



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 10 of the provisional agenda

Development of new standards**Proposal by the delegation of France to develop a new standard for ripened bananas****Submitted by the delegation of France**

The following proposals have been received 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. Context**A. Existing regulations**

The control of bananas includes two aspects: green bananas and ripened bananas.

Green bananas are checked on import, before delivery to the ripening units. For the European Union, these checks are provided for and governed by Regulation 1333/2011, which sets quality and product marking conditions.

Once out of ripening, bananas have a fairly short shelf life, and are sold almost exclusively on the domestic market. In the absence of international trade in this product, no standard has been enacted, either at Community level or at the level of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) or by Codex Alimentarius.

B. Encountered difficulties

In the absence of Community or international regulations setting the acceptable characteristics for ripe bananas, control officers cannot control this product at the retail stage. However, this is a particularly fragile product, so that a product which arrives in conformity at the ripening room, and in good condition on leaving the station, may be affected by significant qualitative degradation at the time of sale to the consumer.



In addition, no labelling is imposed for ripe bananas under existing standards, which only apply to green bananas.

However, France is a producer country (French West Indies), and the absence of an obligation to mention the origin could prove misleading for consumers.

II. Request to ECE

In order to remedy these shortcomings, our services are considering the publication of a national text. Indeed, the absence of international trade in these products limits the creation of international standards.

A. Need for a consensual framework on the quality of ripe bananas

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) brochure relating to the Codex standard for green bananas there are explanations, given for information only. We would like to know if ECE countries enforce national standards on ripe bananas, if they have technical documentation on this subject, and if there is some form of consensus on the good quality of ripe bananas. Have countries with standardization of ripe bananas defined quality categories? What about the sizes, and the number of fruits per hand?

B. Marking obligations

What are the marking obligations imposed by the countries that have regulations in this area?

- Origin?
 - Responsible (company name and address)?
 - Variety?
 - Category?
 - Calibre?
-