



Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables

54th session

26 to 30 May 2008 in Geneva

attended by 24 countries: Belgium, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kenya, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and United States of America

Commission of the European Communities

OECD Scheme for the Application of International Standards
for Fruit and Vegetables

Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Program

COPA/COGECA

EUROPATAT





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Revision of Standard Layout

- ✓ Amendments agreed:
 - Standards can be applied at all levels of distribution
 - pest damage affecting the flesh being part of minimum requirements, while pest damage affecting the skin only will be covered by the skin defects
 - tolerances elaborated to better address occasional the odd unit that is more seriously affected than allowed for the Class
 - introduction of master text for provisions on mixtures of varieties, commercial types and/or colours (introduction to the standards to be decided on the product basis)
- ✓ Amendments approved by Working Party in November 2008



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Early and Ware Potatoes (FFV-52)

- ✓ Working group meeting in Paris, April 2008
 - No agreement on introducing (optional) classification
- ✓ Proposals of the OECD working group related to the explanatory brochure on early and ware potatoes were supported by EUROPATAT
- ✓ Amendments agreed:
 - „must be free from cracks exceeding 4 mm in depth“
 - „must be free from frost damage and freezing injuries“
 - „Ware potatoes must be covered with well-formed skin; i.e. skin has to be fully developed and mature and must cover the whole tuber“
- ✓ Amendments approved by Working Party in November 2008
- ✓ OECD explanatory brochure in preparation



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Apples (FFV-50)

- ✓ Amendments agreed:
 - provisions on uniformity in size when sized by weight updated to better reflect the grading process to and to better guarantee uniformity
- ✓ Amendments approved by Working Party in November 2008
- ✓ OECD explanatory brochure in preparation





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Pears (FFV-51)

- ✓ Amendments agreed:
 - alignment to the standard layout
 - bruises allowed in Classes I and II
 - no reference to discoloration of the flesh
 - 1 cm² bruise in Class I
 - 2 cm² bruise in Class II
 - mixtures of varieties allowed, provided the varieties are distinctly different, of uniform quality and – for the variety concerned – uniform in origin
- ✓ Amendments approved by Working Party in November 2008
- ✓ OECD explanatory brochure in preparation



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Lettuces, curled-leaved endives & broad-leaved endives (FFV-22)

- ✓ Amendments agreed:
 - lettuces with root balls are excluded from the standard
- ✓ Amendments approved by Working Party in November 2008
- ✓ OECD explanatory brochure published in www.oecdbookshop.org (electronic version free of charge)





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Avocados (FFV-42)

- ✓ Amendments agreed:
 - minimum weight reduced from 125 g to 123 g (exception for variety Hass: 80 g)
 - size scale adjusted to practice
- ✓ Amendments approved by Working Party in November 2008
- ✓ OECD explanatory brochure published in xxx
www.oecdbookshop.org (electronic version free of charge)





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Tomatoes (FFV-36)

- ✓ Amendments agreed:
 - alignment to the standard layout
 - Aufhebung of the minimum size
 - simplification of provisions for uniformity in size
 - alternative table with fixed size codes available (optional)
 - mixtures of commercial types or colours allowed, provided these are distinctly different, of uniform quality and – for the type or colour concerned – uniform in origin
- ✓ Amendments approved by Working Party in November 2008
- ✓ OECD explanatory brochure published in xxxx
www.oecdbookshop.org (electronic version free of charge)





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Cucumbers (FFV-15)

- ✓ Amendments agreed:
 - alignment to the standard layout
 - specification of defects allowed in Classes I and II in accordance with trade praxis
 - Aufhebung of the minimum size
 - simplification of provisions for uniformity in size
- ✓ Amendments approved by Working Party in November 2008
- ✓ OECD explanatory brochure published in 2008 based on the 2008 version of the Standard
www.oecdbookshop.org (electronic version free of charge)



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Apricots (FFV-02)

- ✓ Amendments agreed:
 - alignment to the standard layout
 - specification of defects allowed in Classes I and II in accordance with trade praxis
- ✓ Under discussion
 - simplification of provisions concerning sizing
- ✓ Amendments approved by Working Party in November 2008 as recommendation for a one year trial period
- ✓ OECD explanatory brochure in preparation





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Peaches and Nectarines (FFV-26)

- ✓ Amendments agreed:
 - alignment to the standard layout
 - introduction of minimum Brix level to guarantee satisfactory development and ripeness
 - specification of defects allowed in Classes I and II in accordance with trade praxis
- ✓ Under discussion
 - simplification of provisions concerning sizing
- ✓ Amendments approved by Working Party in November 2008 as recommendation for a one year trial period
- ✓ OECD explanatory brochure in preparation

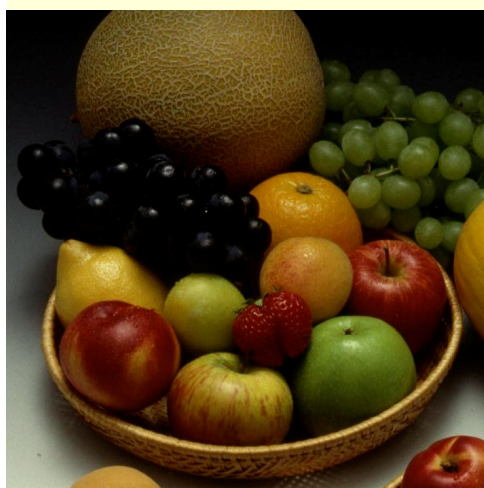


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Future Work on Standards for

- ✓ Apples (uniformity in size by diameter, list of varieties, colour)
- ✓ Apricots (recommendation)
- ✓ Avocados (sizing Antillean varieties)
- ✓ Citrus fruit (proposals by OECD working group)
- ✓ Chanterelles (new standard)
- ✓ Cultivated mushrooms (provisions concerning the cut)
- ✓ Fresh chilli peppers (new standard)
- ✓ Lettuces (integration of lettuce with root balls or pods)
- ✓ Peaches and nectarines (recommendation)
- ✓ Pears (colouring)
- ✓ Sweet peppers (revision, explanatory brochure)
- ✓ Witloof chicory (alignment to trade praxis)
- ✓ other standards on request





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Cooperation with other International Standardisation Bodies

OECD Scheme for the Application of International Standards for Fruit and Vegetables

- ✓ development of explanatory material based on UN-Standards
- ✓ co-operation in capacity building activities
- ✓ task forces of both organisations explore the possibility and necessity to concentrate the activities as regards standard setting and development of explanatory material at the UNECE

Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Program

- ✓ harmonisation of standards if both organisation have a standard for the same produce



**Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards
Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables**

Next Session: 4 to 8 May 2009 in Geneva

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