

codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



JOINT OFFICE: Viale delle Terme di Caracalla 00100 ROME Tel: 39 06 57051 www.codexalimentarius.net Email: codex@fao.org Facsimile: 39 06 5705 4593

Agenda Item 4(c)

CX/FFV 02/11

CX/FFV 02/11-Add.1

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

Tenth Session,
Mexico City, Mexico, 10-14 June 2002

Proposed Draft Codex Standard for Tomatoes

(At Step 3)

E

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

The European Community thanks Mexico and the other countries having taken part in the preparation of this proposed draft standard, as well as the Secretariat of Codex alimentarius. On the one hand, this proposed draft Codex standard is much closer to the UNECE standard for tomatoes than the earlier version which had been submitted to the last CCFFV meeting. Moreover, Annex II makes it possible to locate easily the principal amendments proposed in relation to the existing UNECE standard, which will facilitate largely the work of CCFFV at its next session.

2.2.1. Extra Class

The sentence "They must be uniform in terms of size" can be suppressed: this uniformity requirement is taken up again in paragraph 3 (sizing) and in paragraph 6.1 (uniformity).

2.2.2. Class I

Second paragraph

7th indent:

The Community prefers the drafting of the UNECE standard ("a small umbilicus, but no suberization ") rather than that of the proposed draft ("small non lignified umbilical scars"). This kind of defect can hardly be described as a scar.

9th indent:

In view of the OECD brochure on tomatoes, this indent seems redundant with the 3rd indent (slight skin defects)

10th indent:

The Community believes that the first part of this indent repeats the contents of the 8th indent. The 10th indent could therefore be read more simply: "- a linear scar no longer than..."

2.2.3. Class II

first paragraph

The Community proposes suppressing the word "sensorial". This sentence refers to the minimum requirements mentioned in 2.1: the word "sensorial" does not appear in 2.1.

third paragraph, third indent

The Community wishes the healed cracks not to be admitted for cherry tomatoes (the diameter of which is low, therefore for which such cracks are defects too important to be accepted). The Community proposes adding the following words to the third indent: "... **for round, ribbed or oblong tomatoes.** ")

3. Size

Footnote 3 does not seem applicable to oblong and ribbed tomatoes: the Community wishes it to be deleted.

4. Colour

The Community does not have objections to include a section on colour, on an optional basis, to the Codex standard for tomatoes.

The Community proposes as a first step harmonising the description of colours to the descriptions used in the OECD interpretative brochure for tomatoes:

Green: the tomato has completed its development. It shows a whitish or yellowish star at the blossom end. At least 10% of the skin of the fruit will have a yellowish tinge.

Turning: the external colour of the tomato is between yellowish and pink, covering 10 to 30% of the surface.

Orange-coloured: the external colour of the tomato is uniform and can vary between pink and orange red covering 30 to 60% of the surface.

Red: the external colour of the tomato is uniform and can vary between reddish and bright red over more than 60% of the surface."

5.1.3. Quality tolerances

The Community does not wish to reduce the tolerances of class II by limiting to 5% maximum tomatoes presenting serious damage due to insects and to 1% maximum squashy tomatoes.

5.2. Size tolerances

Both subparagraphs of this paragraph seem redundant, but slightly differing one from the other: the Community prefers, for reasons of loyalty of commercial practices, limiting tolerances to sizes immediately below or immediately above.