



## Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General  
12 July 2010

Original: English

---

### Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Trade

Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards

Specialized Section on Standardization  
of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables

Fifty-eighth session

Geneva, 1-3 November 2010

Item 5 of the provisional agenda

Review of the texts of the standards  
aligned with the 2009 Standard Layout

## UNECE Standard FFV-37 concerning the marketing and commercial quality control of watermelons

Submitted by the secretariat

### I. Definition of produce

This standard applies to watermelons of varieties (cultivars) grown from *Citrullus lanatus* (Thunb.) Matsum, et Nakai to be supplied fresh to the consumer, watermelons for industrial processing being excluded.

### II. Provisions concerning quality

The purpose of the standard is to define the quality requirements for watermelons 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 watermelons 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
- firm
- not split
- free of abnormal external moisture
- free of any foreign smell and/or taste.

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

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

## **B. Maturity requirements**

The watermelons must be sufficiently developed and display satisfactory ripeness. The colour and taste of the flesh should conform to a sufficient state of ripeness.

In order to satisfy this requirement, the refractometric index of the pulp measured at the middle point of the fruit flesh at the equatorial section must be equal to or greater than 8° Brix.

## **C. Classification**

The watermelons are classified in two classes, as defined below:

### **(i) Class I**

Watermelons in this class must be of good quality. They must be characteristic of the variety.

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:

- a slight defect in shape

- a slight defect in colouring of the rind; a pale colouring of the watermelon which has been in contact with the ground during the period of growth is not regarded as a defect
- slight healed superficial cracks
- slight skin defects due to rubbing or handling, of which the total area affected must not exceed one sixteenth of the surface of the fruit.

The stem of the watermelon must not exceed 5 cm in length.

**(ii) Class II**

This class includes watermelons that do not qualify for inclusion in Class I, but satisfy the minimum requirements specified above.

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

- defects in shape
- defects in colouring of the rind; a pale colouring of the watermelon which has been in contact with the ground during the period of growth is not regarded as a defect
- healed superficial cracks
- skin defects due to rubbing or handling or to damage by pests or diseases, of which the total area affected must not exceed one-eighth of the surface of the fruit
- slight bruising.

### **III. Provisions concerning sizing**

Size is determined by the weight per unit.

The minimum weight shall be 1 kg.

To ensure uniformity in size, the range in size between produce in the same package shall not exceed 2 kg or 3.5 kg if the lightest unit exceeds 6 kg.

This uniformity of weight is not compulsory for watermelons presented in bulk in the transport vehicle.

### **IV. Provisions concerning tolerances**

At all marketing stages, 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 watermelons 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 satisfying neither the requirements of Class II quality nor the minimum requirements, or of produce affected by decay.

**(ii) Class II**

A total tolerance of 10 per cent, by number or weight, of watermelons satisfying neither the requirements of the class nor the minimum requirements is allowed. Within this tolerance not more than 2 per cent in total may consist of produce affected by decay.

**B. Size tolerances**

For all classes: a total tolerance of 10 per cent, by number or weight, of watermelons not satisfying the requirements as regards sizing is allowed, but no more than 1 kg above or below the size range specified.

The tolerance may in no case extend to fruit weighing less than 800 g.

**V. Provisions concerning presentation**

**A. Uniformity**

The contents of each package (or lot for produce presented in bulk) must be uniform and contain only watermelons of the same origin, variety, quality and size (if sized).

In addition, in Class I, the shape and colour of the rind of the watermelons must be uniform.

The visible part of the contents of the package (or lot for produce presented in bulk in the transport vehicle) must be representative of the entire contents.

**B. Packaging**

The watermelons 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.

Stickers individually affixed to the produce shall be such that, when removed, they neither leave visible traces of glue nor lead to skin defects.

Packages (or lots for produce presented in bulk in the transport vehicle) must be free of all foreign matter.

Watermelons transported in bulk must be separated from the floor and walls of the vehicles by a suitable protective material, which must be clean and not liable to transfer any abnormal taste or smell to the fruit.

**VI. Provisions concerning marking**

Each package<sup>1</sup> must bear the following particulars, in letters grouped on the same side, legibly and indelibly marked, and visible from the outside.

---

<sup>1</sup> 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

For watermelons transported in bulk (direct loading into a transport vehicle) these particulars must appear on a document accompanying the goods, and attached in a visible position inside the transport vehicle. For this type of presentation, the indication of the size, the net weight or the number of units is not compulsory.

### **A. Identification**

Packer and/or dispatcher/shipper:

Name and physical address (e.g. street/city/region/postal code and, if different from the country of origin, the country) or a code mark officially recognized by the national authority<sup>2</sup>.

### **B. Nature of produce**

- "Watermelons" if the contents are not visible from the outside
- Name of the variety (optional)
- Colour of flesh if not red
- "Seedless", where appropriate<sup>3</sup>.

### **C. Origin of produce**

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

### **D. Commercial specifications**

- Class
- Size (if sized) expressed in minimum and maximum weight
- Net weight or number of units.

### **E. Official control mark (optional)**

Adopted 1964

Last revised 2010

---

requirements. However, the markings referred to shall in any event be shown on the transport packaging containing such package units".

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> Seedless watermelons may contain underdeveloped seeds and occasional developed seeds.