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**Economic Commission for Europe**

Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards

**Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards**

**Seventy-ninth session**

Geneva, 11–13(am) November 2024

Item 6 of the provisional agenda

**Specialized Section on Standardization   
of Dry and Dried Produce**

Explanatory material for almond kernels - Draft for intersessional approval (deadline 27 August 2024)

Submitted by the secretariat

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| *Summary* |
| The following document is submitted to the Working Party for adoption as United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) explanatory material for almond kernels.  The document is based on the document ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.2/2024/INF.3 and incorporates revisions discussed at the seventy-first session of Specialized Section on Standardization of Dry and Dried Produce (GE.2) in 2024 and agreed through intersessional approval. |
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I. Text of the explanatory material

Commercial and marketing quality of almond kernels

Definition

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 blanched almonds, almond halves, pieces, sticks, slices, dices or to almond kernels that are processed by salting, sugaring, flavouring, or roasting, that are blanched for industrial processing**.**

Kernel descriptions and quality defects

* Whole: Intact or less than 1/8 missing
* Pieces: Greater than 1/8 missing and larger than 3 mm in diameter
* Doubles: Two kernels in one shell
* Mould
* Blemishes and discolouration
* Extraneous and foreign matter
* Shruken / shriveled kernel
* Chipped and scratched
* Insect / pest damage
* Gummy: Resinous substance
* Brown spot: Sunken discolored area

The UNECE standard for almond kernels and an electronic version of this explanatory material can be retrieved from the following addresses:

Standard: <https://www.unece.org/trade/agr/standard/dry/DDP-Standards.html>

II. Layout of the explanatory material

A close-up of several nuts

Description automatically generated