

Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables

Fifty-fifth session

Geneva, 4 - 8 May 2009

Item 6(f) of the provisional agenda

NEW UNECE STANDARDS

Rocket

This document, submitted by Germany, contains draft text for a new UNECE standard for rocket.

UNECE STANDARD FFV-No
concerning the marketing and commercial quality control of

ROCKET

I. DEFINITION OF PRODUCE

This standard applies to rocket of varieties (cultivars) grown from *Eruca sativa* Mill., *Diplotaxis tenuifolia* (L.) DC. and *Diplotaxis muralis* (L.) DC. to be supplied fresh to the consumer, rocket for industrial processing being excluded.

II. PROVISIONS CONCERNING QUALITY

The purpose of the standard is to define the quality requirements for rocket at the export-control stage after preparation and packaging.

However, if applied at stages following export, products may show in relation to the requirements of the standard:

- a slight lack of freshness and turgidity
- a slight deterioration due to their development and their tendency to perish.

The holder/seller of products may not display such products or offer them for sale, or deliver or market them in any manner other than in conformity with this standard. The holder shall be responsible for observing such conformity.

A. Minimum requirements

In all classes, subject to the special provisions for each class and the tolerances allowed, the rocket must be:

- intact; i.e. the single leaves of the rocket must be intact
- sound; produce affected by rotting or deterioration such as to make it unfit for consumption is excluded
- clean, practically free of any visible foreign matter
- practically free from pests
- free from damage caused by pests affecting the flesh
- fresh in appearance
- not running to seed
- free of abnormal external moisture
- free of any foreign smell and/or taste.

The development and condition of the rocket must be such as to enable them:

- to withstand transportation and handling
- to arrive in satisfactory condition at the place of destination.

B. Classification

Rocket are classified in two classes, as defined below:

(i) Class I

Rocket in this class must be of good quality. They must be characteristic of the variety and/or commercial type.

The following slight defects, however, may be allowed, provided these do not affect the general appearance of the produce, the quality, the keeping quality and presentation in the package:

- slightly damaged leaves.

(ii) Class II

This class includes rocket that do not qualify for inclusion in the higher classes but satisfy the minimum requirements specified above.

The following defects may be allowed, provided the rocket retain their essential characteristics as regards the quality, the keeping quality and presentation:

- slightly damaged leaves
- slight bruises.

III. PROVISIONS CONCERNING SIZING

There is no size uniformity requirement for rocket.

IV. PROVISIONS CONCERNING TOLERANCES

Tolerances in respect of quality and size shall be allowed in each lot for produce not satisfying the requirements of the class indicated.

A. Quality tolerances

(i) Class I

A total tolerance of 10 per cent, by number or weight, of rocket not satisfying the requirements of the class but meeting those of Class II is allowed. Within this tolerance not more than 1 per cent in total may consist of produce neither satisfying the requirements of Class II quality nor the minimum requirements. Produce affected by rotting or any other deterioration rendering it unfit for consumption is excluded.

(ii) Class II

A total tolerance of 10 per cent, by number or weight, of rocket satisfying neither the requirements of the class nor the minimum requirements is allowed. Produce affected by rotting or any other deterioration rendering it unfit for consumption is excluded.

V. PROVISIONS CONCERNING PRESENTATION

A. Uniformity

The contents of each package must be uniform and contain only rocket of the same origin, variety or commercial type, quality.

In Class I, rocket must be uniform in shape and colour.

The visible part of the contents of the package must be representative of the entire contents.

B. Packaging

Rocket must be packed in such a way as to protect the produce properly.

The materials used inside the package must be clean and of a quality such as to avoid causing any external or internal damage to the produce. The use of materials, particularly of paper or stamps bearing trade specifications, is allowed, provided the printing or labelling has been done with non-toxic ink or glue.

Packages must be free of all foreign matter.

VI. PROVISIONS CONCERNING MARKING

Each package¹ must bear the following particulars, in letters grouped on the same side, legibly and indelibly marked, and visible from the outside:

A. Identification

- Packer) Name and physical address (e.g. street/city/region/postal code and,
- and/or) if different from the country of origin, the country) or
- Dispatcher/shipper) a code mark officially recognized by the national authority².

¹ According to the Geneva Protocol, footnote 2, "Package units of produce repacked for direct sale to the consumer shall not be subject to these marking provisions but shall conform to the national requirements. However, the markings referred to shall in any event be shown on the transport packaging containing such package units".

² 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) country/area code of the recognizing country, if not the country of origin.

B. Nature of produce

- "Rocket", if the contents are not visible from the outside.
- name of the variety (optional)

C. Origin of produce

- Country of origin and, optionally, district where grown, or national, regional or local place name.

D. Commercial specifications

- Class
- Number of bundles or sales packages in the package (optional).

E. Official control mark (optional)