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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 Seventy-first session Geneva, 9–11 May 2023 Item 7 (a) of the provisional agenda Review of existing standards: Discussion of proposals resulting from the last session

Proposal by the delegation of Spain to amend the standard for onions

Submitted by the delegation of Spain

The following proposal was submitted to the Specialized Section for consideration.

For reference to earlier discussions, please consult the reports of the 2021 and 2022 sessions of the Specialized Section (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.1/2021/2, paragraphs 71–73, and ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.1/2022/2, paragraphs 42–43).

I. Proposal

Spain proposes the following changes to the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Standard FFV-25 concerning the marketing and commercial quality control of onions.

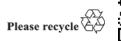
Under section III. Provisions concerning sizing:

"Size is determined by the maximum diameter of the equatorial section.

The minimum diameter shall be 10 mm.

To ensure uniformity in size, the range in size between produce in the same package shall not exceed:

- 5 mm where the diameter of the smallest onion is 10 mm and over but under 20 mm. However, where the diameter of the onion is 15 mm and over but under 25 mm, the difference may be 10 mm
- 15 mm where the diameter of the smallest onion is 20 mm and over but under 40 mm
- 20 mm where the diameter of the smallest onion is 40 mm and over but under 7055 mm
- 30 mm where the diameter of the smallest onion is 7055 mm or over."





II. Justification

The Spanish exporting sector of onions would like to increase the range in size between onions permitted in the same package as they have an ever-increasing demand for onions with range in size, among others, of 55 to 85 mm in the same package. This request from importers cannot currently be satisfied as the current provision in the standard does not allow that size range. Thus, Spain proposes to change the size ranges as shown above.