



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
23 February 2024

Original: English

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-second session

Geneva, 6–8 May 2024

Item 5 (b) of the provisional agenda

Review of existing standards:

New proposals

Proposal by the delegation of Germany to amend the standard for garlic

Submitted by the delegation of Germany

Summary

The following proposal for revisions to the standard for garlic (FFV-18) was submitted by the delegation of Germany for the consideration of the Specialized Section. The proposed changes are marked in strike-through for deleted text and underline for added text.



I. Proposal

The delegation of Germany proposes to include the following provisions in section II Provisions concerning quality, part B Classification as follows:

Classification

Garlic is classified in three classes, as defined below:

(i) *"Extra" Class*

Garlic in this class must be of superior quality. It must be characteristic of the variety and/or commercial type.

The bulbs must be:

- of regular shape
- properly cleaned

The cloves must be compact.

The roots must be cut close to the base of the bulb in the case of dry garlic.

Garlic must be free from defects, with the exception of very slight superficial defects, provided these do not affect the general appearance of the produce, the quality, the keeping quality and presentation in the package.

(ii) *Class I*

Garlic in this class must be of good quality. It must be characteristic of the variety and/or commercial type.

The cloves must be reasonably compact.

The following slight defects, however, may be allowed, provided these do not affect the general appearance of the produce, the quality, the keeping quality and presentation in the package:

- slight tears in the outer skin of the bulb
- a slight defect in shape
- dry bruises and injuries on not more than two cloves

(iii) *Class II*

This class includes garlic that does not qualify for inclusion in the higher classes but satisfies the minimum requirements specified above.

The following defects may be allowed, provided the garlic retains its essential characteristics as regards the quality, the keeping quality and presentation:

- tears in the outer skin or missing parts of the outer skin of the bulb
- staining on the outer skins of the bulb provided it does not cover more than half the bulb surface
- healed injuries
- ~~slight~~ dry bruises and injuries on not more than four cloves
- irregular shape
- no more than three cloves, or one fifth of the total number of cloves in a bulb (whichever is lower) may be missing

II. Justification

The proposal takes into account more frequent extreme weather conditions due to climate change, which lead to more frequent bruises and injuries in garlic. To reduce food loss and waste, the delegation of Germany therefore proposes to allow bruises and injuries to a limited extent in Classes I and II.
