

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda Items 2a, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME CODEX COMMITTEE ON FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES Twenty-first Session

Monterrey, Nuevo León, Mexico, 7 – 11 October 2019

COMMENTS OF EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

Agenda item 2a, CX/FFV19/21/2, MATTERS ARISING FROM THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND OTHER CODEX COMMITTEES

Work management

SPECIFIC COMMENT

The EAC recommends the initiatives taken to reach consensus should be guided by codex principles in line with internationally recognized, WHO/FAO scientific expert bodies. The CCFFV should enhance the working modalities ensuring smooth transition of the Committee leadership to improve the work management.

Agenda item 3, CX/FFV 19/21/4, PROPOSED DRAFT STANDARD FOR KIWIFRUIT: TOLERANCE FOR DECAY, SOFT ROT AND INTERNAL BREAKDOWN

GENERAL COMMENT

The East African Community (EAC) would like to thank the Electronic Working Group chaired by New Zealand and co-chaired by Mexico and Iran for coming up with the document on the outstanding issue of tolerances for decay, soft rot and internal breakdown in “Extra” Class (Section 5.1.1) and Class I (Section 5.1.2) of the draft Standard for Kiwifruit to facilitate trade globally.

SPECIFIC COMMENT

Section 5.1.1 “Extra” Class and (Section 5.1.2) Class I

The EAC supports the tolerance of 0.5% for decay, soft rot before internal breakdown set of for extra class.

Justification

It is not possible to have 0% tolerance for decay, soft rot before internal breakdown due to the perishable nature of the fruit and handling of the fruits to the point of destination.

SPECIFIC COMMENT

The EAC supports the minimum requirements mentioned in ‘Section 5.1.1’ and ‘Section 5.1.2’ is applicable to importing country only.

Justification

Tolerances should only be accepted at the destination

Agenda item 4, CX/FFV 19/21/5, DRAFT STANDARD FOR GARLIC

GENERAL COMMENT

The East Africa Community (EAC) would like to thank the Electronic Working Group chaired by Mexico for their good work done to come up with this document on Garlic for members’ comments to protect the health of consumers and facilitate trade globally.

SPECIFIC COMMENT

Scope

The East Africa Community (EAC) proposes that the Scope reads as follows:

‘This Standard provides for quality requirements for bulbs of commercial varieties of fresh garlic grown from Allium sativum L., of the Alliaceae family, with and without the skin after preparation and packaging. Green garlic with full leaves, undeveloped cloves and garlic for industrial processing are excluded.’

Justification

The current scope is not clear, concise and not consistent with section II of the codex procedure manual on elaboration of codex text.

SPECIFIC COMMENT**2. Definition of produce**

1. These are bulbs of commercial varieties of grown garlic from *Allium sativum L.*, of the *Alliaceae* family, with and without the skin.
2. Fresh garlic constituted of several cloves and the garlic known as garlic Solo, constituted of a single clove.
 - Fresh garlic: produce with a fresh stem, and with the outer skin of the bulb soft and flexible.
 - Semi-dry garlic: produce with the stem and with the outer skin of the bulb not completely dry.
 - Dry garlic: produce in which the stem, outer skin of the bulb and the skin surround each clove are completely dry.

SPECIFIC COMMENTS**Section 5.1.1, "Quality Tolerances (Extra Class)**

Five percent by number or weight of bulbs not satisfying the requirements of the class, but meeting those of Class I.

Justification

Packages should not have three classes in the same package

Section 5.1.2, Class I

The EAC proposes to delete the text stating "satisfying neither the requirements of Class II nor the minimum requirements, or of produce" to avoid contradicting section 3.1 on minimum requirement.

The new clause to read as follows; *"Ten percent by number or weight of bulbs not satisfying the requirements of the class, but meeting those of Class II. Within this tolerance not more than 1% in total may consist of produce affected by decay"*.

Section 5.1.3, Class II

Delete "satisfying neither the requirements of Class I nor the minimum requirements, or of produce"

"Ten percent by number or weight of bulbs not satisfying the requirements of the class within this tolerance not more than 2% in total may consist of produce affected by decay".

Justification

Produce should meet minimum requirements to be classified as provided in clause 3.1

Agenda item 5, CX/FFV 19/21/6, DRAFT STANDARD FOR WARE POTATOES**GENERAL COMMENT**

The EAC would like to thank the Electronic Working Group chaired by India and co-chaired by Cameroon and Peru for the good work done to come up with this document on ware potatoes for members' comments to protect the health of consumers and facilitate trade globally.

SPECIFIC COMMENTS**Scope**

The EAC proposes that the Scope reads as follows:

'This Standard provides for quality requirements of commercial varieties of ware potato grown from Solanum tuberosumL., of the Solanaceae family. The standard will not cover Ware potatoes for industrial processing and early potatoes.'

Justification

The current scope is not clear, concise and not consistent with section II of the codex procedure manual on elaboration of codex text.

SPECIFIC COMMENTS**Clause 3.1**

The EAC proposes to include new bullets on “practically free from mechanical damage” and “shall be covered with well-formed skin” also include internal defects including late blight, bacteria wilt, ring rot and black heart.

Justification

Important quality parameters for inclusion in the document

Bullet 12, sub bullet 7

The EAC proposes that the clause be amended as follows:

- Deep common potato scab and powdery potato scab, of a depth of maximum of 2 mm.

Justification:

- Restrict the depth of the scab to a maximum of 2 mm to avoid excess waste of the produce.

SPECIFIC COMMENT

The EAC proposes that the contents of the table be reviewed with reference to the original table. Numbers and letters should not be used interchangeably without clear descriptors.

Justification

The proposal is important in order to avoid the overlapping of the sizes and to be consistent with the other codex text such as CODEXSTAN 293:2008

Size Code	Equatorial diameter in mm
1	18 <24
2	>24 < 35
3	>35 <80
4	>80

SPECIFIC COMMENT**Section 5.1**

The EAC proposes that section (c) in the Table should be deleted as it is already elaborated under 3.1 minimum requirements.

Agenda item 6, CX/FFV 19/21/7, PROPOSED DRAFT STANDARD FOR FRESH DATES**GENERAL COMMENTS**

The EAC would like to thank the Electronic Working Group chaired by India and co-chaired by Saudi Arabia for their good work done to come up with this document on Fresh Dates for members' comments to protect the health of consumers and facilitate trade globally.

SPECIFIC COMMENTS**Scope**

The EAC proposes that the Scope reads as follows:

“This Standard provides for quality requirements of commercial varieties of dates (Phoenix dactylifera L. from Arecaceae family). The standard will not cover dates for industrial processing.”

Justification

The current scope is not clear, concise and not consistent with section II of the codex procedure manual on elaboration of codex text.

Section 4: Provisions concerning sizing, sub-section A

The EAC proposes that the word ‘cultivar’ be replaced with the word ‘fruit’ to read, *“When sized by count, size is determined by the number of individual fruit per package.”*

Justification

The word cultivar is not used correctly in the sentence, “When sized by count, size is determined by the number of individual cultivar per package”. The word ‘cultivar’ in that sentence misleads the reader/standard user while the word ‘fruit’ is more appropriate in that case.

Section 4

Foot note 7 the word ‘Tamer’ should be replaced with ‘Tamar’ as used consistently throughout the standard.

SPECIFIC COMMENT

The EAC supports the presentation of dates as “Separated in individual fruit, arranged in layers, or loose in the package” in clause 6.1

Justification

The presentation of dates as individual fruit, arranged in layers, or loose in the package is common in the regional market.

Agenda item 7, CX/FFV 19/21/8, PROPOSED DRAFT CODEX STANDARD FOR YAM**GENERAL COMMENTS**

The EAC would like to thank the Electronic Working Group chaired by Costa Rica and co-chaired by Ghana for their good work done to come up with this document on Yam for members’ comments to protect the health of consumers and facilitate trade globally.

SPECIFIC COMMENT**Scope**

The EAC proposes that the Scope reads as follows:

‘This Standard provides for quality requirements of tubers from commercial varieties of yam of the Dioscoreaceae family obtained from the species Dioscorea rotundata, Dioscorea cayenensis, Dioscorea alata, Dioscorea esculenta and Dioscorea trifida, to be supplied fresh to the consumer. Yams intended for industrial processing are not covered in this standard.’

Justification

The current scope is not clear, concise and not consistent with section II of the codex procedure manual on elaboration of codex text.

SPECIFIC COMMENTS**Section 3.1**

Minimum requirements

Include a bullet on “Practically free from damage caused by pests”

Justification

Important requirement for yams

Section 4

The CCFV Committee should consider maintaining similar size codes for all commodities under fruit and vegetable committee. e.g. 1,2,3,4 or A,B,C,D accordingly.

Comment on clause 6.1: The EAC proposes replacement of “**must**” in the section 6.1 below with “**shall**”

Justification

‘Shall’ is used consistently in other codex texts.

Section 7.1.1 Name of produce

The EAC proposes name of produce to include species ‘The new clause will read as follows; ‘given a broad range of species which varies markedly in a variety of ways, it is imperative to consumers to know the species of the produce.

Section 7.1.2

Include the text ‘each package shall be labeled with’ before the beginning of the first para

Delete 7.1.2 second paragraph considering it contradicts with 6.1 on uniformity of packages.

Agenda item 8, CX/FFV 19/21/9, PROPOSED DRAFT STANDARD FOR ONIONS AND SHALLOTS

GENERAL COMMENT

The EAC would like to thank the Electronic Working Group chaired by Indonesia and India for their good work done to come up with this document on onions and shallots for members' comments to protect the health of consumers and facilitate trade globally.

SPECIFIC COMMENT

Section 3.2 Classification

This section lacks 'Extra Class'

- All other Standards have Extra Class, which is assigned to produce with the highest quality
- Having Extra Class will enable exporters obtain a premium price for onions and shallots that have exceptional quality

The EAC proposes that Extra Class to be added to the classification of onion to maintain the consistency as in other codex texts.

The EAC would like to comment on bullets 1 and 2 under clause 3.2.2 on class II and proposes that the maximum stain should be 25% without a range and more mitigation to be done to prevent staining which is normally associated with fungal disease and cracks in the outer skins and partial absence of the skins on a maximum of 10% of the bulb's surface.

Section 4 on provision concerning sizing, should be presented in Tabular form for clarity and the word 'must' to be replaced with shall'.

Section 5.1 Quality tolerances

EAC proposes that Extra Class be added to the Standard so as to read as "five per cent, (5.0%) by number or weight, of onions and shallots not satisfying the requirements of the class, included therein, is 0.5% tolerance for decay".

Justification

To maintain the consistency as in other codex texts.

Agenda item 9, CX/FFV/19/21/10, PROPOSED DRAFT STANDARD FOR BERRY FRUITS

GENERAL COMMENT

The EAC would like to thank the Electronic Working Group chaired by Mexico and co-chaired by Argentina for their good work done to come up with this document on berry fruits for members' comments to protect the health of consumers and facilitate trade globally.

SPECIFIC COMMENTS

Section 2. Definition of produce

EAC Proposes that the list be revised to make it more inclusive by adding missing berries such as Strawberries (*Fragaria ananassa*), Gojiberry (*Lycium barbarum*), Mulberry (*Morus*),

Section 4 the word 'must' to be replaced with shall'.

EAC proposes that the scope to Include *Mulberry Morus* L. in the list to be covered in the standard.

Justification: It is grown and consumed in region and belongs to the family of berries.

Agenda item 10, CX/FFV/19/21/11, DISCUSSION PAPER ON GLOSSARY OF TERMS FOR APPLICATION IN THE LAYOUT FOR CODEX STANDARDS FOR FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

GENERAL COMMENT

The EAC would like to thank and support United States for the good work done to come up with this document that will standardize the terms to be used in the areas of fruits and vegetables.

SPECIFIC COMMENT

The EAC proposes to include '*fruiting vegetables*' in the definition for vegetable.

Justification

To expand the scope to cover other types of vegetables that were not initially included in the current definition.