

Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables

Fifty-fifth session

Geneva, 4 - 8 May 2009

Item 5 (a) of the provisional agenda

REVIEW OF UNECE RECOMMENDATIONS

Apricots

This note presents proposals by Hungary on the maturity of apricots.

Provisions for apricot maturity (Hungarian proposal)

Maturity of apricots can be characterized by the following parameters:

Ground colour
Firmness
Sugar content
Number of days from blossoming

The problem with determination of maturity is the following. There is a very big variation between the varieties and also the place of growing. Not speaking about the very special attribute of the apricot fruit that it does not mature at once. Therefore it is very hard to set a valid minimum Brix value or firmness acceptable for all varieties and origins. If we set these values too low they become useless. Unfortunately the number of days from blossoming is actually one of the most proper ways of determining maturity but this can not be considered in a standard. In our opinion the skill and practice of the inspector has the biggest role in this case.

In order to start discussion and share views on this topic we prepared a preliminary text version:

B. Minimum maturity requirements

The apricots must be sufficiently developed and display satisfactory ripeness.

The development and state of maturity of the apricots must be such as to enable them to continue their ripening process and to reach a satisfactory degree of ripeness. In order to satisfy this requirement the refractometric index of the flesh, measured at the middle point of the fruit pulp at the equatorial section must be greater than or equal to 10(?) ° Brix.. Ground colour of apricots have to be at least pale green or light yellow on at least 50%(?) of the skin surface. Apricots have to be satisfyingly firm.