

UNECE STANDARD DDP-16

concerning the marketing and
commercial quality control of

DRIED APPLES

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NOTE

Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards

The commercial quality standards developed by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards help facilitate international trade, encourage high-quality production, improve profitability and protect consumer interests. UNECE standards are used by Governments, producers, traders, importers and exporters, and other international organizations. They cover a wide range of agricultural products, including fresh fruit and vegetables, dry and dried produce, seed potatoes, meat, cut flowers, eggs and egg products.

Any member of the United Nations can participate, on an equal footing, in the activities of the Working Party. For more information on agricultural standards, please visit our website <www.unece.org/trade/agr>.

The new Standard for Dried Apples is based on document ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/2012/21 and was adopted by the Working Party at its sixty-eighth session.

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UNECE standard DDP-16 concerning the marketing and commercial quality control of Dried Apples

I. Definition of produce

This standard applies to dried apples of varieties (cultivars) grown from *Malus domestica* Borkh, intended for direct consumption or for food when intended to be mixed with other products for direct consumption without further processing. This standard does not apply to dried apples that are processed by sugaring or flavouring, or for industrial processing.

Dried apples may be presented in one of the following styles:

- Peeled and unpeeled
- With core and coreless
- Whole, halves, rings/sliced and pieces.

II. Provisions concerning quality

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

However, if applied at stages following export, the holder/seller 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 requirements¹

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

- Intact (only for wholes and halves); however, slight superficial damage and slight scratches, coreless 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 blemishes, areas of discolouration or spread stains in pronounced contrast with the rest of the produce affecting in aggregate more than 5 per cent of the surface of the produce
- Free from living pests whatever their stage of development

¹ Definitions of terms and defects are listed in Annex III of the Standard Layout – Recommended terms and definition of defects for standards of dry (in-shell nuts and nut kernels) and dried produce; see http://www.unece.org/trade/agr/standard/dry/StandardLayout/StandardLayoutDDP_e.pdf.

- Free from damage caused by pests, including the presence of dead insects and/or mites, their debris or excreta
- 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 slight salty taste of sodium chloride and/or calcium chloride and a slight smell of preservatives/additives, including sulphur dioxide"
- Not over-dried (brittle or burned)
- Not hollow, except for coreless

The condition of the dried apples must be such as to enable them:

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

B. Moisture content²

The dried apples shall have a moisture content not exceeding:

- 22.0 per cent for untreated dried apples
- 25.0 per cent for dried apples treated with preservatives or preserved by other means (e.g. pasteurization)

C. Classification

In accordance with the defects allowed in section "IV. Provisions concerning tolerances", dried apples are classified into the following classes:

"Extra" Class, Class I, and 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 apples is optional. However, when sized, the size of whole apples, halves and rings is determined by the diameter of the widest part.

The minimum size is 23 mm.

The thickness of slices/rings and pieces may not exceed 7 mm.

The difference between the diameters of the largest fruit and the smallest fruit shall not exceed:

² 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; see http://www.unece.org/trade/agr/standard/dry/StandardLayout/StandardLayoutDDP_e.pdf. The laboratory reference method shall be used in cases of dispute.

20 mm for wholes and halves

10 mm for slices.

Slices: not less than 90 per cent (by weight) of all units should be more than 10 mm wide.

IV. Provisions concerning tolerances

At all marketing stages, tolerances in respect of quality and size shall be allowed in each lot for produce not satisfying the minimum requirements of the class indicated.

A. Quality tolerances

<i>Defects allowed</i>	<i>Tolerances allowed, percentage (except for seeds) 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:			
Bruised fruit	3	5	10
Fermentation	0.5	1	2
Slightly affected by rotting	0	0.5	1
Mould	0	0.5	1
Damage by pests	2	4	6
(b) Size tolerances (if sized)			
For produce not conforming to the size indicated, in total	10	15	20
(c) Tolerances for other defects			
Colour and texture defects	2	5	10
Dried apples belonging to varieties other than that indicated	10	10	10
Foreign matter (weight)	1	2	3
Stem	1	2	3
Core-carpel (in case of cored fruit)	5	10	15
Presence of pieces among whole and halved apples	2	7	13
Seeds (in case of cored fruit) by number per kilogramme	9	14	22

V. Provisions concerning presentation

A. Uniformity

The contents of each package must be uniform and contain only dried apples of the same origin, quality, style and size (if sized) and variety (if indicated).

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

B. Packaging

The dried apples 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”.

VI. Provisions concerning marking

Each package³ 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.⁴

B. Nature of produce

- “Dried apples”
- Name of the variety (optional)
- Style.

C. Origin of produce

- Country of origin⁵ and, optionally, district where grown or national, regional or local place name.

D. Commercial specifications

- Class
- Size (if sized); expressed in accordance with section III
- Crop year (optional)

³ These marking provisions do not apply to sales packages presented in packages

⁴ 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 by the ISO 3166 alpha country code of the recognizing country, if not the country of origin.

⁵ The full or commonly used name should be indicated

- “Naturally dried” (optional)
- “Best before” followed by the date (optional).

E. Official control mark (optional)

Adopted 1998

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