Testing Method Recommendations for the Detection of Filth in Tamarind Products on IA 21-07
Date: 11/21/2025

Please note, this recommendation is intended to provide supplemental general information to private laboratories on methods of analysis and test portion sizes of tamarind products. This document **does not outline all the analytical method or worksheet requirements for packages being submitted for FDA review. **

Please refer to the current FDA Laboratory Manual, Volume III, Section 7 for comprehensive information on private laboratory package requirements and the review process: https://www.fda.gov/media/73540/download

Sample Collection:

Samples should consist of 6 subsamples/test portions for official analysis.

- Pods: See IOM Chapter 4, Sample Schedule Chart 14, Sample Sizes for Filth Analysis (https://www.fda.gov/inspections-compliance-enforcement-and-criminal-investigations/inspection-references/investigations-operations-manual).
- Noodles with spice packets: See table below. Collect enough product to analyze the spice packet separately from the noodles, which may involve collection of multiple retail packages.
- Products other than pods or noodles w/ spice packets: 6 subsamples, each with a minimum of 1 lb.

Analytical Protocol:

See next page

Analytical Protocol:

The table below serves as a guide for analyzing common tamarind products.

Tamarind Product(s)	Test portion	Spices present	Method of analysis
Fresh and Dried Pods	100 pods	No	MPM V-9 F Method for Dried Fruits
Concentrate, Paste, Pulp, Sauce, Syrup, Jam, and Candy with fruit paste	100 grams	No	AOAC Official Method 964.23 Filth in Fig and Fruit Paste (Do not used nested sieves, just use #140)
Chutney, Concentrate, Paste, Pulp, Sauce, Syrup, Jam, and Candy (with fruit paste) OR Candy (without fruit paste) OR Tamarind covered in salt/sugar	100 grams or 225 grams	Yes	LIB 2635 Extraction and Analysis of Light Filth in Vegetarian Pate OR AOAC Official Method 971.34 Filth in Candy
Chutney without spices/chili powder	100 grams or 225 grams	No	LIB 2635 Extraction and Analysis of Light Filth in Vegetarian Pate OR AOAC Official Method 971.34 Filth in Candy
Slab or block tamarind	100 grams	No	AOAC Official Method 964.23 Filth in Fig and Fruit Paste * May use nested sieves #8 over #140 to protect the #140 from damage and separate seeds and fibers
Tamarind Gum (from tamarind seed)	100-200 grams	Either	MPM V-5 Miscellaneous Food Products, Especially Plant Gums
Tamarind covered in salt/sugar	142 grams (5 oz)	No	LIB 3174 Light Filth Method for Preserved Plums

Tamarind Product(s)	Test portion	Spices present	Method of analysis
Spice packet (ground, dried spices), as found in retail package along with noodles Note: If the product contains both noodles and a spice packet, then analyze only the spice packet (because the spice packet contains tamarind, and the noodles do not contain tamarind). Do not combine the noodles and spice packet together and then analyze the mixture. Collect enough product to analyze the spice packet separately from the noodles, which may involve collection of multiple retail packages.	10 g	Yes	AOAC Official Method 975.48: Heavy and Light Filth in Spices and Condiments. This method uses 10 g test portions. In general, testing will focus on light filth. However, if there is obvious residue or other heavy filth, then testing for both light and heavy filth may be appropriate. If performing only light filth, then weigh 10 g into a beaker, quantitatively transfer to 1 L trap flask, and proceed with part (b) starting at "add ca 150 mL H_2O…"

Count all filth elements and report findings according to AOAC 970.66. Note that other extraneous materials (e.g., fibers, paint chips, etc.) need to be described and reported by type and appropriate quantitative figure.

Quality Assurance:
Laboratory must follow the methodology specified in the private laboratory package submission. Any method modifications or deviations to the cited method must be explained and validation must be documented.

FDA does not endorse any private laboratory firms, nor requires specific methods to be used for Private Laboratory Analytical Packages (PLAPs). Information herein is provided as a courtesy, but private laboratories are not required to use them. The requirements state the method should be locally validated and should adequately identify and or quantitate the violative analyte(s). The information herein may also provide supplementary sampling, method information and/or sample preparation information to assist private laboratories who are analyzing products being held under Detention Without Physical Examination (DWPE) as part of an Import Alert to assist private laboratories with submitting scientifically sounds PLAPS as testimony pursuant to FD&C Act section 801 and 21 CFR 1.94 or FD&C Act section 422(b) and 21 CFR 1.1107.