



DICED TOMATO FIRMNESS

Bulk Container Diced Tomatoes

PURPOSE:

This test method is used to determine the firmness of dice pieces in bulk diced tomato products.

EQUIPMENT:

- Kramer shear cell -13 blade
- Texture/firmness measurement unit capable of reporting total pounds of pressure required to pass the blade through the sample in the shear cell
- Balance with 0.1g sensitivity or better

PROCEDURE:

1. Place the shear cell on the balance and zero the balance. Using the rinsed, drained dice of good character resulting from the character analysis, spoon 170g (+/- 2g acceptable) into the shear cell. It is important that the dice is only selected from the good character portion of the drain weight, and conforms the following parameters:
2. Do not pack the dice into the cell.
3. Do not include any grass- green pieces of dice in the sample
4. Do not include any stem or fibrous core material in the sample.
5. Place the sample in the texture cell, place the lid over the sample, and slide the cell into the measurement unit.
6. Verify that the machine has been zeroed and set to register total pounds of pressure.
7. Start the test and record the total pounds of pressure required to pass the shear cell blade through the sample.