

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

Sixty-fourth session Geneva,

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Item 5 of the Provisional agenda

Development of new UNECE Standards

Draft standard for Dried Coconut Pieces – Comments by Brazil

The delegation from Brazil submitted the following comments and proposals for consideration by the Specialized Section:

1. Section “I. Definition of produce”:

Comments:

Section “I. Definition of produce”: We would like to point out that grated desiccated coconuts is duplicated in the text. In addition, we would like to indicate that the standard may not be applicable to products that undergo roasting, salting and sugaring and that those processes may be exempted from the standard.

Proposals:

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), **to dried coconut pieces that are salted, sugared, flavoured or roasted** and to dried coconut pieces for industrial processing ~~and grated desiccated coconuts.~~”

Dried coconut pieces may be made from young coconuts **where** the kernel has not **been** fully developed and from peeled and un-peeled fully developed coconut kernels.”

Comments:

Rationale to the exemption for **dried coconut pieces that are salted, sugared, flavoured or roasted**: The provisions “free from blemishes”, “free of foreign smell and/or taste” in minimal requirements as well as “damage caused by heat during drying”, “Foreign matter, skin fragments” in the table of Quality tolerances do not consider these treatments and their inclusion may present a hassle to trade

2. “A. Minimum requirements”

- “Intact”

Comment: This heading of the provision may not be appropriate for a processed product.

Proposal: We prefer the wording “**reasonably uniform**” and would like to propose this for consideration of the Specialized Section.

- “Sufficiently developed”

Comment: The same as for the previous comment. Taking into consideration that we are dealing with a processed product this is a rather difficult provision to evaluate. Moreover, it prevents innovation and may conflict with the previous allowance for not-fully developed kernels in the “Definition of Product”.

3. B. Moisture content”

Comment:

We are not clear about the inclusion of a reference to “untreated dried coconut“ in the sentence “The dried coconut pieces shall have a moisture content not exceeding: ~~3.5~~ 4.0 per cent ~~for untreated dried coconut pieces~~”. The term “untreated dried coconut pieces” is not clear to us and, from our perspective, may resemble a particular process specification.

Proposal:

We suggest the value of 4.0% for the moisture of dried coconut pieces.

We suggest the removal of the reference to *untreated dried coconut*.

4. C. Presentation

Comment:

We prefer a broader text to allow flexibility of packaging materials.

Proposal:

“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:....”
