
UNECE STANDARD FFV-26

concerning the marketing and
commercial quality control of

PEACHES AND NECTARINES

2023 EDITION



UNITED NATIONS
New York and Geneva, 2023

NOTE

Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards

The commercial quality standards developed by the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) help facilitate international trade, encourage high-quality production, improve profitability and protect consumer interests. UNECE standards are used by Governments, producers, traders, importers and exporters, and other international organizations. They cover a wide range of agricultural products, including fresh fruit and vegetables, dry and dried produce, seed potatoes, meat, cut flowers, eggs and egg products.

Any member of the United Nations can participate, on an equal footing, in the activities of the Working Party. For more information on agricultural standards, please visit our website <http://www.unece.org/trade/agr/welcome.html>.

The present Standard for Peaches and Nectarines is based on document ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/2008/12, reviewed and adopted by the Working Party at its sixty-sixth session.

The designations employed and the presentation of the material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the United Nations Secretariat concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Mention of company names or commercial products does not imply endorsement by the United Nations.

All material may be freely quoted or reprinted, but acknowledgement is requested.

Please contact us at the following address with any comments or enquiries:

Agricultural Standards Unit
Economic Cooperation and Trade Division
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland
Email: agristandards@un.org

UNECE standard FFV-26 concerning the marketing and commercial quality control of peaches and nectarines

I. Definition of produce

This standard applies to peaches and nectarines of varieties (cultivars) grown from *Prunus persica* Sieb. and Zucc. to be supplied fresh to the consumer, peaches and nectarines for industrial processing being excluded.

II. Provisions concerning quality

The purpose of the standard is to define the quality requirements for peaches and nectarines after preparation and packaging.

However, if applied at stages following export/dispatch, products may show in relation to the requirements of the standard:

- a slight lack of freshness and turgidity
- for products graded in classes other than the “Extra” Class, a slight deterioration due to their development and their tendency to perish.

The holder/seller of products may not display such products or offer them for sale, or deliver or market them in any manner other than in conformity with this standard. The holder/seller shall be responsible for observing such conformity.

A. Minimum requirements

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

- intact
- sound; produce affected by rotting or deterioration such as to make it unfit for consumption is excluded
- clean, practically free of any visible foreign matter
- practically free from pests
- free from damage caused by pests affecting the flesh
- free of fruit split at the stalk cavity
- free of abnormal external moisture
- free of any foreign smell and/or taste.

The development and condition of the peaches and nectarines must be such as to enable them:

- to withstand transportation and handling
- to arrive in satisfactory condition at the place of destination.

B. Maturity requirements

The development and state of maturity of the peaches and nectarines must be such as to enable them to continue their ripening process and to reach a satisfactory degree of ripeness.

The minimum refractometric index of the flesh should be equal to or greater than 8° Brix.¹

C. Classification

The peaches and nectarines are classified in three classes, as defined below:

(i) "Extra" Class

Peaches and nectarines in this class must be of superior quality. They must be characteristic of the variety.

The flesh must be perfectly sound.

They 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

Peaches and nectarines in this class must be of good quality. They must be characteristic of the variety.

The flesh must be perfectly sound.

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:

- a slight defect in shape
- a slight defect in development
- slight defects in colouring
- slight pressure marks not exceeding 1cm² in total surface area
- slight skin defects which must not extend over more than
 - 1.5 cm in length for defects of elongated shape
 - 1 cm² in total surface area for other defects.

(iii) Class II

This class includes peaches and nectarines that do not qualify for inclusion in the higher classes but satisfy the minimum requirements specified above.

The flesh must be free from major defects.

The following defects may be allowed, provided the peaches and nectarines retain their essential characteristics as regards the quality, the keeping quality and presentation:

- defects in shape
- defects in development, including split stones, provided the fruit is closed and the flesh is sound
- defects in colouring
- bruises which may be slightly discoloured and not exceeding 2 cm² in total surface area
- skin defects which must not extend over more than
 - 2.5 cm in length for defects of elongated shape

¹ The methods are set out in the publication of the OECD Scheme for the Application of International Standards for Fruit and Vegetables entitled "Guidance on objective tests to determine quality of fruits and vegetables and dry and dried produce" (www.oecd.org/agr/fv).

- 2 cm² in total surface area for other defects.

III. Provisions concerning sizing

Size is determined either by the maximum diameter of the equatorial section, by weight, or by count.

The minimum size shall be:

- 56 mm or 85 g in Class “Extra”
- 51 mm or 65 g in Classes I and II.

However, fruit below 56 mm or 85 g, is not allowed in the period from 1 July to 31 October (northern hemisphere) and from 1 January to 30 April (southern hemisphere).

The following provisions are optional for Class II.

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

- (a) For fruit sized by diameter
 - 5 mm for fruit below 70 mm
 - 10 mm for fruit of 70 mm and more.
- (b) For fruit sized by weight
 - 30 g for fruit below 180 g
 - 80 g for fruit of 180 g and more.
- (c) For fruit sized by count, the difference in size should be consistent with (a) or (b).

If size codes are applied, those in the table below have to be respected.

	code	Diameter			Weight	
		from (mm)	to (mm)		from (g)	to (g)
1	D	51	56	<i>or</i>	65	85
2	C	56	61		85	105
3	B	61	67		105	135
4	A	67	73		135	180
5	AA	73	80		180	220
6	AAA	80	90		220	300
7	AAAA		> 90			> 300

IV. Provisions concerning tolerances

At all marketing stages, tolerances in respect of quality and size shall be allowed in each lot for produce not satisfying the requirements of the class indicated.²

A. Quality tolerances

(i) "Extra" Class

A total tolerance of 5 per cent, by weight, of peaches and nectarines not satisfying the requirements of the class but meeting those of Class I is allowed. Within this tolerance not more than 0.5 per cent in total may consist of produce satisfying the requirements of Class II quality.

(ii) Class I

A total tolerance of 10 per cent, by weight, of peaches and nectarines not satisfying the requirements of the class but meeting those of Class II is allowed. Within this tolerance not more than 1 per cent in total may consist of produce satisfying neither the requirements of Class II quality nor the minimum requirements, or of produce affected by decay.

(iii) Class II

A total tolerance of 10 per cent, by weight, of peaches and nectarines satisfying neither the requirements of the class nor the minimum requirements is allowed. Within this tolerance not more than 2 per cent in total may consist of produce affected by decay.

B. Size tolerances

For all classes (if sized): a total tolerance of 10 per cent, by number or weight, of peaches and nectarines not satisfying the requirements as regards sizing is allowed.

² A conformity check shall be made by assessing primary or composite samples. It is based on the principle of presumption that the quality of the randomly taken samples is representative of the quality of the lot. The OECD Operating Rules for Conformity Checks are recommended for application – also by operators – at the stages of dispatch as well as in wholesale and distribution centres and storerooms of food retail.

V. Provisions concerning presentation

A. Uniformity

The contents of each package must be uniform and contain only peaches and nectarines of the same origin, variety, quality, degree of ripeness and size (if sized), and, for the “Extra” Class, the contents must also be uniform in colouring.

The visible part of the contents of the package must be representative of the entire contents.

B. Packaging

The peaches and nectarines must be packed in such a way as to protect the produce properly.

The materials used inside the package must be clean and of a quality such as to avoid causing any external or internal damage to the produce. The use of materials, particularly of paper or stamps bearing trade specifications, is allowed, provided the printing or labelling has been done with non-toxic ink or glue.

Stickers individually affixed to the produce shall be such that, when removed, they neither leave visible traces of glue nor lead to skin defects. Information lasered on single fruit should not lead to flesh or skin defects.

Packages must be free of all foreign matter.

VI. Provisions concerning marking

Each package³ must bear the following particulars, in letters grouped on the same side, legibly and indelibly marked, and visible from the outside:

A. Identification

Packer and/or dispatcher/exporter:

Name and physical address (e.g. street/city/region/postal code and, if different from the country of origin, the country) or a code mark officially recognized by the national authority⁴ if the country applying such a system is listed in the UNECE Code Mark Registry⁵. In the case where there is no street address available, the physical address can be made up of the name of the farm or facility, the nearest village, town, region, and postal code; or GPS coordinates and a PO Box address together with nearest town, region and country shall be accepted as a physical address.⁶

B. Nature of produce

- “Peaches” or “Nectarines” if the contents are not visible from the outside

³ These marking provisions do not apply to sales packages presented in packages bearing these particulars. However, they do apply to sales packages (pre-packages) presented individually.

⁴ The national legislation of a number of countries requires the explicit declaration of the name and address. However, in the case where a code mark is used, the reference “packer and/or dispatcher (or equivalent abbreviations)” has to be indicated in close connection with the code mark, and the code mark should be preceded by the ISO 3166 (alpha-2) country/area code of the recognizing country, if not the country of origin.

⁵ See <http://www.unece.org/trade/agr/codemarkregistry.html>.

⁶ Reservation by the United States of America on the use of a PO Box address, as it may not allow facility inspections or rapid intervention in case of recalls, and is not part of its national labelling requirement related to packer and/or dispatcher/exporter.

- Colour of the flesh
- Name of the variety (optional).

C. Origin of produce

- Country of origin⁷ and, optionally, district where grown, or national, regional or local place name.

D. Commercial specifications

- Class
- Size (if sized) expressed as minimum and maximum diameters (in mm) or minimum and maximum weight (in g) or as size code
- Number of units (optional).

E. Official control mark (optional)

Adopted 1961

Last revised 2010

Aligned with the Standard Layout 2023

The OECD Scheme for the Application of International Standards for Fruit and Vegetables has published an explanatory illustrated brochure on the application of this standard. The publication may be obtained from the OECD bookshop at: www.oecdbookshop.org.

⁷ The full or a commonly used name should be indicated.