

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, Italy - Tel: (+39) 06 57051 - E-mail: codex@fao.org - www.codexalimentarius.org

Agenda Item 7

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**JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME
CODEX COMMITTEE ON FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES
20th Session
Kampala, Uganda, 2 – 6 October, 2017
COMMENTS ON PROPOSED DRAFT STANDARD FOR FRESH DATE**

(Comments submitted by Albania, Bangladesh, Ecuador, Iran, Jamaica, Kenya, Trinidad and Tobago)

BACKGROUND

This document compiles the comments on the proposed draft standard for fresh date at Step 3 of the Procedure, submitted through the Codex Online Commenting Systems (OCS). The comments are as shown in the Appendix.

The Online Commenting System (OCS) is an online tool that enables contact points to submit comments on draft texts in a standardised way thus providing more transparency and better management of comments on different Codex texts as requested through Circular Letters. Since its launching at CAC39 (2016), the OCS has been used for different Codex Committees.

EXPLANATORY NOTES ON THE APPENDIX

Structure of Comments

The Comments submitted have been presented in a table format, with each Table divided into the following two Columns as follows:

First Column – Provides the proposed changes made by contact points on the text, and is divided into general comments and comments specific to a paragraph.

Second Column – Provides its author and the rationale (explanation) of the comment. For general comments, only the author of the comment is included.

General Comments	Members or observers
Ok	Albania
<p>Regarding comments in past two rounds of consultation it seems that in SECTION 4. PROVISIONS CONCERNING SIZING dates size and grades still not well defined due to the inherent variation in size grades and maturity stages among the world commercial dates varieties. As you know we had proposed the complementary sizing/grading level which did not included in the latest version of the proposed draft standard. We had proposed this sizing / grading level based on the dates type as follows: Dates Type: in three levels of A, B, and C for naturally small, medium, and large size dates respectively. To be more accurate, the maturity level could be included too.</p>	Iran
<p>The last paragraph of the scope should be removed since it gives a statement a condition. The last paragraph of the scope should be removed since it gives a statement and a condition by use of the word shall.</p>	Trinidad and Tobago

Specific comments	Members or observers/Rational
TITLE	
PROPOSED DRAFT STANDARD FOR FRESH DATES	
ANTEPROYECTO DE NORMA PARA LOS DÁTILES FRESCOS	Ecuador Ecuador agradece a India por la oportunidad de comentar el documento. Por lo cual, desea informar, que ha realizado la correspondiente revisión y ha decidido abstenerse de realizar comentarios y observaciones al mismo, ya que el dátil no es un cultivo producido ni consumido fresco en este país.
1. SCOPE	
SCOPE The [The purpose of the standard is to define the quality requirements for fresh dates at the export-control stage after preparation and packaging. However, if applied at stages following packaging, products may show in relation to the requirements of the standard: 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.]	Kenya
2. DEFINITION OF PRODUCE	
DEFINITION OF PRODUCE SCOPE This Standard applies to commercial varieties of Dates (<i>Phoenix dactylifera</i> L. from Arecaceae family), to be supplied fresh and whole to the consumer in pitted or unpitted form after preparation and packaging. Other forms such as pieces or mashed dates or dried or dates Dates intended for industrial purposes are excluded.	Kenya
3. PROVISIONS CONCERNING QUALITY	
3.1 MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS	
Intact intact; ; Sounds sound; ;	Bangladesh To maintain a sequence first letter of all bullet should be small in font.
free from living pests, insect eggs and mites;	Jamaica Section 3.1: Minimum Requirement indent 5 Pest includes and refers to : insects, insect eggs, and mites. According to IPPC Pest is defined has "any species, strain or biotype of plant, animal or pathogenic agent injurious to plants or plant products". Therefore combine indent 5 to 7 to read " practically free of pests and damage caused by them affecting the general appearance of the produce"
free of fermentation;	Jamaica Section 3.1: Minimum Requirement indent 8 What is a establish verification process to determine presence of fermentation?
free of unpollinated fruit, as indicated by stunted growth, immature characteristics and naturally absence of pit;	Jamaica Section 3.1: Minimum Requirement indent 10 Rewrite text to read "free of undeveloped and deformed fruits that are not in keeping with the true characteristics of the produce."
free from living pests, insect eggs and mites including their debris or excreta ; free from pest damage, including the presence of dead insects, their debris or excreta;	Kenya

3.1.1	
3.1.1 The development and condition of the dates must be such as to enable them:	Bangladesh Clause number should be bold to maintain a sequence of whole document.
3.1.2 Maturity Requirements	
Dates fruits must be sufficiently developed and have reached an appropriate degree of development and ripeness. Dates shall have a moisture content not exceeding 65%, in accordance with criteria to the variety and stage of harvest/or commercial type and the area in which they are grown. Moisture content range from 45-65% for khalal ¹ stage (partially ripe); 30-45% for rutab ² stage (fully ripe) and less than 26-30% for tamar ³ stage (semi-dry).	Jamaica This maturity requirement will require third party verification to validate the percentage level of moisture content prior to export or at point of inspection in importing country.
Dates fruits must be sufficiently developed and have reached an appropriate degree of development and ripeness. - Dates shall have a moisture content not exceeding 65%, in accordance with criteria to the variety and stage of harvest/or commercial type and the area in which they are grown. - Moisture content range from 45-65% for khalal ¹ stage (partially ripe); - 30-45% for rutab ² stage (fully ripe) and - less than 26-30% for tamar ³ stage (semi-dry).	Kenya
3.2 CLASSIFICATION	
3.2.3 Class II	
This class includes dates which do not qualify for inclusion in the higher classes, but satisfy the minimum requirements specified in Section 23.1 above.	Bangladesh Use wrong section number. It will be 3.1 instead of 2.1
4. PROVISIONS CONCERNING SIZING	
When sized by weight:	Bangladesh Insert a colon
When sized by count, size is determined by the number of individual dates per package. comment: we propose the combination of pitted and unpitted date tables into one complete table for ease of reference. When graded: comment: The grades outside the stated grades A to E in the the table in clause 4 b) need to be identified need further grading.	Kenya

5. PROVISIONS CONCERNING TOLERANCES	
5.1 QUALITY TOLERANCES	
<u>Defects Allowed</u> <u>Characteristics of Defects</u>	Bangladesh 1st column is not defects allowed. This is why, it will be `Characteristics of Defects'
<u>Defects Allowed for</u> Extra Class	Bangladesh The word `Defects Allowed' will be inserted before in the existing title of column 2, 3 and 4
<u>Defects Allowed for</u> Class I <u>Defects Allowed for</u> Class II	Bangladesh
55 4010 1515	Bangladesh Not bold
0.25 <u>25</u> (specify a unit i.e. mg or g)	Bangladesh A unit should be setting for quantify of soil in column 2, 3, and 4 in the Table.
41*	Bangladesh in column 2, 3 and 4 of the table described the acceptable limit of three variety. But it should be clarify that these limit is acceptable out of how much pieces of `Dates' or what is the packet size?
- Soil	Jamaica Fresh Dates are considered fruits that can be consumed in its natural form and may not require a kill process (heat) before consumption. If so, then provision for soil tolerance should not be accepted - soil is a true vehicle for pathogen transfer and contamination.
Damage by pest	Jamaica No tolerance should be given for damage done by pest, also the current tolerance percentage established in this document would be considered too high. Pest damage is a major food safety concern due to the ability for pest to transfer pathogenic organisms.
6. PROVISIONS CONCERNING PRESENTATION	
6.2 PACKAGING	
Dates must be packed in such a way so as to protect the produce properly. The materials used inside the package must be of food grade quality, 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.	Jamaica Section 6.2 on Packaging, second sentence: rewrite text to read "the package must be of food grade quality, clean and of a quality such as to avoid cross - contamination to produce".
7.2.1 Identification	
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 abbreviation)" has to he-s/he indicated in close connection with the code mark.	Bangladesh Only 'he' is the particular gender dominating word
7.2.4 Commercial Identification	
Crop year (optional) <u>year</u>	Bangladesh Delete the word 'optional'. Because harvesting year is important to prevent deterioration the quality of Dates. So this is not an optional issue.

8. CONTAMINANTS	
<p>8.1 8.1 The produce covered by this Standard shall comply with the maximum residue limits for pesticides established by the Codex Alimentarius Commission and where there is no relevant Codex MRLs recognition of destination country MRLs is an alternative.</p> <p>8.2 The produce covered by this Standard shall comply with the maximum levels of the <i>General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed</i> (CODEX STAN 193-1995).</p>	<p>Bangladesh Bold the clause number</p>
9. HYGIENE	
<p>9.1 9.1 It is recommended that the produce covered by the provisions of this Standard be prepared and handled in accordance with the appropriate sections of the <i>General Principles of Food Hygiene</i> (CAC/RCP 1-1969), <i>Code of Hygienic Practice for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables</i> (CAC/RCP 53-2003), and other relevant Codex texts such as Codes of Hygienic Practice and Codes of Practice.</p> <p>9.2 The produce should comply with any microbiological criteria established in accordance with the <i>Principles for the Establishment and Application of Microbiological Criteria for Foods</i> (CAC/GL 21-1997).</p>	<p>Bangladesh Bold the clause number.</p>