



OECD Scheme for the Application of International Standards for Fruit and Vegetables

Activities Report 2022-2023

Geneva, Switzerland
9-11 May 2023



Brief history of the OECD Fruit and Vegetables Scheme

- established in 1962 (inter-governmental organization)
- 28 participating countries
- 30+ **Explanatory Brochures**
- OECD Conformity Certificates
- 7 OECD Guidelines
- 10 Peer Reviews
- Meeting of Heads of National Inspection Services



What is the OECD Fruit and Vegetables scheme?

The main objective of the OECD Fruit and Vegetables Scheme is to facilitate international trade through the harmonization of implementation and **interpretation of marketing standards**. A further objective is to facilitate **mutual recognition of inspections** by participating countries. The Scheme is well known for its explanatory brochures on standards, but is also involved in defining inspection procedures that are recognized in many countries, and in sponsoring training courses. The Scheme also organizes peer reviews with the goal of helping the reviewed country improve its quality inspection system.



OECD Explanatory Brochures

- Reference guidelines in the OECD quality inspection system
- 60 years experience
- Approval by consensus
- Pragmatic approach (trade facilitation)
- Uniform content and high quality
- OECD Guidelines on Development Explanatory Brochures
- Currently available for 33 products
- Hard copies
- Free E-Versions





Structure of the Explanatory Brochure

- Text
 - Follows the Standard layout
 - Standard + OECD interpretation
 - Classification table
- Illustrations
 - Follow the Standard layout
 - Illustrate all quality parameters (as far as possible)



Text - Overview

Reference to the applied standard

On the following pages, the official text of the tomatoes standard [UNECE FFV- 36, version 2017] is indicated in **blue bold**, the OECD interpretative text of the Standard is indicated in *black italic*.

Official standard text (blue bold)

In all classes, subject to the special provisions for each class and the tolerances allowed, the tomatoes must be:

- intact;

*OECD general explanatory notes (black italic)
(general and –as needed- product specific)*

The tomatoes must not have any damage or injury affecting the integrity of the produce.

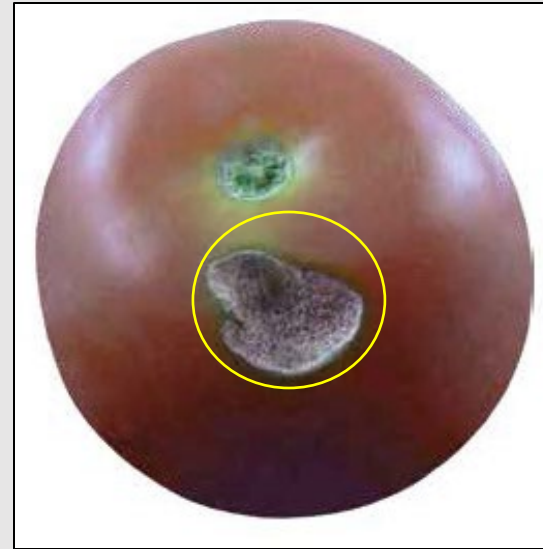
Illustration No.	Name of illustration
5	<i>Intact</i>

Reference to the illustrations




Illustrations - Principles

- Quality parameters and defects are determined at export stage after preparation and packaging
- ‘2D interpretation’ – all defects are shown on the visible part of the product – other side is perfect
- 1 type of defect per photo
- Minimum requirements – ‘not allowed’ photos (‘limit for practically free – allowed in all classes)
- Classifications – Limit allowed photos








Title of the illustration

Normes internationales

Reference to the Standard text


Suberization of the stigma
Cicatrices pistillaires

Photos




1

Classification lines



2



3

Tomatoes / Tomates	Extra Class Cat. "Extra"	Class I Cat. I	Class II Cat. II	Not allowed Exclu	Notes
Suberization of the stigma <i>Cicatrices pistillaires</i>	1	2	3	-	1. Suberization of the stigma. / <i>Cicatrices pistillaires</i> . 2. Suberization of the stigma $\leq 1 \text{ cm}^2$ - Class I. / <i>Cicatrices pistillaires</i> $\leq 1 \text{ cm}^2$ - Cat. I. 3. Suberization of the stigma $\leq 2 \text{ cm}^2$ - Class II. / <i>Cicatrices pistillaires</i> $\leq 2 \text{ cm}^2$ - Cat. II.

Explanatory table

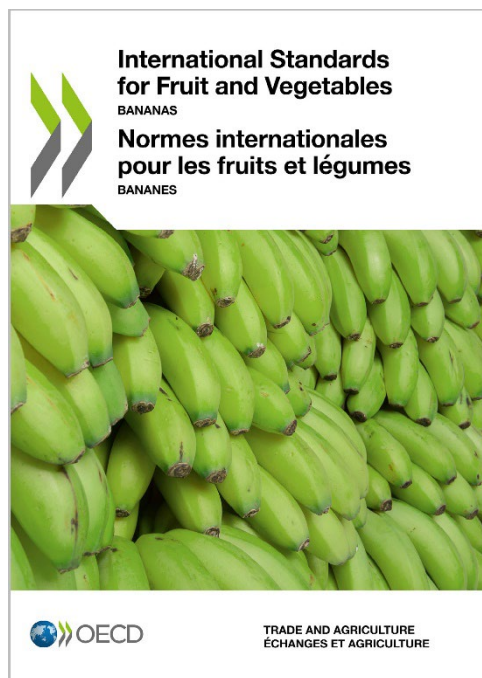
Reference number

30

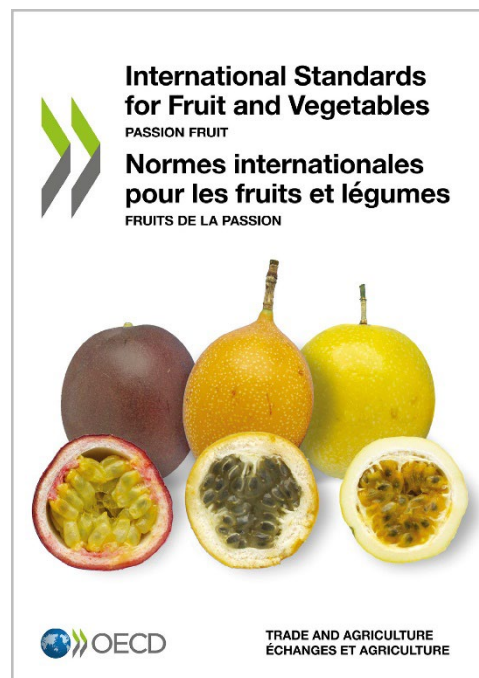


New Brochures 2022-2023

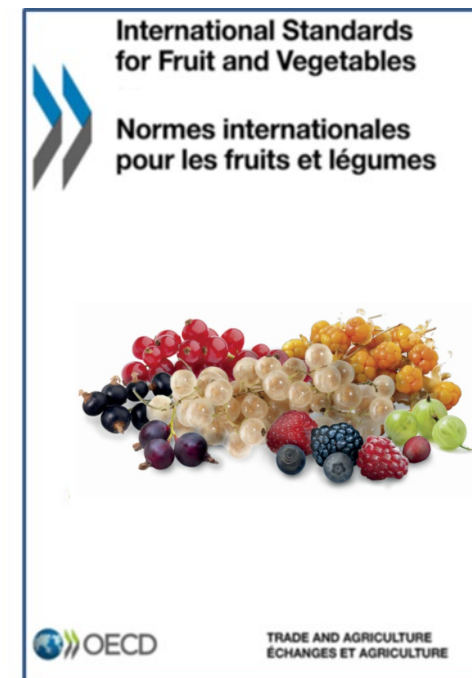
Green Bananas



Passion Fruit



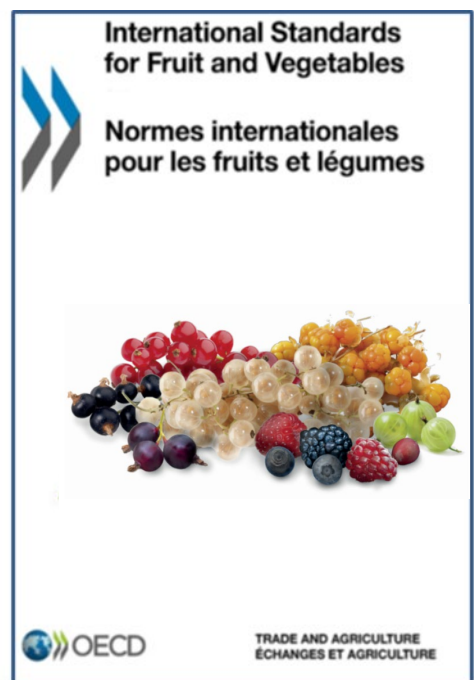
Berry Fruits



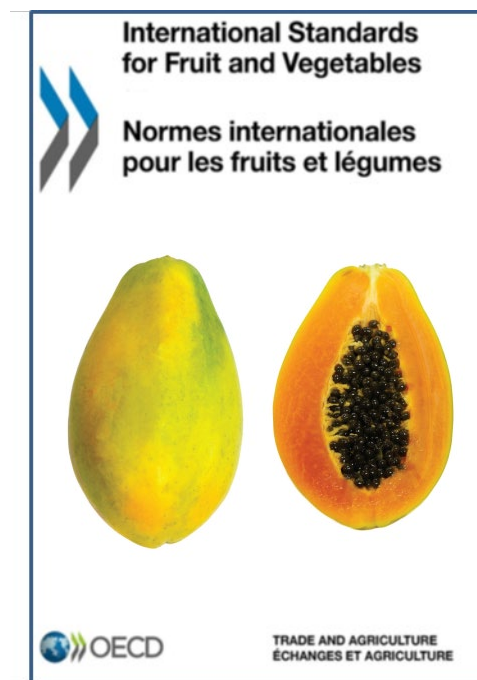


New Brochures 2022-2023

Berry Fruits



Papaya



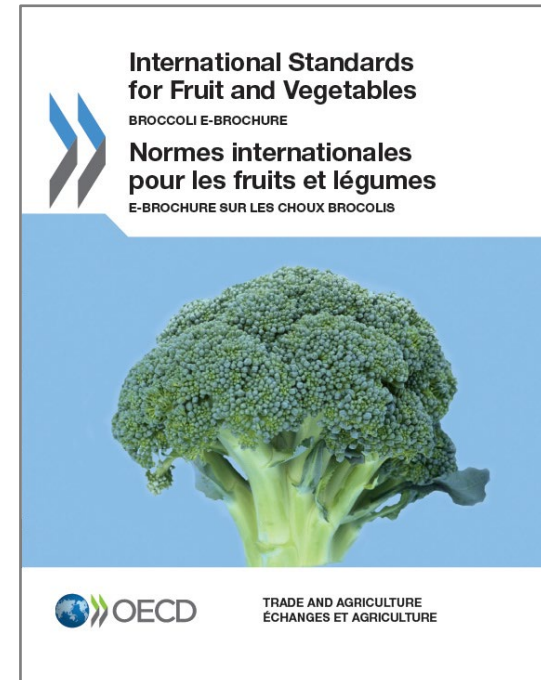


Under development 2022-23

Cauliflower

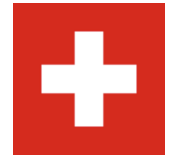


E-update Broccoli





English-German Brochures



INTERNATIONALE NORMEN FÜR OBST UND GEMÜSE



Chicorée



Birnen



Porree



Mangos



Avocados



Pflaumen



Tafeltrauben



Äpfel

Economic Impact of Standards and Harmonized Inspections



Key Messages

- The analysis suggests that **publication of OECD FVS brochures and implementation/revision of UNECE standards are associated with substantial increases in international trade** across multiple product categories.
- Having a common system (**same marketing standards, harmonized interpretation and common inspections methodologies**) amplifies the positive impact on trade.

Key Beneficiaries

- **Farmers/Traders** benefit from harmonized inspection methods and clear quality standards classification that promote fair trade
- **Consumers** benefit from quality assurance and fair prices.





Capacity building activities

- International Training Course (annual), Slovakia – **6-8 June 2023**
- Harmonisation meeting, Zoetermeer, The Netherlands, **June 2022**
- International Meeting on Quality Control of Fruit and Vegetables, Bonn, Germany – **14-16 March 2023**
- Asia – Africa (Kenya) – Latin America (Brazil 2018 & **2022** - Costa Rica 2019) – **next Africa 2023.**
- Cooperation with other international organisations (ECE)



Kenya Plant Health
Inspectorate Service



MINISTERSTVO
PŔOHOŠPODÁRSTVA
A ROZVOJA VIDIEKA
SLOVENSKEJ REPUBLIKY



UNITED NATIONS
ESCAP
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific



CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION





OECD Peer Reviews

- Systematic examination and assessment of the performance of the F&V quality inspection system by experts from other countries under the auspices of the OECD Secretariat
- Conducted on a non-adversarial basis, relies on mutual trust amongst the reviewers
- To improve policy making, adopt best practices and comply with internationally established standards
- 10 OECD Peer Reviews (Hungary, Slovakia, Morocco, Türkiye, the Netherlands and Spain, Finland, France, Israel & Kenya) **Next Germany 2023!!!**

*OECD Scheme for the Application of
International Standards for Fruit and Vegetables*

Peer Review of the Fruit and Vegetables Quality Inspection System in Kenya

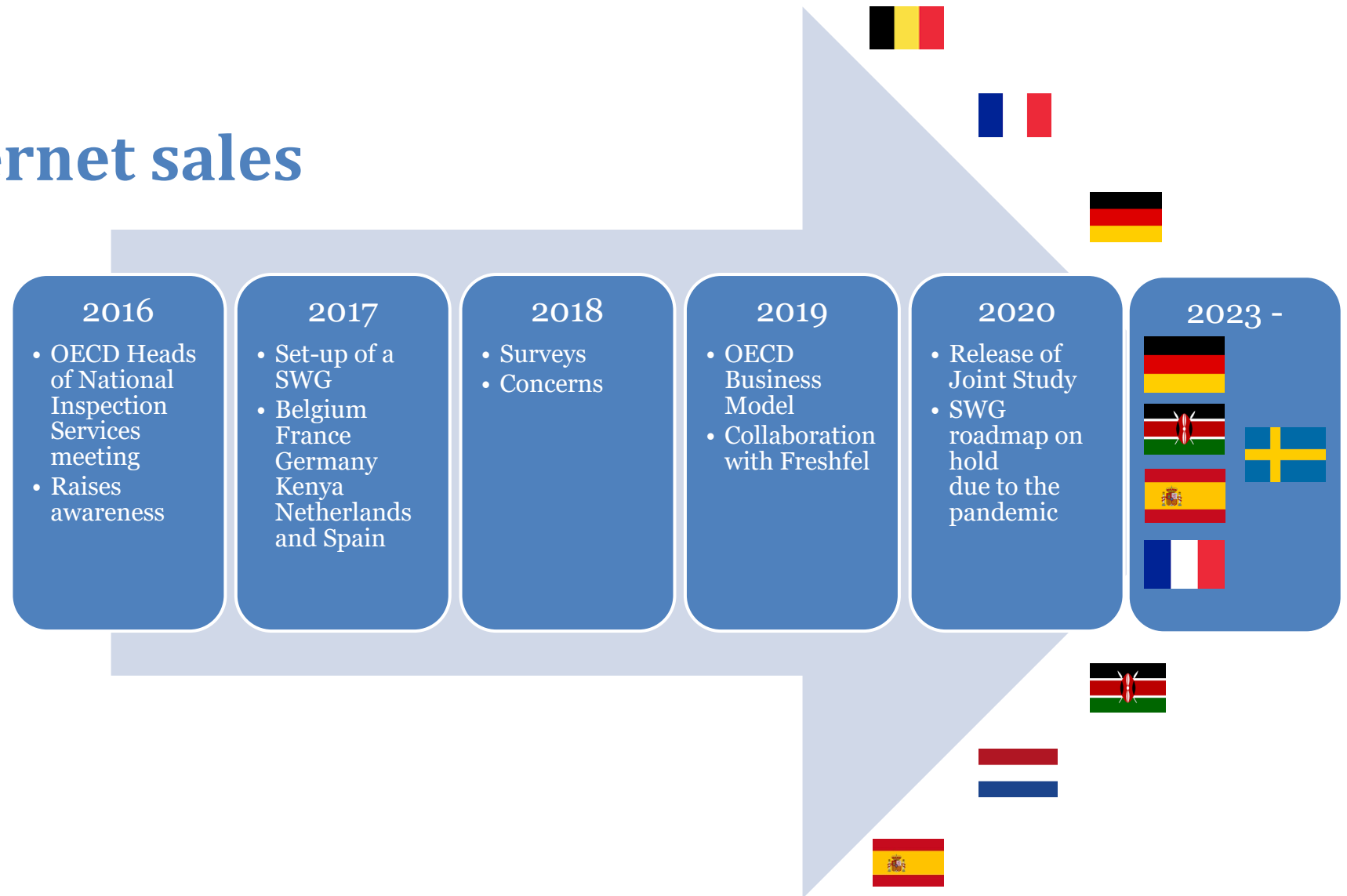


2019





OECD Activities on internet sales





FRUIT AND VEGETABLES SCHEME



New activities for 2022-2023

– E-Learning

*Ad-hoc-working Group (AHWG) on exploring how to disseminate information in an interactive and constructive way (short name “on eLearning”) . The Members of the AHWG are **Brazil, Belgium, Slovakia, France, Germany, Kenya, South Africa, Spain and COLEAD.***



– Economic impact of marketing standards on fruit and vegetables trade

Joint work with UNECE

– Guidelines Pandemics/Disruptive events

*The following countries volunteered to work on the guidelines: **France (Chair), Germany, Italy, Kenya, Netherlands, Slovak Republic, South Africa, Spain and COLEAD.***



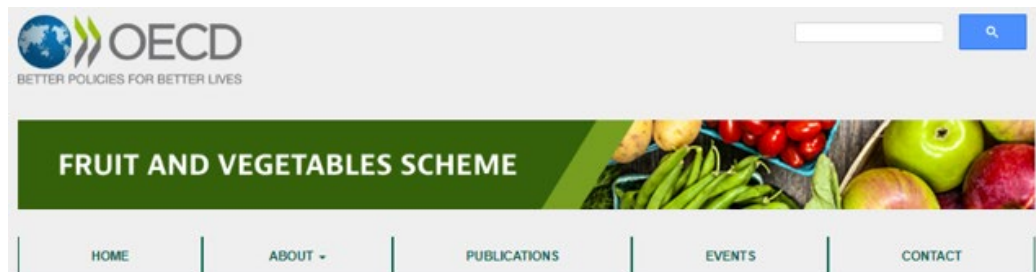
– Global Challenges for Fruit and Vegetables Inspection Services

*Forthcoming Report gathering OECD FVS Scheme’s pieces of work on **Covid-19, new rules and regulations, and Climate Change***



– Sub-working Group on internet sales


Reactivation. France, Germany, Kenya, Spain and Sweden already confirmed participation



OECD Fruit and Vegetables Scheme

The OECD Fruit and Vegetables Scheme promotes international trade through the harmonisation of implementation and interpretation of marketing standards. [Download our brochure \(pdf\)](#)

Harmonization of the Fruit and Vegetables Quality Assessment



We are pleased to invite you to the international training course "Harmonization of the Fruit and Vegetables Quality Assessment", which will take place from 6 to 8 June 2023 in Mojmirovce, Slovak Republic.

» [Download the invitation and registration form](#)

Registrations are open until 26 May 2023.

The OECD and trade in fruit and vegetables



Watch on  YouTube

Now available in iLibrary: German translations for the International Standards for Fruit and Vegetables brochures on [Apples](#) and [Leeks](#). To come soon: Chicory, Mangoes, Pears, Plums, and Table Grapes.

Download our fruit and vegetables explanatory standards brochures



» [Access all brochures](#)

For more information

- Visit our website at www.oecd.org/agriculture/fruit-vegetables
- Contact us at tad.contact@oecd.org
- Follow us on Twitter [@OECDtrade](https://twitter.com/OECDtrade)

Thank you for your attention