

codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD
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ORGANIZATION



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Agenda Item 4 (a)

CX/FFV 06/13/7-Add.1

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME
CODEX COMMITTEE ON FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES
13th Session, Mexico City, Mexico,
25 - 29 September 2006

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PROPOSED DRAFT SECTION 2.1.2 - MATURITY REQUIREMENTS
AND
SECTION 3.1 - MINIMUM BUNCH WEIGHT (DRAFT CODEX STANDARD FOR TABLE GRAPES)
(AT STEP 3)

AUSTRALIA

Please find below comments from Australia in response to CX/FFV/06/13/7 on the Proposed Draft Section 2.1.2 – Maturity Requirements and Section 3.1 – Minimum Bunch Weight (Draft Codex Standard for Table Grapes) – at Step 3, Annex 1. The Australian Government would like to thank the Committee for the opportunity to make comments.

1. Section 2.1.2 – Maturity Requirements

Australia supports the need for description, composition and quality factors in commodity standards to reflect natural variations in these factors on a global basis in order to ensure that a standard is applicable on a world-wide basis and to ensure that these factors are not more trade restrictive than necessary to fulfil their objective. This is in line with the Commission's position on this issue (paragraph 98, Alinorm 05/28/41).

Australia is currently considering data that will further inform its position when this issue is discussed at the upcoming CCFV meeting later this year.

2. Section 3.1 – Minimum Bunch Weight; Section 4.2.3 – For All Classes

Australia wishes to reiterate that weight provisions should not be included in commodity standards as they place unnecessary limits on commercial trade, and have no bearing on health and safety or eating quality. In addition, bunch weights are dictated by market and consumer demand and will vary according to variety size, intended use (food service/catering, retail), packaging, etc. For this reason Australia does not support minimum bunch weights for table grape varieties. Australia would therefore like to see one of the following options in the standard: a) no minimum bunch weight value given and a general provision indicating that bunch weights should be established according to market need and varietal characteristics b) if a value is given, there should be an accompanying statement that this value should be used as a guidance only and flexibility may be allowed to cater for market demand and varietal characteristics.

INDIA

2.1.1 MINIMUM MATURITY REQUIREMENTS

IN CASE THE GRAPE CULTIVARS ORIGINATING FROM CERTAIN COUNTRIES ARE LISTED, THEN INDIA SHOULD ALSO BE LISTED AS SEPARATE COUNTRY ALONG WITH THE SYNONYMOUS NAMES.

WITH REGARD TO THOMPSON SEEDLESS AND ITS MUTANTS, INDIA WOULD SUPPORT THE FOLLOWING COMBINATION OF BRIX AND SUGAR-ACID RATIO :

IN ORDER TO SATISFY THIS REQUIREMENT THE FRUIT MUST HAVE OBTAINED A REFRACTOMETRIC INDEX OF AT LEAST 16°BRIX.

FRUIT WITH A SMALLER REFRACTOMETRIC INDEX (LESS THAN 16° BRIX) ARE ACCEPTED PROVIDED THE SUGAR-ACID RATIO IS AT LEAST EQUAL TO 20 : 1.

EXCEPTIONS :

- *THOMPSON SEEDLESS AND ITS MUTANTS*
 - 17.0° BRIX RATIO NOT APPLICABLE
 - OR 15.0°- 16.9° AND 20 : 1
 - NOT ACCEPTABLE BELOW 15° BRIX

3.1 MINIMUM BUNCH WEIGHT

INDIA SUPPORTS THE FOLLOWING PROVISIONS FOR MINIMUM BUNCH WEIGHT :

GRADE	LARGE BERRIES (GMS.)	SMALL BERRIES (GMS.)
<i>EXTRA CLASS</i>	<i>200</i>	<i>150</i>
<i>CLASS I</i>	<i>150</i>	<i>100</i>
<i>CLASS II</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>75</i>

4.2.3 SIZE TOLERANCES – FOR ALL CLASSES

10% BY WEIGHT OF BUNCHES NOT SATISFYING THE SIZE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE GRADE BUT MEETING THE SIZE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE GRADE IMMEDIATELY BELOW.

The above formulation would take care of grapes belonging to large berry or small berry varieties in their respective grades and whether the packages are intended for institutional or catering or consumer sales.

SWITZERLAD

Agenda Item 4a), Proposed draft Codex Standard for Table Grapes

(Draft Section 2.1.1– Maturity Requirements, and draft Section 3.1 – Minimum Bunch Weight)

Switzerland supports high standards and therefore endorses the working group’s proposals on the matter (Proposal A).

Thank you very much, dear Mr President, for your attention to this matter .

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

The European Community would like to submit the following comments regarding CX/FFV 06/13/7:

The European Community considers that requirements in the codex standards should be applied to all varieties and exceptions for specific variety should be avoided. The European Community agrees with the proposal A of the working group on maturity requirements:

Section 2.1.2 - Maturity Requirements

The table grapes must be sufficiently developed and display satisfactory ripeness.

In order to satisfy this requirement, the fruit must have obtained a refractometric index of at least 16° Brix.

Fruit with a lower refractometric index are accepted provided the sugar/acid ratio is at least equal to:

(a) 20:1 if the Brix level is greater than or equal to 12.5° and less than 14° Brix,

(b) 18:1 if the Brix level is greater than or equal to 14° and less than 16° Brix.

The European Community considers that minimum bunch weight should be fixed at 100 gr. with the exception of bunches intended for single servings. However to ensure that this exception is not used to get round the minimum size requirement, provisions concerning labelling should be set.

The EC is of the view that terms which are not clearly defined should be avoided (i.e. "institutional package", "consumer package").

To facilitate interpretation of the size tolerance, the EC proposes to specify the number of bunches accepted in each sale package.

The EC recommends the following changes for sections 3.1 and 4.2.3 of the draft codex standard for table grapes.

Section 3.1 - Minimum Bunch Weight

The minimum bunch weight shall be ~~75-100~~ gr. Bunches intended for single servings below ~~75-100~~ gr. are permitted provided it is indicated on the label. ~~for institutional, catering, consumer packages intended for single servings.~~

Section 4.2.3 - For All Classes

In each sales package not exceeding 1.5 kg net weight, no more than ~~10% by weight of 1~~ bunches weighing less than ~~75-100~~ gr. are allowed to adjust the weight, provided the bunch meets all other requirements of the specified class.

Section 6.2.4 - Commercial Identification

"Bunches below 100 gr. intended for single servings" if appropriate.

PERU

1. PROPOSED DRAFT SECTION 2.1.2 – MATURITY REQUIREMENTS AND SECTION 3.1 – MINIMUM BUNCH WEIGHT (DRAFT CODEX STANDARD FOR TABLE GRAPES) (AT STEP 3)

Technical Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables of the CNC from Peru through the Standardization Committee of Exportations Agroindustrial Products –Subcommittee of Table Grapes has elaborated the Peruvian Technical Standard NTP 011.012 UVA DE MESA. Requirements, approved in January 2005. Thereby, the following opinion in relation to Sections 2.1.2 and 3.1 based on the NTP 011.012 UVA DE MESA. Requirements, which is detailed as follows:

PROPOSAL A (Working Group on Table Grapes)	PROPOSAL B (United States of America and India)	Peru Comments (Peruvian Technical Standard NTP 011.012:2005 TABLE GRAPES. Requirements)
Section 2.1.2 Maturity Requirements	Section 2.1.2 Maturity Requirements	Minimal requirements (related to quality)
The table grapes must be sufficiently developed and display satisfactory ripeness.	The table grapes must be sufficiently developed and display satisfactory ripeness.	The table grapes must be sufficiently developed and display satisfactory ripeness.
In order to satisfy this requirement, the fruit must have obtained a refractometric index of at least 16° Brix.	In order to satisfy this requirement, the fruit must have obtained a refractometric index of at least 16° Brix.	Fruit must have a ripeness measured with a thermocompensated refractometer that shall be gauged in zero, equal or upper that indicated in the Annex of this Standard, or to have a sugar/acid ratio 20:1.
Fruit with a lower refractometric index are accepted provided the sugar/acid ratio is at least equal to:	Fruits with a lower refractometric index (less than 16°Brix) are accepted provided the sugar/acid ratio is at least equal to 20:1:	

<p>(b) 20:1 if the Brix level is greater than or equal to 12.5° and less than 14° Brix,</p> <p>(c) 18:1 if the Brix level is greater than or equal to 14° and less than 16° Brix.</p>	<p>Exceptions:</p> <p>(a) T. Seedless and mutants :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 17.0 Brix; Ratio Not Aplicable or - 15.0° - 16.9°Brix; Ratio 20:1 or - Not acceptable below 15° Brix. <p>(b) Perlette & Sugraone :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 15.5°Brix; Ratio Not Aplicable or - 14.0° - 15.4°Brix, Ratio 20:1 or - Not acceptable below 14°Brix. 	<p>Table A.1. Minimal soluble solids and threshold soluble solids for table grapes.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>CULTIVARS</th> <th>SOLUBLE SOLIDS (°BRIX)</th> <th>THRESHOLD SOLUBLE SOLIDS (°BRIX)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Sugarone/ superior seedless</td> <td>15,5</td> <td>15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Italia</td> <td>16,0</td> <td>15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cardinal</td> <td>15,5</td> <td>15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Crimson Seedless</td> <td>15,5</td> <td>15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Christmas Rose</td> <td>15,5</td> <td>15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Red Globe</td> <td>15,5</td> <td>15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gross Colman</td> <td>15,5</td> <td>15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Alfonso Lavallee</td> <td>15,5</td> <td>15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Small Berry:</td> <td></td> <td>15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Flame Seedless</td> <td>15,5</td> <td>15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Thompson Seedless</td> <td>15,5</td> <td>15</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Ratio = 20:1</p>	CULTIVARS	SOLUBLE SOLIDS (°BRIX)	THRESHOLD SOLUBLE SOLIDS (°BRIX)	Sugarone/ superior seedless	15,5	15	Italia	16,0	15	Cardinal	15,5	15	Crimson Seedless	15,5	15	Christmas Rose	15,5	15	Red Globe	15,5	15	Gross Colman	15,5	15	Alfonso Lavallee	15,5	15	Small Berry:		15	Flame Seedless	15,5	15	Thompson Seedless	15,5	15
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<p>SECTION 3.1 – MINIMUM BUNCH WEIGHT</p> <p>The minimum bunch weight shall be 75gr. Bunches below 75gr. are permitted for institutional, catering, consumer packages intended for single servings.</p>	<p>MINIMUM BUNCH WEIGHT</p> <p>The minimum bunch weight shall be 75 gr. according to the Peruvian Technical Standard.</p>																																					

<p>SECTION 4.2.3 – FOR ALL CLASSES</p> <p>In each sales package not exceeding 1.5 kg net weight, no more than 10% by weight of bunches weighing less than 75 gr. are allowed to adjust the weight, provided the bunch meets all other requirements of the specified class.</p>	<p>FOR ALL CLASSES</p> <p>Peruvian Technical Standard considers that in each package for direct sale to the consumer not exceeding 1 kg net weight is allowed to adjust the weight with a bunch below 75 gr., provided the bunch meets all other requirements of the specific class.</p>
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