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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 4 of the Provisional Agenda

PROPOSAL FOR A DRAFT UN/ECE STANDARD FOR PINEAPPLES

Note by the Secretariat: The following comments have been received from the delegation of South Africa concerning the draft UN/ECE Standard for Pineapples.

PROPOSED DRAFT UN/ECE STANDARD FOR PINEAPPLES

Comments from South Africa

1. Definition of Produce

Taxonomic name (classification) should read *Ananas comosus L. Merr.*

2. Provisions concerning quality

The word “avocados” should read “pineapples”.

3. Minimum requirements

Proposal: (a) “ - whole (intact) **with or without** the crown”

(b) “ - having a stalk not more than 20mm long **which has been cut transversal, straight and clean**”

(c) “ - free of abnormal external moisture, **excluding condensation following removal from cold storage**”

(d) The words “--with hollow eyes --” in the sentence “- The transversal section of the fruit should not show ---” must be replaced with the wording “**with exceedingly porous flesh**” [A footnote should further be placed with the word “porous” to state that this is not applicable to certain varieties such as the Queen group].

(e) The word “avocados” in the sentence “The development and condition ---” should be replaced with the word “**pineapples**”.

(f) A sentence should be added to state that **the crowns , if present , may be trimmed provided that the remaining adjacent leaves shall not be loose or damaged and the tops shall not be loose.**

4. Classification

(a) Extra Class

- (i) Provision should be made for minimum and maximum measurements for the crown length (if present). We propose a length of between 50 and a 150 percent of the length of the fruit for pineapples with crowns which have not been trimmed.
- (ii) The external colouring requirements should be deleted.

(b) Class 1

- (i) Provision should be made for minimum and maximum measurements for the crown length (if present). We propose a length of between 50 and a 150 percent of the length of the fruit for pineapples with crowns which have not been trimmed.
- (ii) Slight skin defects: We propose that a maximum surface area should be stated [e.g. maximum 4% of the total surface area (Codex standard)].
- (iii) Crown: We propose that the crown for a Class 1 should still be **simple** and not “double”.
- (iv) Inclination of the crown: We would suggest that the maximum be set at 30 degrees from the perpendicular instead of 60%.

5. Classification by exterior colouring
This should be made an optional requirement.
6. Provisions concerning sizing
A minimum size (weight) of 250g should be stipulated for small varieties (e.g. Queen).
7. Provisions concerning markings
 - (a) Commercial specifications
 - (i) The following should be deleted or made optional:
 - colour criteria
 - tare weight of the package
 - The indication "To be stored at 8°C"
 - The minimum sugar content in Brix
 - (ii) The words "reference code or weight range" following the word "Size must be placed in brackets."
8. General
 - (a) Inclusion of a standard for Class 2?
 - (b) Labelling of cartons containing pineapples of the small varieties (e.g. Queen) smaller than 250g destined to be used for decorative/ornamental purposes?