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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

COMMITTEE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND  
ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

Working Party on Standardization of  
Perishable Produce and Quality Development

Specialized Section on Coordination of  
Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables  
Forty-seventh session, Geneva, 15 to 18 May 2001

Item 3 (l) of the Provisional Agenda

**PROPOSALS TO REVISE UN/ECE STANDARDS**

Table Grapes

**Note by the Secretariat:** The following proposals have been received from the delegation of South Africa concerning maturity requirements and bunch weight for Table Grapes.

## **MATURITY REQUIREMENTS FOR TABLE GRAPES**

As indicated at last year's Specialized Section meeting we feel that a minimum degrees Brix value would only be workable if it is defined per cultivar. A minimum value of 13 will result in unpalatable and low quality grapes being traded (legally) as it will safely fall within the prescribed requirements. We would like to suggest that the producing countries define minimum Brix values for their cultivars and that this be summarized for discussion within the Specialized Section. Where countries have different values for the same cultivars, the lower one can be applicable or it can be further discussed. It is important however, that established values be acceptable by all. A method should also be prescribed for Brix determination in order to have it standardized. It should preferably be in line with current trade practises.

## **BUNCH WEIGHT "LATE HARVEST" TABLE GRAPES**

South Africa has exported for a number of years now "LATE HARVEST" large berry table grapes from different cultivars (Barlinka, La Rochelle and Dauphine) which, due to a minimum bunch weight of 100 gram, could only be marked as Class 2. In all other aspects the bunches comply to Class 1 requirements and are unique in that it is produced by the vines after the main harvest and has a characteristic twist of the stem representing a pigtail. It is thus easily distinguished from other bunches. In addition to the normal marking requirements the produce is marked as "LATE HARVEST" on the cartons.

This product is supplied to niche markets and is much sought after. In view of the above and especially since the product is easily recognised and distinguishable from other bunches we would like the Specialized Section to consider if an exemption can be made regarding bunch weight in this case. We thus request that the bunch weight be lowered from 150 to 100 grams only in this regard in order for the produce to be marked as Class 1.

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