

codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



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Agenda Item 4(a)

CX/FFV 06/13/7
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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME CODEX COMMITTEE ON FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

*13th Session,
Mexico City, Mexico, 25 - 29 September 2006*

PROPOSED DRAFT SECTION 2.1.2 - MATURITY REQUIREMENTS AND SECTION 3.1 - MINIMUM BUNCH WEIGHT (draft Codex Standard for Table Grapes)

(AT STEP 3)

Codex Members and Observers wishing to submit comments on the above matters, including possible implications for their economic interests, should do so in conformity with the Uniform Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Standards and Related Texts (Codex Alimentarius Commission Procedural Manual) before **30 June 2006**. Comments should be directed:

to:

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with a copy to:

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BACKGROUND

1. The 12th Session of the Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables reasserted its previous decision to retain the draft Codex Standard for Table Grapes at Step 7 pending finalization of the sections on maturity requirements and minimum bunch weight with the understanding that no additional comments would be requested on the agreed sections¹.
2. Based on the above decision, the Committee considered maturity requirements (Section 2.1.2) and minimum bunch weight together with a list of small-berry varieties (Section 3.1 - Minimum Bunch Weight & Annex on small-berry varieties)² of the draft Codex Standard for Table Grapes as follows:

¹ ALINORM 05/28/35, paras. 27-30 & Appendix IV.

² ALINORM 05/28/35, paras. 59-68 & Appendix V.

3. **Maturity Requirements:** The Committee considered a simplified approach by identifying two maturity parameters i.e. soluble solids content (Brix value) and sugar/acid ratio. The Committee agreed that minimum Brix values could be set for seedless varieties and for all other varieties along with a single minimum sugar/acid ratio for all varieties. Consequently, maturity requirements vis-à-vis varieties or group of varieties listed in an Annex was discontinued.

4. **Minimum Bunch Weight:** The Committee had an exchange of views on the usefulness of having an Annex listing small-berry varieties and the difficulties of updating such a list. The Committee noted that the main aim of the list was to distinguish small-berry varieties vis-à-vis the minimum bunch weight for these varieties. The Committee agreed, in principle, to discontinue the consideration of the Annex and to consider a simplified approach by establishing a single minimum bunch weight for all varieties.

5. The Committee further agreed that a final decision on the above matters would be taken after consultation of Codex members/observers with their national associations/producers.

6. The Committee decided to reconvene the working group led by Chile to revise Sections 2.1.2 - Maturity Requirements and 3.1 - Minimum Bunch Weight based on this new approach and the comments, including additional proposals, submitted in response to CL 2005/25-FFV. Consequential amendments to other sections of the draft Standard should also be considered when revising the above sections. The Committee noted that a physical meeting of the working group might assist in the resolution of the matters surrounding maturity requirements and minimum bunch weight.

Proposal of the Working Group on Table Grapes

7. The joint meeting of the working groups on table grapes and apples was held in Santiago, Chile, from 20 - 23 February 2006 at the kind invitation of the Government of Chile. The meeting on table grapes was chaired by Mrs Antonieta Urrutia, International Affairs Division, Agriculture and Livestock Service. The meeting was attended by delegates from 10 Member countries, one Member Organization and one Observer from an international organization. The list of participants is attached as Annex II.

Maturity Requirements

8. The working group based its discussions on the proposal contained in ALINORM 05/28/35-Appendix V and the comments³ submitted through CL 2005/25-FFV as well as relevant UN/ECE documents including the UN/ECE Standard/Recommendation for Table Grapes. Following an extensive discussion, the working group agreed on a proposal as contained in Part A of Annex I. The delegations of the USA and India expressed their reservation to this proposal.

9. The delegation of the USA indicated that some parts of the proposal did not account for the differences in maturity levels and special attributes on individual table grapes varieties and production zones. Both delegations requested that the proposal should indicate exemptions for some grape varieties which were not supported by the other delegations. Consequently, the delegations of the USA and India made an additional proposal as contained in Part B of Annex I.

10. In addition, the delegation of India requested that the Committee considered the inclusion of varieties in an Annex as contained in its comments submitted at the last session of the Committee (CRD 6).

Minimum Bunch Weight

11. The working group agreed on a minimum bunch weight of 75 gr. for all varieties with the exception of special packages intended for single servings (see Annex I). The delegation of Italy supported a minimum bunch weight of 100 gr. The delegation of India supported a minimum bunch weight of 50 gr. for small berry varieties.

Size Tolerances

12. As a result of the above discussion, the working group introduced a consequential amendment to size tolerances applicable to all quality classes as contained in Annex I. The delegation of India indicated that a packaging up to 1.5 kg did not qualify for small berry varieties.

³ Comments of Chile, Italy, the United States of America and Uruguay.

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

13. Codex Members and Observers are invited to comment on the proposals contained in Annex I as directed on the cover page. The proposals along with the comments submitted will be considered by the Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables for finalization and inclusion in the draft Codex Standard for Table Grapes so that a complete document can be forwarded to the Codex Alimentarius Commission for final adoption at Step 8. In submitting comments, Codex members and observers are kindly reminded that they should be made in the framework of the draft Codex Standard for Table Grapes (Agenda Item 4a) held at Step 7 pending finalization of the provisions in Annex I.

ANNEX I

**PROPOSED DRAFT SECTION 2.1.2 - MATURITY REQUIREMENTS
AND SECTION 3.1 - MINIMUM BUNCH WEIGHT
(draft Codex Standard for Table Grapes)**

(AT STEP 3)

| <p>PROPOSAL A (WORKING GROUP ON TABLE GRAPES)</p> | <p>PROPOSAL B (UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND INDIA)</p> |
|--|---|
| <p>Section 2.1.2 - Maturity Requirements</p> <p>The table grapes must be sufficiently developed and display satisfactory ripeness.</p> <p>In order to satisfy this requirement, the fruit must have obtained a refractometric index of at least 16° Brix.</p> <p>Fruit with a lower refractometric index are accepted provided the sugar/acid ratio is at least equal to:</p> <p>(a) 20:1 if the Brix level is greater than or equal to 12.5° and less than 14° Brix,</p> <p>(b) 18:1 if the Brix level is greater than or equal to 14° and less than 16° Brix.</p> | <p>Section 2.1.2 - Maturity Requirements</p> <p>The table grapes must be sufficiently developed and display satisfactory ripeness.</p> <p>In order to satisfy this requirement, the fruit must have obtained a refractometric index of at least 16°Brix.</p> <p>Fruit with a lower refractometric index (less than 16°Brix) are accepted provided the sugar/acid ratio is at least equal to 20:1.</p> <p><u>Exceptions:</u></p> <p>(a) T. Seedless and mutants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 17.0 Brix; Ratio Not Applicable 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 Applicable or • 14.0°-15.4°Brix; Ratio 20:1 or • Not acceptable below 14°Brix. |
| <p>Section 3.1 - Minimum Bunch Weight</p> <p>The minimum bunch weight shall be 75 gr. Bunches below 75 gr. are permitted for institutional, catering, consumer packages intended for single servings.</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> | |

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