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
Seventy-first session
Geneva, 15–17 May 2024
Item 8 (b) of the provisional agenda
Explanatory material for almond kernels

Explanatory material for almond kernels
Submitted by the delegation of the United States of America

Summary
At its 2023 session, the Specialized Section reviewed the draft explanatory material for almond kernels and agreed to remove the measurements for pieces and to add an area measure for the depiction of gummy and brown spots.

The Specialized Section is invited to review the revised draft explanatory material for almond kernels for correctness and to consider recommending it for adoption as ECE explanatory material.
COMMERCIAL AND MARKETING QUALITY OF
ALMOND KERNELS

DEFINITION & CLASSIFICATION

The UNECE standard applies to sweet whole almond kernels of varieties (cultivars) grown from Prunus amygdalus Batsch, syn. Prunus dulcis (Mill.) D.A. Webb. The standard does not apply to bitter almond kernels, almond halves, pieces, sticks, slices, dices or to almond kernels that are processed by salting, sugaring, flavouring, or roasting, that are blanched or for industrial processing.

Almond kernels are classified into the following three classes: Extra Class, Class I and Class II.

KERNEL DESCRIPTIONS AND QUALITY DEFECTS

WHOLE: Intact or less than 1/8 missing

PIECES: Greater than 1/8 missing

LARGE PIECES: 1/2-7/8 kernel

SMALL BROKEN PIECES: Less than 1/4 kernel

DOUBLES: Kernels that developed in shells containing two kernels.

MOULD: Mould filaments visible to naked eye

SHRUNKEN / SHRIVELED KERNEL (variety characteristic not a defect)

BLEMISHES AND DISCOLOURATION

FOREIGN, EXTRANEOUS MATTER

INSECT / PEST DAMAGE

CHIPPED AND SCRATCHED

GUMMY: Resinous substance covering
BROWN SPOT: Sunken discolored

area > 32 mm²
area > 5 mm²

The UNECE standard for almond kernels and an electronic version of this poster can be retrieved from the following addresses.

Standard: https://www.unece.org/trade/wa/OPP-Standards.html
Poster: https://UNECE.ORG/trade/wa/OPP-brochures-and-posters