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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

Seventy-first session

Geneva, 9–11 May 2023

Item 7 (b) of the provisional agenda

Review of existing standards:

New proposals

Proposal by the delegation of Germany to amend the standard for broccoli

Submitted by the delegation of Germany

The following proposal was submitted to the Specialized Section for consideration.

I. Proposal

Germany proposes the following changes to the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Standard FFV-48 concerning the marketing and commercial quality control of broccoli.

Under section II. Provisions concerning quality B. Classification (i) Class I:

“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
- a slight defect in colouring-
- a slight defect in development.”

Under section II. Provisions concerning quality B. Classification (ii) Class II:

“The following defects may be allowed, provided broccoli retains its essential characteristics as regards the quality, the keeping quality and presentation in the package:

- defects in shape
- defects in colouring
- defects in development
- slight bruising and injury.”



II. Justification

Defects in development such as “cat eyes” and slight defects or changes (for example purplish colouring during the winter month) which do not have an impact on the general quality conditions of the product are not covered in classes I and II. These developmental defects do not usually, until to a certain extent, affect the edibility of the broccoli. Because the defects are not clearly classified, even slight development defects may lead to the broccoli being rejected. The consequence is food loss that is not necessary.
