

Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables

Fifty-fifth session

Geneva, 4 - 8 May 2009

Item 4 (e) of the provisional agenda

REVISION OF UNECE STANDARDS

Tomatoes

This note provides information by the United States on its domestic tomato industry trading practices. This information could be used in the discussion on uniformity of tomatoes by count.

Sizing of Tomatoes by Count

The United States of America is pleased to provide the following information on its domestic tomato industry trading practices (Sizing of Tomatoes by Count) to the UNECE. The comments forwarded are limited to the application of the USDA Grade Standards for:

- Greenhouse Tomatoes- effective March 19, 2007
- Tomatoes on the Vine- effective January 18, 2008

Greenhouse Tomatoes

Sizing:

In the United States of America tomatoes produced in green houses, referred to as green house tomatoes are sized by count per container, net weight per container, or in accordance with the following designations:

Small	2 and 4/32 inches to 2 and 9/32 inches OR 53mm to 57mm
Medium	2 and 8/32 inches to 2 and 17/32 inches OR 56mm to 63mm
Large	2 and 16/32 inches to 2 and 24/32 inches OR 62.5mm to 69mm
Extra Large	2 and 24/32 inches and larger OR 69mm and larger

However, the most common form of sizing is done by counts with the following ones prevalent - 22's, 24's, 28's, and 32's, 35's, 39's, 45's, 52's. The Greenhouse tomatoes are packed by size in 8 to 10-lb, single layer cartons, or 20-lb double layers. However, there is no direct correlation between counts uses and weights due to differences in density/mass of tomatoes. It is important to point out that the tomatoes are packed and are marketed either way and other counts and carton sizes are permitted.

Uniformity Provisions:

Uniformity provisions for greenhouse tomatoes are done on a lot basis according to the following requirement:

Fifteen percent (15%) of tomatoes in any lot may vary from the size indicated; however no more than 5% may be less than the size indicated.

Tomatoes on the Vine

The USDA standard for Tomatoes on-the-Vine excludes cherry and grape type tomatoes. The provision of this standard allows for sizing by count or weight per container or top a specified minimum and/or maximum diameter.

Uniformity Provisions:

Fifteen percent (15%) of tomatoes in any lot may vary from the size indicated; however no more than 5% may be less than the size indicated.