

**Specialized Section on Standardization  
of Dry and Dried Produce  
Fifty-seventh session  
Geneva, 28 June - 2 July 2010  
Item 5 (c) of the provisional agenda  
Revision of UNECE Standards  
Cashew Kernels**

## **Comments by the Cashew Export Promotion Council of India**

The following document contains comments on the proposed revision for the UNECE Standard for Cashew Kernels. The document refers to the AFI (Association of Food Industries) Specifications for Cashew Kernels (AFI Nut & Agricultural Products Section) as well as the related tolerance and sizing tables. They are contained in document INF.7.

This has reference to the forthcoming June session of the Specialized Section on Dry and Dried Produce in Geneva.

We have gone through the Proposals for Review of Standards for Cashew Kernels and are concerned to note that these are quite different from the prevailing AFI (USA) Standards as you would observe from the attached copies of the current AFI Standards (Parts I & ii).

These standards (AFI Standards) which have been in force for more than 50 years now, were arrived at after unifying the standards of the three major cashew producing countries, namely, India, Brazil & Vietnam and have been accepted internationally. These were last revised during the revision meeting in Florida in 2008. Trade bodies representing European importers (like CENTA) were also party to this.

Their contact details are :  
The Combined Edible Nut Trade Association (CENTA)  
18 Lichfield Road,  
Woodford Green,  
Essex, IG8 9ST  
TEL/FAX: 020 8506 2391  
E-MAIL: [treenuts@centa.uk.com](mailto:treenuts@centa.uk.com), WEB SITE: [www.centa.uk.com](http://www.centa.uk.com)

To cite a couple of examples of major deviations (from USA/AFI Standards),

\* The nomenclatures suggested are quite different from the existing internationally used ones and if implemented would lead to confusion among the sellers as well as the buyers of Cashew Kernels. We strongly recommend retention of the existing AFI nomenclatures which are in vogue.

\* Moisture content is specified for Cashew Kernels as well as for Raw Cashew Nuts (in shell). You would appreciate that the same standards cannot be applied as Cashew Kernels and Raw Cashew Nuts are quite different. Consequently, we would request that Raw Cashew Nuts (In Shell) be removed from the purview of this.

To sum up, we would request that the existing AFI Standards, which has universal acceptability be adopted rather than creating new standards, as it could lead to confusion and avoidable disputes.