



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 (b) of the provisional agenda

Revision of standards**Proposal by the delegation of Germany to amend the standard for asparagus****Submitted by the delegation of Germany**

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

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).

I. Definition of produce

The last paragraph reads:

“This standard does not apply to green and violet/green asparagus of less than 3 mm diameter and white and violet asparagus of less than 8 mm diameter, packed in uniform bundles or unit packages.”

Proposal: Deletion of this paragraph

Motivation: This paragraph repeats in a peculiar way the requirements of section III. rules on sizing, according to which asparagus shoots may not be marketed below the sizes mentioned, as these are the minimum sizes.

This paragraph was introduced into the standard at the request of the Thai delegation in order to make it possible to also trade asparagus shoots below the minimum size according to the UNECE standard. However, the paragraph does not correspond to this intention in any way.

However, an observation of the market shows that no shoots below the minimum size are offered even from foreign origins. Even the thinnest shoots comply with the prescribed minimum sizes.

For clarification, we propose to delete the above-mentioned confusing paragraph.

