

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 4

CX/FFV 22/22/5 Add.1
Original language only

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME CODEX COMMITTEE ON FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Twenty-second Session

PROPOSED DRAFT STANDARD FOR BERRY FRUITS

Comments in reply to CL 2021/85/OCS-FFV

*Comments of Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Cuba, Egypt, European Union,
Ghana, India, Kenya, Thailand, Uganda and Uruguay*

Background

1. This document compiles comments received through the Codex Online Commenting System (OCS) in response to CL 2021/85/OCS-FFV issued in December 2021. Under the OCS, comments are compiled in the following order: general comments are listed first, followed by comments on specific sections.

Explanatory notes on the appendix

2. The comments submitted through the OCS are hereby attached as **Annex I** and are presented in table format.

GENERAL COMMENTS

COMMENT	MEMBER / OBSERVER
<p>Standard for berries</p> <p>Under point 11. CCFFV21 further considered the revised version of the proposed draft standard (CCFFV21/CRD13), noted concerns on the following provisions that still needed to be addressed: (i) Title of the Standard – whether to change it to reflect draft standard to berries and other small fruits;... then "Berries", although it is a denomination of type of fruit, is a term generally used for small berry fruits.</p>	Argentina
<p>Cuba al dar respuesta a la carta circular CL 2021/85/OCS-FFV, apoya el documento de Anteproyecto de Norma del Codex para las frutas de Bayas.</p>	Cuba
<p>India supports the Proposed Draft Standard for Berry Fruits.</p>	India
<p>Comment: Replace must with shall Justification: For consistence with other codex texts</p> <p>Comment: Include the word 'fresh' to read 'PROPOSED DRAFT CODEX STANDARD FOR FRESH BERRY FRUITS' Justification: To clarify the tittle to be more specific to the scope of CCFFV.</p>	Kenya

1. SCOPE

<p>Under point 11. CCFFV21 further considered the revised version of the proposed draft standard (CCFFV21/CRD13), noted concerns on the following provisions that still needed to be addressed: .. (ii) Section 1: Scope – examine the necessity of the second paragraph under the scope (either to retain it or to delete it); then it is suggested to keep this second paragraph in the 1-SCOPE if the Codex Model Standard is so.</p> <p>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 with standard such conformity.</p>	Argentina
--	------------------

<p>Comment: Moved the sentence to clause 3. 'However, if applied at stages following packaging, onions and shallots may show in relation to the requirements of the standard:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a slight lack of freshness and turgidity; <p>a slight deterioration due to their development and their tendency to perish'</p> <p>Justification: This statement applies more to quality parameter rather than scope</p> <p>Comment: Added second statement from definition of produce to read. 'This Standard applies to commercial varieties of berries and shall be supplied fresh to the consumer after preparation and packaging; berries intended for industrial processing are excluded.'</p> <p>Justification: The para fits more as part of scope rather than a definition of produce.</p> <p>Comment: Add the term 'fresh' to first statement to read. 'The purpose of the standard is to define the quality requirements for fresh berries, after preparation and packaging.'</p> <p>Justification: To clarify the statement to be more specific to the scope of CCFFV.</p>	Kenya
<p>Section 1 SCOPE , 2nd paragraph It is important to ensure that the holder/seller is responsible for observing the conformity of fresh produce with the standard, especially for Berry fruits which are very susceptible to physical damage through poor handling. Therefore, the second paragraph as provided in the Layout for Codex Standard for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables should be retained in this Section to read as follows:</p> <p>"1. SCOPE The purpose of the standard is to define the quality requirements for berries, as defined in section 2, after preparation and packaging. However, if applied at stages following packaging, berry fruits may show in relation to the requirements of the standard:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a slight lack of freshness and turgidity; - a slight deterioration due to their development and their tendency to perish <p>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."</p>	Thailand
<p>Uganda proposes to transfer the second statement "However, if applied at stages following packaging, berry fruits may show in relation to the requirements of the standard to section 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a slight lack of freshness and turgidity; • a slight deterioration due to their development and their tendency to perish." <p>Rationale: This statement applies more to quality rather than scope</p>	Uganda

2. DEFINITION OF PRODUCE

<p>For the revision of the scientific names and the completion with the identifier of the species, the following was consulted: https://npgsweb.ars-grin.gov/gringlobal/taxon/taxonomysimple.aspx 10.-Cowberries, Lingonberry (<i>Vaccinium vitis-idaea</i> L);</p> <p>The species is "vitis idaea" not "vitis ideae". 16.- Camu (<i>Myrciaria dubia</i> (Kunth) Mac Vaugh); It was completed with the name of the identifier. 18.-Strawberry-Guava (<i>Psidium cattleianum</i> Sabine);</p> <p>The species is "cattleianum" not "cattleianum". 20.- Elderberry (<i>Sambucus nigra</i> L); Familia: <i>Viburnaceae</i>.</p> <p>It was completed with the name of the identifier. In addition, it belongs to the Family of <i>Viburnaceae</i> not to that of <i>Solanaceae</i>.</p>	Argentina
<p>Taking into consideration the decision of CCFFV21 to include missing varieties, Brazil would like to propose the addition of <i>Malpighia emarginata</i> DC. And <i>Malpighia</i> sp. (Moc. & Sesse) (<i>Malpighiaceae</i> Family) and <i>Spondias tuberosa</i> Arruda ex Kost. (<i>Anacardiaceae</i> Family) to the list of the commercial varieties of berries - Section 2 Definition of Produce.</p> <p>General quality provisions of the proposed Draft Standard apply without the need of any specifics in regard to the proposed varieties.</p> <p>Rationale: Those fruits are generally considered as berries in Brazil, besides being commercially relevant and currently listed in the Annex of the GENERAL STANDARD FOR FRUIT JUICES AND NECTARS (CODEX STAN 247-2005).</p> <p>Additional list of varieties, complementary to the previous comments:</p> <p>Taking into consideration the decision of CCFFV21 to include missing varieties, Brazil would like to propose the inclusion of the following list of berries to the list of the commercial varieties of berries - Section 2 Definition of Produce:</p> <p>Brazil-Cherry <i>Eugenia brasiliensis</i> Lam. (<i>Myrtaceae</i> Family)</p> <p>Craboo <i>Byrsonima crassifolia</i> (L.) Kunth (<i>Malpighiaceae</i> Family)</p> <p>General quality provisions of the proposed Draft Standard apply without the need of any specifics in regard to the proposed varieties.</p>	Brazil

<p><u>) Raspberries <i>Rubus idaeus</i> L.); Saskatoon Berry (<i>Amelanchier Alnifolia</i>)</u></p> <p>Canada believes that this variety should be added in the Rosaceae Family in the table. If Saskatoon Berry is included in the table, the numbering for the following commercial varieties should be adjusted accordingly.</p>	Canada
<p>Move the part mentioning "berries intended for industrial processing are excluded" to Scope</p>	Egypt
<p>It needs to be clarified whether this fruit is internationally traded as a fresh fruit for the final consumer or only to processing. If it is for processing only, Camu (<i>Myrciaria dubia</i>) cannot be covered by this standard.</p> <p><u>) Jaboticaba <i>Plinia trunciflora peruviana</i> (Poir.) Govaerts (Berg Kaus):</u> Number 17 should be deleted or corrected. The correct species name is Jaboticaba (<i>Plinia peruviana</i> (Poir.) Govaerts). It is a stone fruit, not a berry fruit. The Jaboticaba is highly perishable. It needs to be clarified whether it is internationally traded as a fresh fruit for the final consumer or only sold locally. If no agreement on deletion can be reached, the taxonomy should be correct: According to GRIN, <i>P. trunciflora</i> is the synonym to <i>P. peruviana</i>. See https://npgsweb.ars-grin.gov/gringlobal/taxon</p> <p><u>) Strawberry-Guava <i>Psidium cattleianum</i> cattleyanum Sabine):</u> Number 18, Strawberry-Guava should be deleted and integrated in CODEX STANDARD FOR GUAVAS (CODEX STAN 215-1999, AMD. 1-2005). If no agreement on deletion can be reached, the typographical error should be corrected (<i>Psidium cattleyanum</i> Sabine) See https://npgsweb.ars-grin.gov/gringlobal/taxon</p> <p><u>) Elderberry <i>Sambucus nigra</i>):</u> Number 20, Elderberry (<i>Sambucus nigra</i>) should be deleted. This fruit is not traded on the fresh market but for processing only. Thus, it cannot be covered by this standard.</p> <p><u>Mortife) Columbian blueberry <i>Vaccinium floribundum</i> Kunth):</u> The common name in English should be indicated</p>	European Union
<p>Comment: Added definition of a berry fruit to read 'Berry fruit- A berry is a small, pulpy, and often edible fruit. Typically, berries are juicy, rounded, brightly colored, sweet, sour or tart, and do not have a stone or pit, although many pips or seeds may be present.' Justification: This definition is clearer.</p> <p>Comment: Amended opening statement before the table to read., 'The commercial varieties of fresh berries shall be of the varieties as shown below.' Justification: Added this opening statement for clarity</p>	Kenya

3. PROVISIONS CONCERNING QUALITY

<p>The berries in this class must be of superior quality and they must be characteristic of the variety and/or commercial type of the species or in the case of wild berries characteristic of the species concerned.</p> <p>— Bilberries and blueberries should be practically free of agglomerated berries and must be practically covered with bloom, according to the varietal characteristics.</p> <p>Red and white currant panicles must be completely filled.</p> <p>Black currant panicles may not be completely filled and single berries are allowed.</p> <p>They must be free from defects, with the exception of very slight superficial defects, provided these do not affect the general appearance of the produce, the quality, the keeping quality, the pulp or flesh and presentation in the package.</p> <p><u>3.2.1 “Extra” Class</u></p> <p>Canada recommends removing the “Extra” Class from the standard.</p> <p>Canada notes the highly perishable nature of berry fruits, their physiological characteristics, harvest and post-harvest practices, where zero or close to zero tolerance is difficult to achieve in all cases. Additionally, based on trade experiences (domestic, import and export) and the innate characteristics of these products, “Extra Class” is not used.</p> <p>If the “Extra” Class is retained, Canada recommends including a tolerance for decay, soft rot and/or internal breakdown of berry fruits of one percent (1.0%), as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Included therein, is one percent (1.0%) tolerance for decay, soft rot and/or internal breakdown. 	<p>Canada</p>
<p>slight defects in shape<u>very slight leakage of juice;</u></p> <p>very slight bruising<u>slight defects in coloring, depending on the specie and variety;</u></p> <p>;<u>slight skin defects</u>and</p> <p>slight damage.</p> <p>defects in shape<u>slight leakage of juice;</u></p> <p>defects in coloring, depending on the specie and variety; and <u>slight bruising</u></p>	<p>European Union</p>

<p>skin defects.</p> <p><i>The following defects may be allowed, provided the berry fruits retain their essential characteristics as regards the quality, the keeping quality and presentation in the package:</i></p> <p>Again, the indents on shape, coloring, skin and damage should be deleted. In Class I, only a very slight leakage of juice is allowed. Thus, in context of a normal progression from Class I to Class II “a slight“ leakage only should be allowed. The EUMS propose to modify the indents as follows: firm;</p> <p>Berry fruit are soft by nature. Thus, it is not very helpful to require “firmness”. This indent should be deleted. fresh in appearance;- <u>intact</u></p> <p>It is essential that berries are intact, otherwise they will not have any shelf life, so a new indent should be added. free of any foreign smell and/or taste, <u>including bitter taste in case of bilberries;</u></p> <p>It is important to refer to this specific defect in bilberries. <i>The following slight defects, however, may be allowed, provided these do not affect the general appearance of the produce, the quality, the keeping quality, the flesh and presentation in the package:</i></p> <p>No producer or trader sorts berry fruits for defects in shape, color or skin. Color does play a role only as an indicator for ripeness and this is covered by section 3.1.1. Slight damage should be specified with respect to the susceptibility. The EUMS propose to modify the indents as follows: The berries must have reached an appropriate degree of development and/or maturity in accordance with the criteria to the specie, variety, commercial type <u>be sufficiently developed and display satisfactory maturity and/or ripeness according to the area in which they are grown, that allows the proper development of its organoleptic characteristics. The berries must not be over-ripen. Some berry fruits such as gooseberries may be presented as hard ripesppecies.</u></p> <p>The original wording gives the impression that all berry species are climacteric. As they are not, the EUMS propose a more open wording. “The berries must be sufficiently developed and display satisfactory maturity and/or ripeness according to the species.”</p>	
<p>Comment: Delete practically free from pests as one of the minimum requirements. Justification: This is regulated under the IPPC and provisions applied by governments. In the draft, provision is already made for the freedom of damage caused by pests (bullet 6) and freedom of visible foreign matter (bullet 4), all aspects that define provisions concerning quality. The provisions from freedom of pests should be left to member governments to implement as per their legal requirements as guided by IPPC.</p> <p>Comment: Added the clause lifted from scope to read. ‘ If the standard is applied at stages following packaging, fresh berries may exhibit changes in relation to the requirements; :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a slight lack of freshness and turgidity; • a slight deterioration due to their development and their tendency to perish. ’ <p>Justification: Revised and moved from clause 1 to clause 3- Fits more as a quality concern.</p>	<p>Kenya</p>

<p><i>The berries must have reached an appropriate degree of development and/or maturity in accordance with the criteria to the specie, variety, commercial type and to the area in which they are grown, that allows the proper development of its organoleptic characteristics. The berries must not be over-ripeoverripe. Some berry fruits such as gooseberries may be presented as hard-firm ripe.</i></p> <p>Alternate terms are proposed for technical clarity in the second sentence</p>	Thailand
<p><i>Practically free from damage caused by pests;</i></p> <p>Uganda proposes to add “diseases” at the end of the bullet Rationale: Damage may be caused as a result of disease as well thus pests and diseases better presented together</p>	Uganda
<p><i>Los mirtilos o arándanos y los arándanos azules o moras azules deben estar prácticamente exentos de bayas aglomeradas y deben estar prácticamente cubiertos de floración, según las características varietales.</i></p> <p>Los blueberry y los bilberry corresponde a la misma especie que se cultiva en diferentes lugares, se sugiere que en la versión en español la frase se redacte de la siguiente forma: “ Los arándanos deben estar.....”.</p> <p><i>No deben tener defectos, salvo defectos superficiales muy leves/ligeros siempre y cuando no afecten al aspecto general del producto, su calidad, estado de conservación, la pulpa y la presentación en el envase.</i></p> <p>Se sugiere subir este párrafo, como párrafo 3.</p>	Uruguay

5. PROVISIONS CONCERNING TOLERANCES

<p><i>,At all marketing stages measuring tolerances in respect of quality and size (if sized) shall be allowed in each lot for produce not satisfying the requirements of the class indicated. Produce that fail conformity assessment, may be allowed to be resorted and brought into conformity in accordance with the relevant provisions in the Guidelines for Food Import Control System (CXG 47-2003).</i></p> <p>This section grants tolerances and not “the measuring” of tolerances. A size tolerance can only be granted if sized.</p>	European Union
<p>The tolerance of 4.0% for decay, soft rot and /or internal breakdown is too high as these defects are serious defects for berry fruits and may pose a food safety risk. We propose reducing the tolerance to 3.0 %.</p>	Thailand

6. PROVISIONS CONCERNING PRESENTATION

<p><i>, The content of each package must be uniform and contain only berries from the same origin species variety or commercial type type or, in the case of wild berries, species, quality, colour and size (if sized). The visible part of the contents of the package must be representative of the entire contents.</i></p> <p>Cultivated berries should be uniform in variety or commercial type, while berries picked in the wild can only be uniform as to species.</p> <p><i>However, Berry fruits in Class "Extra" and Class I must be practically uniform in ripeness. However, a mixture of berries of distinctly different species and/or varieties may be packed together, as long as they are uniform in quality and each species and/or variety being from the same origin. Berry fruits in Class "Extra" and Class I must be practically uniform in ripeness.</i></p> <p>This provision on ripeness in Classes Extra and I should be a general one and not be linked to berries in mixtures only. The EUMS propose to put the last sentence as a separate, second paragraph.</p>	<p>European Union</p>
---	------------------------------

7. PROVISIONS CONCERNING MARKING OR LABELLING

<p>Each <i>Wild" or equivalent denomination may be included, where appropriate. "Each package may be labelled "Mixture of berry fruits", in the case of a mixture of distinctly different species and/or varieties of berry fruits. The species and/or varieties in the package must be indicated. "Wild" or equivalent denomination may be included, where appropriate.</i></p> <p>This provision related to "wild" is a general one and should not be linked to berries in mixtures only. The EUMS propose to put the last sentence as a separate, second paragraph.</p> <p>In <i>Mixture of berries", or equivalent denomination, in "the case of a mixture of berries of distinctly different varieties species. If the produce is not visible from the outside, names of the different varieties species and/or varieties in the package must be indicated.</i></p> <p>On non-retail containers the term "mixture of berries" should appear in order to clearly inform the consumer. Just a list of varieties is not clear enough.</p> <p>Weight or size <i>Size expressed in accordance with the method used (if sized);</i> Sizing is optional. The size indication should be in accordance with the method applied. The indent on size should be reworded. Crop year (optional);</p> <p>Berry fruits have a short shelf life. There is no need nor trade habit to indicate the crop year. Even the optional indication is not common in trade. Thus the indent on crop year should be deleted.</p>	<p>European Union</p>
<p>India proposes deletion of sections "7.2.1 to 7.2.4". Rationale: As per recent format. The General Standard for the Labelling of Non-Retail Containers of Foods (CXS 346-2021) covers all aspects.</p>	<p>India</p>

8. CONTAMINANTS

Comment: Add Pesticide residues to read. 'Pesticide residues and Contaminants.'

Justification: Tittle changed to include pesticide residues which is an intentional addition that does not fit definition of contaminant

Kenya