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Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards

Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables

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Item 13(c) of the provisional agenda

Revision of standards

Proposal to amend the Standard Layout for fresh fruit and vegetables *

Submitted by the secretariat

The following proposals (highlighted) were submitted by the delegation of Germany and the delegation of Spain for consideration by the Specialized Section.

This document is submitted according to ECE/CTCS/2019/10 section IV, ECE/CTCS/2019/2 Decision 2019-8.6, and A/75/6 (Sect.20) and supplementary information.

Germany proposes the following amendments to the Standard Layout for fresh fruit and vegetables.

Under Section 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 requirements of the class indicated.

Motivation: While official inspection bodies apply strict operating rules when checking for conformity with a given standard—especially before stating a non-conformity, industry rejects lots of produce after checking one single pre-pack. This is not at all in line with the intentions of the marketing standards and in no way takes into account the rules for tolerances. In order to make it clear to all users of the marketing standards that adequate sampling is also required for the application of these standards it is therefore proposed to add the following footnote to the first paragraph.

Footnote: A conformity check shall be made by assessing bulk or composite samples. It is based on the principle of presumption that the quality of the randomly taken samples is representative of the quality of the lot. The application of the OECD Operating Rules for Conformity Checks are recommended for application - also by operators - at the stages of dispatch as well as in wholesale and distribution centres of food retail.

<http://www.oecd.org/agriculture/fruit-vegetables/publications/oecd-fruit-and-vegetables-rules.htm>

* Submitted late due to secretariat resource constraints.



Under Section VI. Provisions concerning marking A. Identification

Packer and/or dispatcher/ exporter:

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 authority⁴ if the country applying such a system is listed in the UNECE database.

It is proposed to amend footnote 4 as follows:

Footnote 4: The national legislation of a number of countries requires the explicit declaration of the name and address. However, in the case where a code mark is used, the reference “packer and/or dispatcher (or equivalent abbreviations)” has to be indicated in close connection with the code mark, and the code mark should be preceded by the ISO 3166 (alpha-2) country/area code of the recognizing country, if not the country of origin.

Motivation: The ISO 3166 country/area code exists as alpha-2 and alpha-3 code. For clarification, we propose to request the alpha-2 code and amend the footnote 4 as shown above.

Concerning the Code Mark Registry:

The code mark registry provides information that the Netherlands recognize the private GLN code to indicate officially the packer and/or dispatcher. For this, an exchange of views should be initiated.

Spain proposes the following amendments to the Standard Layout.

Under VI. Provisions concerning marking, footnote n°3:

Each package³ must bear the following particulars, in letters grouped on the same side, legibly and indelibly marked, and visible from the outside:

<For {name of produce} transported in bulk (direct loading into a transport vehicle) these particulars must appear on a document accompanying the goods, and attached in a visible position inside the transport vehicle.>

“³ These marking provisions do not apply to sales packages presented in packages. However, they do apply to sales packages (pre-packages) presented individually.”

Spain considers that the previous sentence should include the text “bearing these particulars” in order to clarify that the option given to sales packages presented in packages only applies to sales packages presented in packages bearing these particulars., so the footnote would be the following:

“These marking provisions do not apply to sales packages presented in packages bearing these particulars”. However, they do apply to sales packages (pre-packages) presented individually.
