



## **Economic and Social Council**

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### **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**

**Sixty-fourth session**

Geneva, 18 -21 April 2016

Item 3(g) of the provisional agenda

**Revision of UNECE standards**

### **Revision of UNECE Standards - Tomatoes**

The following document contains proposals to amend the UNECE standard for tomatoes to address concerns raised by the delegations of France and Morocco at November 2015 session of the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards as well as amendments proposed as a result of the review of standards and food loss/waste exercise which was led by the delegation of Sweden.

(a) **Tomatoes**

**Amendments resulting from discussions at the November 2015 Working Party session:**

*Background:*

At the November 2015 session of the Working Party, the delegations of Morocco and France expressed concerns about the provisions on cherry and cocktail tomatoes included in the draft revision of the UNECE standard for tomatoes.

Therefore, the Working Party decided to return the proposal to the Specialized Section for review.

The following concerns were raised by Morocco and France:

- *Morocco:* The reference and definition of cherry/cocktail tomatoes should also appear in the “Definition of produce” section and not only the “Provisions concerning Sizing” section.
- *France:* France agreed to the deletions of the commercial type “cocktail tomatoes” but would like to amend the “Provisions concerning sizing” to read: “The following provisions shall not apply to trusses of tomatoes and are optional for cherry/cocktail tomatoes of less than 45 mm and for Class II”.

*Proposed amendments:*

The following potential compromise solutions are proposed for the consideration of the Specialized Section:

- a)The concerns of Morocco could be addressed by adding the following paragraph to the “Definition of produce”:

“...The following commercial types are distinguished by their size:

- Cherry/cocktail tomatoes which may express all shapes mentioned above and whose maximum size is defined in section III Provisions concerning sizing. “

- b)The concerns of France could be addressed by the following sentence in the “Provisions concerning sizing” section, to avoid misunderstandings:

...”The following provisions shall not apply to trusses of tomatoes and are optional for Class II tomatoes and for cherry and cocktail tomatoes below 45 mm in diameter and Class II.”

**Amendments proposed as a result of the review of standards and food loss/waste exercise:**

At the April 2015 session of the Specialized Section, delegates decided to review the UNECE Standard for Tomatoes and attempt to identify possible areas of food loss/waste caused by the application of the standard. The delegation of the United Kingdom submitted the following proposals in Section B “Classification” and “VI Quality Tolerances”:

**B. Classification**

(iii) **Class II**

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

They must be reasonably firm (but may be slightly less firm than in Class I) and must not show unhealed cracks.

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

- defects in shape and development
- defects in colouring
- skin defects or bruises, provided the fruit is not seriously affected
- healed cracks not more than 5 cm in length for round, ribbed or oblong tomatoes.

**Comment 1: Alter interpretation to allow more defects, as long as edibility is not seriously affected.**

**Comment 2: Increase length of healed cracks allowed as long as edibility not seriously affected.**

Furthermore, “ribbed” tomatoes may show:

- more pronounced protuberances than allowed under Class I, but without being misshapen
- an umbilicus
- suberization of the stigma up to 4 cm<sup>2</sup>
- fine blossom scar in elongated form (like a seam).

**Comment: Allow more defects within interpretation**

## **IV. Provisions concerning tolerances**

### **A. Quality tolerances**

#### **(iii) Class II**

A total tolerance of 10 per cent, by number or weight, of tomatoes satisfying neither the requirements of the class nor the minimum requirements is allowed. Within this tolerance not more than 2 per cent in total may consist of produce affected by decay.

**Comment: Could increase tolerance to 20 per cent for Class II.**

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