



Economic Commission for Europe**Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards****Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards****Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables****Seventieth session**

Geneva, 16-18 May 2022

Item 9 (a) of the provisional agenda

Revision of standards**Proposal by the delegation of Belgium to amend the standard for beans/peas****Submitted by the delegation of Belgium**

The following proposals were submitted for consideration by the Specialized Section.

The amendments build further on the proposal that was submitted by Germany in 2020 and 2021 for which ultimately no consensus was found in the Specialized Section. Belgium has therefore requested to continue the discussion. The aim of the proposal is to harmonise the standard for beans or peas, especially the inclusion of the trimming provision of needle beans under the minimum requirement of the produce being ‘intact’.

This document is submitted according to ECE/CTCS/2021/2 Decision 2021-07-02 and Decision 2021-07-07, ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2021/2 paragraph 66, and A/76/6 (Sect.20).

Proposed amendments to the UNECE Standard FFV-06 for Beans (2017 edition)

- II. A. Minimum requirements
- intact; however, needle beans may have their ends removed

This amendment allows the inclusion of the trimming provision of needle beans under the Minimum requirement “intact” (i.e. harmonization with the same provision already included in the standard for peas (sugar snap peas and mange-tout peas)).

Motivation (based on Germany’s motivation in 2020): The existing standard does not cover trimmed needle beans, i.e. pods with stalk end or both ends removed. However, in the market trimmed needle beans are offered labelled with a class and there seem to be no quality issues related to the trimmed beans. Moreover, in practice discrepancies exist between countries on the labelling requirements of trimmed beans.

It is difficult if not impossible to explain that the UNECE standard for peas covers trimmed mange-tout peas and sugar snap peas while the UNECE standard for beans excludes trimmed needle beans. For the sake of consistency and certainty for the sector, it is proposed to include the trimmed needle beans in the standard for beans.



- Delete footnote related to minimum requirement “intact”. Due to harvesting of beans (excluding needle beans), a degree of damage is permitted at the stalk end only according to the tolerances laid down.

Motivation (identical to Germany’s motivation in 2020): It is proposed, to delete this footnote, as the respective text is included in the tolerances. Since the introductory paragraph already says: “In all classes, subject to the special provisions for each class and the tolerances allowed, the beans must be...”, it would be logical to delete the footnote.

VI. B. Nature of produce

In line with the provisions in the peas standard, we suggest the following information to be added to the marking provisions concerning the nature of the product:

- “Trimmed”, “Topped and tailed”, or equivalent denomination, where needle beans are presented without the peduncle and/or the pistil, as the case may be if the contents are not visible from the outside.
