

INF.3 Proposal inclusion of a Table of Tolerances in UNECE Standards for Fresh Fruit and Vegetables

Contribution from United States of America

TO: The UNECE Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables.

REF: Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Standard Layout.

PROPOSAL: Inclusion of a Table of Tolerances in UNECE Standards for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables.

The United States of America recommends an inclusion of the a Table of Tolerances in UNECE standards for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables as done in the UNECE Standards for Dry and Dried Produce to facilitate uniform international application of the standard.

A Table of Tolerance in the Fresh Fruits and Vegetables allows for:

1. The uniform international interpretation of normative terms such as “slight and superficial” facilitating greater use of the standards.
2. Setting fixed tolerances for individual defects for each class.
3. Clarification of “Quality Tolerances” for Extra Class thereby facilitating greater use of this class.
4. Resolving the interpretation of quality defects for Extra Class and Class I. for example the text for proposed apple standard:

IV. PROVISIONS CONCERNING TOLERANCES

Tolerances in respect of quality and size shall be allowed in each package for produce not satisfying the requirements of the class indicated.

A. Quality tolerances

"Extra" Class

5 per cent by number or weight of apples not satisfying the requirements of the class, but meeting those of Class I or, exceptionally, coming within the tolerances of that class.

Does that mean?

- i. 5 per cent total quality tolerance for apples in Extra Class, or
- ii. an allowance of 5 percent of Class I apples accepted in Extra Class, or
- iii. 5 per cent of the defects allowed in Class I is acceptable in Extra Class.