



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/1998/5
19 December 1997

ORIGINAL : ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND
ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

Working Party on Standardization of
Perishable Produce and Quality Development

Meeting of Experts on Co-ordination of
Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables
(Forty-fourth session, 9 to 13 March 1998, Geneva)

Item 4(c) of the Provisional Agenda

PROPOSAL FOR REVISION OF STANDARDS
TABLE GRAPES, PLUMS AND NECTARINES

Note by the secretariat

The following proposal to revise the Standards for Table Grapes, Plums and Nectarines was submitted by the delegation of Chile at the forty-third session.

PROPOSAL FOR REVISION OF STANDARDS

Introduction

Actually, most of fresh fruits and vegetables are sold in the supermarkets. There is also a new trend that started about five years ago and relates to consumer packaging. Table grapes are offered to consumers packed in plastic carry bags, plums and nectarines are available in plastic nets, sealed to assure a fixed weight unit. Cherries are displayed to buyers in sealed hard plastic punnets, which helps to protect the fruit and improves display on the shelves. This trend has mainly two objectives : consumer safety and display of fresh fruit.

The fixed weight package for fresh fruit adds value to the product and is an extra service to supermarket customers. The actual trend is a 500 gram weight container, using a printed bar code (EAN - 128 Standard).

Based on this brief introduction, our proposal is a revision of the standards for Table Grapes, Nectarines and Plums.

Table Grapes

The actual standard, Part III, Provisions Concerning Sizing, established a minimum weight for bunches according to varieties and class. We propose adding the following note to the paragraph :

"Fixed weight sealed packages will not require the minimum size for Classes Extra, I and II".

Nectarines and Plums

We propose adding the following note in the Presentation paragraphs :

"For fixed weight sealed packages, the fruit must not necessarily be separated from its neighbours in Classes Extra, I and II."