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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND  
ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

Working Party on Standardization of  
Perishable Produce and Quality Development

Meeting of Experts on Co-ordination of  
Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables  
(Forty-fourth session, 9 to 13 March 1998, Geneva)

Item 4(b) of the Provisional Agenda

CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS FOR REVISION OF STANDARDS  
GARLIC AND ONIONS

Note by the secretariat

The following items concerning amendment or revision of the UN/ECE Standards are submitted for the consideration of the Meeting of Experts. Proposed changes and amendments are printed in bold. Justifications given for the proposed changes and amendments are those of the delegations which submitted the proposal. Comments and additional proposals are invited.

UN/ECE Standard for Garlic (FFV-18)

1. The following proposals to change and amend the UN/ECE Standard for Garlic were submitted by Germany at the forty-third session (May 1997):

V. Provisions concerning Presentation

C. Presentation

Garlic may be presented:

(i) no amendmends

(ii) **in bunches**

**The bunches may be determined by**

- **the number of bulbs, in which case the number of bulbs in each bunch within the same package must be uniform**
- **the net weight, for dry garlic only.**

**The bunches must be tied with suitable material, the stems must be evened off.**

(iii) in strings for semi-dry and dry garlic only:

**The strings may be determined by:**

- **the number of bulbs, in which case they must consist of 12 bulbs or more**
- **the net weight, for dry garlic only**

Garlic in strings must be made up with the palnt's own stems and tied with // suitable material //.

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UN/ECE Standard for Onions (FFV-25)

3. The following proposals to change and amend the UN/ECE Standard for Onions were submitted by the Netherlands at the forty-third session (May 1997):

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Explanation: for onions in Class I as well as for Class II requirements are in force concerning shoot growth or sprouting. However shoot growth is an advancing deficiency, which means that particularly for far destinations onions of e.g. Class II may not meet the requirements any more at arrival. The length of the sprout **in** the onion, the so-called "internal sprout", affects the sprouting.

1. II. Provisions concerning quality
  - B. Classification
    - (ii) Class II

Proposal to amend the second indent to read:

- "- **internal sprouts, provided they are not exceeding two thirds of the bulb height.**"

2. IV. Provisions concerning tolerances

A. Quality Tolerances

- (i) Class I

Proposal to add the following paragraph:

**"20 per cent by number or weight of the onions may have internal sprouts, provided they are not exceeding two thirds of the bulb height."**

- (ii) Class II

Proposal to add the following paragraph:

**"2 per cent by number or weight of the onions may have an outcoming shoot growth."**

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