

Economic Commission for Europe

Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards

Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards

Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables

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Item 3 (f) of the provisional agenda

Revision of UNECE standards

Revision of UNECE standards – Sweet peppers

Proposals (2) by the delegation of the Netherlands

The Netherlands would like to propose some amendments in the classification of Sweet Peppers:

Slight silvering:

Two types of silvering can be distinguished: one type is due to strong growth and the other is due to thrips.

In the case of damage due to thrips, the upper skin becomes detached. This problem is more serious compared to the effect of the strong growth. Therefore, we should allow less silvering due to thrips but more due to growth.

Proposal is to adapt the standard to reflect both types of silvering and the amount of silvering allowed.

Blossom end deterioration/burning:

Blossom end deterioration is caused by burning in the early stages of production. It is due to a temporary lack of water or a high electronic conductivity (EC) in the plant. The burning mark is actually a skin defect.

Proposal is therefore to add burning under the (slight) skin defects in both Class I and Class II.

And to delete the separate reference to blossom end deterioration in Class II.

As a result of both amendments the text of the standard would then read:

B. Classification

(ii) Class I

Sweet peppers in this class must be of good quality. They must be characteristic of the variety and/or commercial type.

The following slight defects, however, may be allowed, provided these do not affect the general appearance of the produce, the quality, the keeping quality and presentation in the package:

- a slight defect in shape
- slight silvering or damage caused by thrips covering not more than $\frac{1}{3}$ $\frac{1}{8}$ of the total surface area
- slight silvering due to strong growth covering not more than 50% of the total surface
- slight skin defects, such as:
 - o pitting, scratching, sunburn, pressure marks, burning covering in total not more than 2cm for defects of elongated shape, and 1cm² for other defects; or
 - o dry superficial cracks covering in total not more than $\frac{1}{8}$ of the total surface area
- slightly damaged peduncle.

(iii) Class II

This class includes sweet peppers that do not qualify for inclusion in the higher classes but satisfy the minimum requirements specified above.

The following defects may be allowed provided the sweet peppers retain their essential characteristics as regards the quality, the keeping quality and presentation:

- defects in shape
 - silvering or damage caused by thrips covering not more than $\frac{2}{3}$ $\frac{1}{4}$ of the total surface area
 - silvering due to strong growth
 - skin defects, such as:
 - o pitting, scratching, sunburn, bruising, burning and healed injuries covering in total not more than 4 cm in length for defects of elongated shape and 2.5 cm² of the total area for other defects; or
 - o dry superficial cracks covering in total not more than $\frac{1}{4}$ of the total surface area
 - ~~blossom end deterioration not more than 1 cm²~~
 - shrivelling not exceeding $\frac{1}{3}$ of the surface
 - damaged peduncle and calyx, provided the surrounding flesh remains intact.
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