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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 Dry and Dried Produce**

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Item 5 (a) of the provisional agenda

**Development of new standards: Dried coconut pieces**

### **Draft Standard for Dried Coconut Pieces** \*

The following document was prepared by the Rapporteur (United States) for review and comments by the Specialized Section.

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\* Submitted on the above date to allow for additional input from delegations.

## I. Definition of produce

This standard applies to pieces of peeled and unpeeled, dried coconut kernels from which the moisture has been removed, varieties grown from (*Cocos nucifera* L.) intended for direct consumption or for food when intended to be mixed with other products for direct consumption without further processing. It does not apply to grated desiccated coconuts (Codex standard) and to dried coconut pieces for industrial processing and grated desiccated coconuts.

Dried coconut pieces may be made from young coconuts the kernel has not fully developed and from peeled <sup>1</sup> and un-peeled fully developed coconut kernels

Dried coconut pieces may be presented: <sup>2</sup>

- Sliced/shredded and strips of 6 – 12.5 mm wide, 3mm thick and max of 20mm long
- Cubes with sides measuring a minimum of 8mm by 8mm
- Chunks of irregular shape not more than 30 mm long
- Other styles - Consisting of portions of sound, coconuts of characteristic colour, irregular in shape, size and thickness and excluding whole fruit.

## II. Provisions concerning quality

The purpose of the standard is to define the quality requirements of dried coconut pieces at the export-control stage, after preparation and packaging.

However, if applied at stages following export, the holder shall be responsible for observing the requirements of the standard. The holder/seller of products not in conformity with this standard may not display such products or offer them for sale, or deliver or market them in any other manner.

### A. Minimum requirements

In all classes, subject to the special provisions for each class and the tolerances allowed, the dried coconut pieces must display the following characteristics:

- intact [(only for sliced and cubes)]; however, edges that are slightly torn, slight superficial damage and slight scratches are not considered as a defect
- sound; produce affected by rotting or deterioration such as to make it unfit for human consumption is excluded
- clean, practically free of any visible foreign matter
- sufficiently developed
- free from living pests whatever their stage of development
- free from damage caused by pests, including the presence of dead insects and/or mites, their debris or excreta

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<sup>1</sup> Removal of the brown skin (testa/seed coat) that connects the kernel to the inside surface of the shell.

<sup>2</sup> Defined in the annex.

- free from blemishes, [burns], areas of discolouration or spread stains in pronounced contrast with the rest of the produce affecting in aggregate more than [20] per cent of the surface of the produce.
- free from mould filaments visible to the naked eye
- free of fermentation
- [free of abnormal external moisture]
- free of foreign smell and/or taste, except for a taste of sodium chloride and a slight smell of preservatives/additives<sup>3</sup>.

The condition of the dried coconut pieces must be such as to enable them

- to withstand transportation and handling
- to arrive in satisfactory condition at the place of destination.

#### **[B. Moisture content]**<sup>4</sup>

The dried coconut pieces shall have a moisture content not exceeding: 3.5 per cent for untreated dried coconut pieces

#### **C. Classification**

In accordance with the defects allowed in section “IV. Provisions concerning tolerances”, dried coconut pieces are classified into the following classes:

“Extra” Class, Class I, Class II

The defects allowed must not affect the general appearance of the produce as regards quality, keeping quality and presentation in the package

### **III. Provisions concerning sizing**

Sizing of dried coconut pieces is optional in all classes, however, when sized; size is determined by diameter of the widest part.

### **IV. Provisions concerning tolerances**

Tolerances in respect of quality and size shall be allowed in each package or in each lot (for produce presented in bulk) for produce not satisfying the requirements of the class indicated.

<sup>3</sup> A slight smell of sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) is not considered as “abnormal”. Preservatives may be used in accordance with the legislation of the importing country. Dried coconut pieces may be sulphured in order to retain their original colour.

<sup>4</sup> The moisture content is determined by one of the methods given in Annex I of the Standard Layout – Determination of the moisture content for dried produce <[http://www.unece.org/trade/agr/standard/dry/StandardLayout/StandardLayoutDDP\\_e.pdf](http://www.unece.org/trade/agr/standard/dry/StandardLayout/StandardLayoutDDP_e.pdf)>. The laboratory reference method shall be used in cases of dispute.

**[A. Quality tolerances]**

<i>Defects allowed</i>	<i>Tolerances allowed percentage of defective produce, by number or weight</i>		
	<i>Extra</i>	<i>Class I</i>	<i>Class II</i>
(a) Tolerances for produce not satisfying the minimum requirements	5	10	15
of which no more than			
Injuries calluses and damage caused by heat during drying	3	5	7
Mouldy and mildew spots	1	2	3
of which no more than			
mouldy	0.5	0.5	1.0
Rancid or damaged by pests, rotting or deterioration	0.5	1.5	3
of which no more than			
Rancid	0.5	1	2
Slightly affected by decay	0	0.5	1
Living pests and insect damage	1	2	3
of which no more than			
living pest	0	0	0
(b) Size tolerances			
For produce not conforming to the size indicated, if sized	10	10	15
Presence of pieces among cubes (by weight)	2	5	10
(c) Tolerances for other defects			
Foreign matter, skin fragments, (by weight)	3	7	10
Pieces of skin/testa among peeled	1	2	2

**V. Provisions concerning presentation****A. Uniformity**

The contents of each package<sup>5</sup> (or lot for produce presented in bulk) must be uniform and contain only dried coconut pieces of the same origin, quality and size (if sized) and variety or commercial type (if indicated)

<sup>5</sup> The term "packages" covers "sales packages" and "prepackages". Packages are individually packaged part of a lot, including contents. The packaging is conceived so as to facilitate handling and transport of a number of sales packages or of products loose or arranged, in order to prevent damage by physical handling and transport. The package may constitute a sales package. Road, rail, ship and air containers are not considered as packages. Sales packages are individually packaged part of a lot, including contents. The packaging of sales packages is conceived so as to constitute a sales unit to the final user or consumer at the point of purchase.

For “Extra” Class and Class I, the dried coconut pieces must be of the same variety and/or commercial type

The visible part of the contents of the package must be representative of its entire contents.

## **B. Packaging**

The dried coconut pieces must be packed in such a way so as to protect the produce properly.

The materials used inside the package must be clean and of a quality such as to avoid causing any external or internal damage to the produce. The use of materials, particularly of paper and stamps bearing trade specifications is allowed provided the printing or labelling has been done with non-toxic ink or glue.

Packages must be free of all foreign matter in accordance with the table of tolerances in section “IV. Provisions concerning tolerances”.

## **C. Presentation**

Dried coconut pieces may [must] be presented in bags or solid containers. All sales packages within each package must be of the same weight as specified below:

- for immediate consumption small packages (e.g. pre-packages) may be used
- the buyer and the seller must agree on the size and number of packages packed in a case.

# **VI. Provisions concerning marking**

Each package <sup>6</sup> or compartmented package must bear the following particulars in letters grouped on the same side, legibly and indelibly marked and visible from the outside:

## **A. Identification**

Packer and/or dispatcher:

Name and physical address (e.g. street/city/region/postal code and, if different from the country of origin, the country) or a code mark officially recognized by the national authority. <sup>7</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> These marking provisions do not apply to sales packages presented in packages.

<sup>7</sup> The national legislation of a number of countries requires the explicit declaration of the name and address. However, in cases where a code mark is used, the reference “packer and/or dispatcher” (or equivalent abbreviations) must be indicated in close connection with the code mark, and the code mark should be preceded with the ISO 3166 alpha country code of the recognizing country, if not the country of origin.

**B. Nature of produce**

- name of the produce
- name of the variety and/or commercial type (optional){ according to the nature of the produce }
- type or style { according to the definitions of the standard }
- “Rehydrated” “Sun Dried” etc. (when appropriate).

**C. Origin of produce**

- country of origin<sup>8</sup> and, optionally, the district where grown or the national, regional or local place name.

**D. Commercial specifications**

- class
- size (if sized); expressed in accordance with section III
- crop year { according to the nature of the produce }
- “Best before” followed by the date (optional).

**E. Official control mark (optional)**

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<sup>8</sup> The full or a commonly used name should be indicated.

## Annex

### Definitions of terms and defects of dried coconut pieces

- (a) **Sliced:** the coconut kernel has been cut into long slices
  - (b) **Coconut Pieces:** the coconut kernel has been cut into equal-sized slice/cubes and/or other random shapes
  - (c) **Decay:** visible decomposition of any portion of coconut pieces caused by micro-organisms
  - (d) **Kernel:** shall mean that part of the fruit with the husk and shell removed, consisting of the white meat with or without its outer brown skin (testa)
  - (e) **Mouldy:** mould filaments visible to the naked eye
  - (f) **Fermentation:** damage by fermentation to the extent that the characteristic appearance and/or flavour is substantially affected
  - (g) **Mineral impurities:** acid insoluble ash
  - (h) **Foreign matter of plant origin:** any matter other than dried coconut pieces
  - (i) **Damage caused by insects:** visible damage caused by insects and animal parasites or presence of dead insects or insect residues
  - (j) **Excessively dried:** over-dried (burned) or brittle
  - (k) **Rancid:** translucent in appearance with abnormal putrid odour
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