

Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Trade

Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards

**Specialized Section on Standardization
of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables**

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Item 3 of the provisional agenda

2009 Standard Layout

**Proposal of the Bureau to clarify/amend the
Standard Layout 2009**

This note contains the Bureau suggestions on how to clarify/amend the text of the Standard Layout 2009.

Proposal of the Bureau to clarify/amend the Standard Layout 2009

These proposals reflect the experience during the alignment of the existing standards to the Standard Layout as well as the discussion raised on the use of the terms package, consumer package and sales unit during the last meeting.

Point 1

In II. A. Minimum requirements the indent "free of damage caused by pests affecting the flesh" should be placed in pointed brackets < > and a second option, reading "<practically free of damage caused by pests>" In addition an explanatory note reading "{For produce with peel the first option is appropriate, while the second one is intended for all other produce.}"

Point 2

Wherever the term "or lot when presented in bulk" is used, this term should read "or lot when presented in bulk in the transport vehicle". This is proposed to avoid any confusion with produce presented in bulk in the package.

Point 3

In V.A. Uniformity 1st Paragraph; the term "<variety> or <variety or commercial type>" should be added after "origin".

Point 4

The terminology on package / sales package / consumer package / pre-package / sales unit should be clarified in all standards.

It is recommended to use the following definitions as in the OECD OPERATING RULES FOR THE CONFORMITY CHECKS OF PRODUCE EXPORTED UNDER THE "SCHEME" (and in the Regulation (EC) no. 1580/2007).

Package

Individually packaged part of a lot, including contents so as to facilitate handling and transport of a number of sales ~~units~~ packages or of products loose or arranged, in order to prevent damage by physical handling and transport. Road, rail, ship and air containers are not considered as packages.

Sales package

Individually packaged part of a lot, including contents which are so as to constitute a sales unit to the final user or consumer at the point of purchase.

Pre-packages

Pre-packages are sales packages such as the packaging encloses the foodstuff completely or only partially, but in such a way that the contents cannot be altered without opening or changing the packaging. Protective films covering single produce are not considered as a pre-package.

If these definitions are agreed, they should be used in all UNECE standards for fresh fruit and vegetables. Thus, the terms "consumer package", "small consumer package", "unit package"

and equivalent denominations as well as "sales unit" (unité de vente) should be replaced by "sales package" (emballage de vente).

In "Extra Class": "They must be free from defects with the exception of very slight superficial defects provided these do not affect the general appearance of the produce, the quality, the keeping quality and presentation in the package". In this paragraph the term "package" includes the "sales packages". Thus, the term package is "emballage" in French.

In Class I: "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". In this paragraph the term "package" includes the "sales packages". Thus, the term package is "emballage" in French.

General rules on sizing (section III) refer to both "package" and "sales package". Thus, the term package is "emballage" in French.

In some standards uniformity in size is required with specific reference to sales packages (e.g. standard for apples).

In size tolerances, depending on the standard the tolerance refers to sizes stated on the package. In this context the term "package" does not include "sales packages". Thus, the term package is "colis" in French.

General rules on presentation (section V. A) "The contents of each package must be uniform and contain only ..." refer to both package and sales package. Thus the term package is "emballage" in French.

In general mixtures of varieties or commercial types or colours of the same species/variety are allowed for sales packages, with or without weight limit.

In certain standards (lettuces, sweet peppers) mixtures in packages are allowed not only for sales packages but for packages not intended for the final consumer. In these standards the permission is for "packages and/or sales packages".

In "The visible part of the contents of the package must be representative of the entire contents". In this paragraph the term "package" includes the "sales packages". Thus, the term package is "emballage" in French.

General rules on packaging (section V. B) "The materials used inside the package must be ..." as well as "Packages must be free of all foreign matter" refer to both package and sales package. Thus the term package is "emballage" in French.

General rules on marking (section VI.) "Each package¹ must bear the following particulars ..." refer to package only (not to sales packages). Thus the term "package" is "colis" in French.

¹

According to the Geneva Protocol, footnote 2, "Package units of produce prepacked 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".

National (including EU) legislation may require that all information given on the package ("colis") must also be indicated on pre-packs (pre-emballage) at retail level.

