

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda Items 3, 4, 5, 6, 8 and 9

CRD09

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD
STANDARDS PROGRAMME CODEX COMMITTEE ON FRESH FRUITS
AND VEGETABLES
Twenty-first Session
Monterrey, Nuevo León (Mexique) du 07 au 11 Octobre 2019

Comment from Morocco

Agenda item 3 , Draft standard for kiwifruit: tolerance for decay (at Step 7)

Morocco supports the proposal of the EWG:

5.1.1 "Extra" Class:

[Included therein is 0.5% tolerance for decay, soft rot and/or internal breakdown]

5.1.2 Class I :

Included therein is 1% tolerance for decay, soft rot and/or internal breakdown.

Agenda item 4, Draft standard for garlic (at Step 7)

Morocco supports the EWG's proposal not to include smoked garlic within the scope of the standard (since the garlic that is subjected to a smoking process changes its organoleptic characteristics, especially color and taste), and to entrust the development of the standard for smoky garlic to the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables (CCPFV).

5.1.1 Extra" Class:

Morocco proposes to delete the statement "Within this tolerance not more than 1% in total may consist of produce satisfying the requirements of Class II" so that it reads as follows.

"Five percent by number or weight of bulbs not satisfying the requirements of the class, but meeting those of Class I. ~~Within this tolerance not more than 1% in total may consist of produce satisfying the requirements of Class II"~~

Rationale: "Extra Class" should not include produce, satisfying requirements of "Class II".

7.1.1. Name of Produce (Consumer packages) :

Morocco proposes to delete the statement "*If the produce is not visible from the outside*" so that it reads as follows:

~~« If the produce is not visible from the outside, each package shall be labelled as to the name of the produce ("garlic" and/or "fresh garlic", "semi-dry garlic", "dry garlic") and the name of the variety. »~~

Rationale: the name of product is mandatory.

7.2.2. Name of Produce (non-retail containers) :

Morocco proposes to delete the statement: ~~« if the contents are not visible from the outside »~~ so that it reads as follows:

~~« Name of the produce if the contents are not visible from the outside, such as "garlic", "fresh garlic", "semi-dry garlic", "dry garlic" or "solo garlic", where appropriate».~~

Rationale: the name of produce is necessary requirement to inform the consumer.

Agenda item 5 , Proposed draft standard for ware potatoes (at Step 7)

4. Provisions concerning sizing:

Morocco noted an overlap in the proposed equatorial diameter used in sizing. Code size 2 (25-75 mm) overlaps with code size 3 (35-80mm).

Morocco proposes to replace Code size 2: 76-80 instead of 35-80 or to add descriptions for each size code (small potato, long varieties, round varieties).

Rationale: in the proposed table, it is impossible to give a size code for ware potatoes with an equatorial diameter between 35 and 75 because of the overlap.

5.1 Quality Tolerances:

The draft standard does not indicate maximum limits for defects.

Morocco proposes to add percentage limits (%) for defects.

Rationale: Having a maximum value for each defect stated in the list (c) defects will aid users of the standard.

Agenda item 6, Proposed draft standard for fresh dates (at Step 4)

Morocco proposes the inclusion of the MEJHOUL variety in the standard.

Rationale: Mentioning the variety of dates provides information on organoleptic characteristics and allows the consumer to make an informed choice.

3.1 : Minimum requirements :

In the English version '*Dates fruits must be developed and reached to the appropriate degree of development and ripeness according to the species' there is a need to replace species by varieties.*'

Concerning the Minimum maturity requirements, Moisture content should not exceed:

- 50-85% for khalal stage; • 30-45 % for rutab stage; and • 10-25% and less for tamar stage.

In Morocco, we use for the khalal the name blah and for rutab the names nekkar or mbellah. These naming differences could be confusing at the time of application of this standard.

Morocco proposes to add in the standard: "the local names of certain countries attributed to these two stages"

The definition of Khalal or Basser is incomplet Morocco proposes to add that in this stage both sucrose and reducing sugar dates accumulate the maximum amount of sugar in the form of sucrose.

7.1.1 Name of produce :

For provisions concerning marking or labelling Morocco proposes the following sentence :

"Each product/packaging must be labelled with a label indicating:

- Product name "Dates"
- Name of the variety and/or commercial type
- Type of presentation in the form of a diet, twigs or individual fruits

Rationale : the name of the variety is mentioned as an optional mention then that it is important in the case of dates, because it provides information on organoleptic characteristics of dates and allows the consumer to perform its choice: it must therefore be considered as a reference mandatory labelling (this request has already been made by Morocco at the level of CRD 21 at the 20th Session of the CCFFV in 2017).

7.2.4 Commercial Specifications

Morocco proposes to amend the requirements for other forms of fruit and other aspects of the epicarp.

- Dates can have five fruit shapes: oval, oblong, elliptical, oval and obovate
- Epicarp can present five aspects : smooth, wrinkled, embossed, blistered and tattooed.

Agenda item 8 , Proposed draft standard for onions and shallots (at Step 4)**4.2.1 Revisions concerning sizing (for onions)**

Morocco proposes to delete the last sentence of the first bullet point: "5 mm where the diameter of the smallest onion is 10 mm and over but under 20 mm. ~~However, where the diameter of the onion is 15 mm and over but under 25 mm, the difference may be 10 mm~~"

Rationale: The last sentence conflicts with the preceding sentence (the size range 15mm to 25mm was causing an overlap with the previous size range of onions 10 mm to 20 mm in diameter).

Agenda item 9 , Proposed draft standard for berry fruits (at Step 4),**2. 2. Definition of produce:**

The list of berries the standard applies to is not exhaustive

Morocco 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*), etc

Rationale: A Standard for berries should be inclusive so as to make it have broad appeal and widespread usage.

7. 1.1 Revisions concerning marking or labelling :

Morocco proposes to delete the last sentence « If the produce is not visible from the outside» of the following provision: « in the case of a mixture of distinctly different species and/or varieties of berry fruits. If the produce is not visible from the outside, the species and/or varieties in the package must be indicated ».

Rationale: The species and / or varieties in the package must be indicated if the product is visible from the outside or not and some berries have identical shapes / color.