



## Cocoa Bean Export Standards

To be eligible for export, cocoa from Côte d'Ivoire must meet the following conditions:

- It must be properly fermented.
- It must be dry, with a moisture content not exceeding 8%.
- It must be clean and free from foreign matter, such as pod debris, wood, and various mineral parts.
- It must not have any foreign odors (e.g., mold, smoke, pesticides, tar).
- It must be classified as Grade I or Grade II to be marketed as "Good Fermented (GF)."
- In terms of grain size, a tolerance of up to 105 beans per 100 grams is allowed.

### Grade Classification

Cocoa is classified into three commercial types: Grade I, Grade II, and Sub-Grade. Grades I and II are exported under the "Good Fermented (GF)" designation. Grading is based on the percentage of defective beans, determined through a cut test. In this test, 300 beans from a sample are cut in half to visually inspect the internal structure. The percentage of moldy, slaty, and defective beans is then assessed.

### Bean Classification by Defects

When a bean shows multiple defects, the most severe is noted. Beans are ranked by decreasing severity of defects:

- Moldy beans.
- Slaty beans.
- Other defective beans.

## Grade I

Grade I cocoa must consist of uniform batches of beans in terms of color and size. No more than 10% of the beans may deviate by more than one-third from the average bean weight. It must not contain more than:

- 3% moldy beans.
- 3% slaty beans.
- 3% other defective beans.

## Grade II

Grade II cocoa must consist of generally uniform-looking batches of beans. It must not contain more than:

- 4% moldy beans.
- 8% slaty beans.
- 6% other defective beans.

## Sub-Grade

Sub-Grade cocoa does not meet the characteristics of Grade II and is primarily used to supply local processing factories, which are required to prioritize purchasing it.

## Quality Standards (Ivorian and International)

Grade	Moldy Beans	Slaty Beans	Defective Beans	Foreign Matter + Mites
Grade I (G1)	3%	3%	3%	< 5%
Grade II (G2)	4%	8%	6%	5-10%
Sub-Grade (S/G)	41%	41%	61%	> 10%

## **Defect Definitions**

- Moldy beans: Beans showing visible mold development in a longitudinal cut.
- Slaty beans: Beans with a slate-colored cotyledon on half or more of the cut surface.
- Other defective beans: Beans that are insect-infested, flat (reduced to only the seed coat), or germinated (with a visible radicle).