Cocoa Board Act 343

MS 1514, General principles of food hygiene

MS 1529, The production, processing, labelling and marketing of plant-based organically produced foods

Acknowledgements

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