



## **Summary of IS 4941: 1994 (Extracted Honey – Specification)**

Honey that has been removed from the honeycomb and processed, without any additional substances are referred as extracted Honey. The definition of extracted honey defined in the Indian Standard is “**natural sweet substance produced by honey bees from the nectar of blossoms or from secretions of plants, which honey bees collect, transform, and store in honeycombs for ripening**”.

This Indian Standard IS 4941 - Specification for Extracted Honey outlines the requirements, testing methods, and standards for honey in India, including grading, sampling, testing for various properties (such as **moisture, reducing sugars, acidity and hydroxymethylfurfural (HMF) levels**), and packaging and labelling conditions. It aims to ensure honey's purity, quality, and compliance with food safety standards.

Honey is classified into three grades in this Standard, they are **Special, Grade A, and Standard**. Various methods like **oven drying, refractometer method and spectrophotometry** are prescribed for testing. Honey is considered compliant if individual samples and composite samples meet specified limits for all tested parameters.

As far as packing and labelling is concerned, Honey must be packed in clean, **non-reactive containers** like **glass or polyethylene** with proper labelling and to maintain product integrity, the standard mentions labelling on containers with information on label must include the name, batch, date of packing, and net weight.