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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

PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE STANDARD FOR CUCUMBERS

Note by the secretariat

The following proposal to amend the Standard for Cucumbers has been submitted by the delegation of the Netherlands.

PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE STANDARD FOR CUCUMBERS (FFV-15)

II. PROVISIONS CONCERNING QUALITY

A. Minimum requirements

Proposal to delete the indent: "-free of bitter taste" (subject to the special provisions for Class II under the heading "Tolerances")

Motiviation : only bitter-free varieties are found on the market.

B. Classification

(iii) Class II

Second indent : defects in colouring up to one-third of the surface (in the case of cucumbers grown under protection, considerable defects in colouring in the affected part are not allowed).

Proposal to delete the sentence in brackets.

Motivation : it is not indistinguishable whether the product is grown under protection or in the open.

III. PROVISIONS CONCERNING SIZING

Proposal to amend the text under (i), (ii) and (iii) as follows :

(i) Cucumbers must weigh 200 g or more.

(ii) Moreover, the length of "Extra" Class and Class I cucumbers must be not less than :

- 25 cm in case of cucumbers weighing between 200 and 500 g ;
- 30 cm in case of cucumbers weighing 500 g or more.

(iii) Sizing is compulsory for classes "Extra" and I.

The difference in weight between the heaviest and lightest cucumbers in the same package must not exceed :

- 100 g, where the lightest piece weighs between 200 and 400 g;
- 150 g, where the lightest piece weighs 400 g or more.

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IV. PROVISIONS CONCERNING TOLERANCES

A. Quality tolerances

(iii) Class II

Proposal to delete the last sentence referring to tips with a bitter taste.

Motivation : see under quality, minimum requirements.

VI. PROVISIONS CONCERNING MARKING

B. Nature of produce

Proposal to delete the second indent.

Motivation : see under quality, Classification.

Proposal to delete the words "or mini cucumbers" in the third indent.

Motivation : short and mini cucumbers are not the same kind of produce. Short cucumbers are "normal" cucumbers which are sufficiently developed, but do not apply to the provisions for the length. Mini cucumbers are different varieties, which are specially produced to be mini. For mini we are preparing a separate regulation. It is obvious that the appearance of mini cucumbers and short cucumbers is different.