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REPORT OF THE FIFTIETH SESSION

Revised UNECE Standard/Recommendation For Peaches And Nectarines

Addendum 4

Note by the secretariat: The Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables proposes the following to the Working Party:

Part I: For adoption as a revised UNECE Standard (changes to the marking requirements in VI B.)

Part II: Concerning maturity requirements for adoption as a UNECE Recommendation for Peaches and Nectarines for a two-year trial period (until November 2006).

The text is based on the existing standard (as available at www.unece.org/trade/agr/standard) and documents TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/2004/24 and 2004/25.

PART I: REVISED STANDARD

UNECE STANDARD FFV-26 concerning the marketing and commercial quality control of

PEACHES AND NECTARINES

I. DEFINITION OF PRODUCE

This standard applies to peaches and nectarines¹ of varieties (cultivars) grown from *Prunus persica* Sieb. and *Zucc.* to be supplied fresh to the consumer, peaches and nectarines for industrial processing being excluded.

II. PROVISIONS CONCERNING QUALITY

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

A. Minimum requirements

In all classes, subject to the special provisions for each class and the tolerances allowed, the peaches and nectarines 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
- practically free from damage caused by pests
- free of abnormal external moisture
- free of any foreign smell and/or taste.

The peaches and nectarines must have been carefully picked.

They must be sufficiently developed and display satisfactory ripeness.

The development and state of ripeness of the peaches and nectarines must be such as to enable them:

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

¹ This text applies to all varieties grown from *Prunus persica* Sieb. and *Zucc.*, being peaches or nectarines with attached (clingstone) or unattached stone and smooth or rough skin.

B. Classification

The peaches and nectarines are classified in three classes defined below:

(i) ***"Extra" Class***

The peaches and nectarines in this class must be of superior quality. In shape, development and colouring they must be typical of the variety allowing for the district in which they are grown. 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.

(ii) ***Class I***

The peaches and nectarines in this class must be of good quality. They must be characteristic of the variety, allowing for the district in which they are grown. However, a slight defect in shape, development or colouring may be allowed.

The flesh must be perfectly sound.

Peaches and nectarines split where the stem is joined to the fruit are excluded.

Slight skin 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 and do not exceed:

- 1 cm in length for defects of elongated shape
- 0.5 cm² in total area for other defects.

(iii) ***Class II***

This class includes peaches and nectarines which do not qualify for inclusion in the higher classes, but satisfy the minimum requirements specified above.

The flesh should not show any serious defects. Fruit split where the stem is joined are allowed only in connection with quality tolerances.

The following skin defects may be allowed provided the peaches and nectarines retain their essential characteristics as regards the quality, the keeping quality and presentation and do not exceed:

- 2 cm in length for defects of elongated shape
- 1.5 cm² in total area for other defects.

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III. PROVISIONS CONCERNING SIZING

Size is determined by:

- circumference, or
- maximum diameter of the equatorial section.

Peaches and nectarines must be graded according to the following scale:

Diameter	Size Code	Circumference
90 mm and over	AAAA	28 cm and over
80 mm and over but under 90mm	AAA	25cm and over but under 28cm
73 mm and over but under 80 mm	AA	23 cm and over but under 25cm
67 mm and over but under 73mm	A	21 cm and over but under 23cm
61 mm and over but under 67mm	B	19 cm and over but under 21cm
56 mm and over but under 61mm	C	17.5 cm and over but under 19cm
51 mm and over but under 56mm	D	16 cm and over but under 17.5cm ²

The minimum size allowed for the "Extra" Class is 17.5 cm (circumference) and 56 mm (diameter).

Sizing is compulsory for all classes.

IV. PROVISIONS CONCERNING TOLERANCES

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

A. Quality tolerances

(i) **"Extra" Class**

5 per cent by number or weight of peaches or nectarines not satisfying the requirements of the class, but meeting those of Class I or, exceptionally, coming within the tolerances of that class.

(ii) **Class I**

10 per cent by number or weight of peaches or nectarines not satisfying the requirements of the class, but meeting those of Class II or, exceptionally, coming within the tolerances of that class.

² In the European Community the marketing of size D is not allowed from 1 July to 31 October.

(iii) **Class II**

10 per cent by number or weight of peaches or nectarines satisfying neither the requirements of the class nor the minimum requirements, with the exception of fruit affected by rotting, marked bruising, or any deterioration rendering it unfit for consumption.

B. Size tolerances

For all classes: 10 per cent by number or weight of peaches or nectarines up to 1 cm more or less than the size stated on the package in the case of sizing by circumference, and up to 3 mm more or less in the case of sizing by diameter. However, for fruit in the smallest size, this tolerance shall apply only to peaches or nectarines of a size smaller by not more than 6 mm (circumference) or 2 mm (diameter) than the specified minimum size.

V. PROVISIONS CONCERNING PRESENTATION

A. Uniformity

The contents of each package must be uniform and contain only peaches or nectarines of the same origin, variety, quality, degree of ripeness and size, and for the "Extra" Class, the contents must also be uniform in colour.

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

B. Packaging

The peaches and nectarines must be packed in such a way as to protect the produce properly.

The materials used inside the package must be new, 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 on the produce shall be such that, when removed, neither leave visible traces of glue, nor lead to skin defects.

Packages must be free of all foreign matter.

C. Presentation

The peaches and nectarines may be presented:

- in small unit packages
- in a single layer, in the case of the "Extra" Class.
Each individual fruit in this class must be separated from its neighbours.

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in Classes I and II:

- in one or two layers, or
- in no more than four layers when the fruit is placed in rigid pockets so arranged that they do not rest on the fruit in the layer immediately below.

VI. PROVISIONS CONCERNING MARKING

Each package³ 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 address or
and/or)	officially issued or
Dispatcher)	accepted code mark. ⁴

B. Nature of produce

- "Peaches" or "Nectarines", if the contents are not visible from the outside
- Colour of the flesh
- 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
- Size expressed in minimum and maximum diameters or minimum and maximum circumference, or according to the code size out in section III "Provisions Concerning Sizing"
- Number of units (optional).

E. Official control mark (optional)

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³ *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.*

⁴ *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.*

PART II: Amendments in trial period until November 2006

1. Delete the following sentence from II A. Minimum requirements:

“They must be sufficiently developed and display satisfactory ripeness.”

2. Insert a new section II B. to read as follows:

“B. Minimum maturity requirements

The fruit must be sufficiently developed and display satisfactory 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 greater than or equal to 8° Brix and the firmness must be lower than 6.5 kg measured with a plunger of 8 mm diameter (0.5cm²) at two points of the equatorial section of the fruit, with the skin intact.”

3. Rename the existing section “B. Classification” to “C. Classification”.