

codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



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Agenda Item 4(d)

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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 Guidelines for the Quality Control of Fresh Fruits and Vegetal
(At Step 3)

E

COLOMBIA

There are no comments for this document.

GERMANY

TITLE OF THE DOCUMENT

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| 1. amendment | change the word „quality control“ to „conformity control“ |
| motivation | the inspections referred to in this document are intended to check whether the produce is in conformity with the relevant standard; the wording should reflect this. |

1. DEFINITIONS, Official inspection system and official certification system

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| 2. amendment | 1 st line: change the word „official certification system“ to „official certification systems“ |
| motivation | typing error, correction necessary to be grammatically correct |
| 3. amendment | 2 nd line: change the word „performed“ to „perform“ |
| motivation | typing error |

1. DEFINITIONS, officially recognized inspection systems and officially recognized certification systems

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| 4. amendment | Title: change the word „systems“ to „system“ |
| motivation | typing error, the singular should be used in a definition |
| 5. amendment | 1 st line: insert after the words „which have“ the words „enforcement function and have“ |
| motivation | although the „Codex Principles for Food Import and Export Certification“ does not specify the function of the official recognized inspections systems and officially recognized certification systems, the guidelines for the quality control of fresh fruits and vegetables should be more precise |
| 6. amendment | insert after „officially recognized inspection systems and officially recognized certification systems“ the following definition |

CONTROL BODY

The control body is the competent body having enforcement function and may be an official inspection system, an official certification system, an officially recognized

inspection system or an officially recognized certification system.

motivation Throughout the text the term „quality control body“ is used; a definition of this term would help the reader of the document.

As the control body will have to check the conformity of a produce with the relevant standard, the proposal is to use the term „control body“ instead of „quality control body“.

1. DEFINITIONS: Quality inspector

7. amendment *TITLE: REPLACE THE TERM „QUALITY INSPECTOR“ BY „INSPECTOR“*

motivation as the inspector will have to check the conformity of a produce with the relevant standard, the term „inspector“ would be more appropriate than „quality inspector“

8. amendment *1ST LINE: REPLACE THE WORDS „AN OFFICIAL RECOGNIZED INSPECTION SYSTEMS AND OFFICIAL CERTIFICATION SYSTEM“ BY „A CONTROL BODY“*

motivation in general the inspector is the authorized person of a control body which may have an official status or an officially recognized status

1. DEFINITIONS: certification

9. amendment *1ST LINE: REPLACE THE WORDS „OFFICIALLY CERTIFIED BODIES AND OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZED BODIES“ BY „CONTROL BODIES“*

motivation in general certification is the procedure which is carried out by control bodies may there status be official or officially recognized

10. amendment *2ND AND 3RD LINE: REPLACE THE WORD „FOODS“ AS WELL AS THE WORD „FOOD“ BY „FRUIT AND VEGETABLES“*

motivation although the definition is taken from the „Codex Principles for Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification“, the term „food“ should be replaced by „fruit and vegetables“ to better adapt the text to the guideline in question and to avoid any confusion

11. amendment *4TH LINE: REPLACE THE WORDS „FINISHED PRODUCTS“ BY „PACKED PRODUCE“*

motivation although the definition is taken from the „Codex Principles for Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification“, the term „finished products“ should be replaced by „packed produce“ to better adapt the text to the guideline in question and to avoid any confusion

1. DEFINITIONS: inspection

12. amendment *1ST LINE: REPLACE TWICE THE WORD „FOOD“ BY „FRUIT AND VEGETABLES“*

motivation although the definition is taken from the „Codex Principles for Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification“, the term „food“ should be replaced by „fruit and vegetables“ to better adapt the text to the guideline in question and to avoid any confusion

13. amendment *1ST LINE: DELETE THE WORDS „INCLUDING IN-PROCESS“*

motivation although the definition is taken from the „Codex Principles for Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification“, the words „including in-process“ should be deleted as this is not an appropriate step for fresh fruit and vegetables

14. amendment *2ND LINE: REPLACE THE WORDS „FINISHED PRODUCTS TESTING“ BY „EXAMINATION OF PACKED PRODUCE“*

motivation although the definition is taken from the „Codex Principles for Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification“, the words „finished products testing“ should be replaced by „examination of packed produce“ to better adapt the text to the guideline in question and to avoid any confusion

15. amendment *2ND LINE: REPLACE THE WORD „REQUIREMENTS“ BY „STANDARDS“*

motivation although the definition is taken from the „Codex Principles for Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification“, the word „requirements“ should be replaced by „standards“

to better adapt the text to the guideline in question

1. DEFINITIONS: requirements

16. amendment
motivation

TITLE: REPLACE THE TERM „REQUIREMENTS“ BY „STANDARDS“

although the definition is taken from the „Codex Principles for Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification“, the term „requirements“ should be replaced by „standards“ to better adapt the text to the guideline in question that is related to a standard setting body. Moreover, it should be pointed out very clearly that other requirements such as pesticide residues, plant hygiene etc. are not covered by the guideline in question.

17. amendment
motivation

1ST LINE: REPLACE THE TERM „REQUIREMENTS“ BY „STANDARDS“ AND REPLACE THE TERM „FOODSTUFFS“ BY „FRUIT AND VEGETABLES“

although the definition is taken from the „Codex Principles for Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification“, the terms mentioned above should be replaced to better adapt the text to the guideline in question

1. DEFINITIONS: consignment

18. amendment
motivation

1ST LINE: REPLACE THE TERM „QUANTITY“ BY „QUANTITY“

typing error; replace capital Q by small q

19. amendment
motivation

2ND LINE: REPLACE THE TERM „FRUITS“ BY „FRUIT“

typing error; „fruits“ refers to the number of items whereas „fruit“ is the term covering all types

1. DEFINITIONS: lot

20. amendment
motivation

1ST LINE: REPLACE THE WORDS „TAKEN FROM THE CONSIGNMENT, AND ALLOWING THE QUALITY OF THE CONSIGNMENT TO BE ASSESSED. UNIFORM CHARACTERISTICS MEANS:“ BY „WITH REGARD TO:“

although the definition is taken from the „ISO 874, Fresh Fruit and Vegetables - Sampling“, the wording should be simplified and brought in line with the „UN/ECE Guide for the Implementation of Quality Control of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables“

21. amendment
motivation

INSERT A 2ND PARAGRAPH (AFTER THE INDENT „TYPE OF PACKAGING AND PRESENTATION“ THAT READS: „HOWEVER, IF DURING CONTROL OF CONSIGNMENTS IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN DIFFERENT LOTS AND/OR PRESENTATION OF INDIVIDUAL LOTS IS NOT POSSIBLE, ALL LOTS OF A SPECIFIC CONSIGNMENT MAY BE TREATED AS ONE LOT IF THEY ARE SIMILAR IN REGARD TO TYPE OF PRODUCE, DISPATCHER, COUNTRY OF ORIGIN, CLASS AND VARIETY OR COMMERCIAL TYPE, IF THIS IS PROVIDED FOR IN THE STANDARD.“

this definition is taken from the „ISO 874, Fresh Fruit and Vegetables - Sampling“, and appears in the guideline in question at a wrong place (see 2.3); the wording should be brought in line with the ISO 874 and the „UN/ECE Guide for the Implementation of Quality Control of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables“

1. DEFINITIONS: sampling

22. amendment
motivation

1ST LINE: REPLACE THE WORD „SAMPLE“ BY „SAMPLES“

typing error

23. amendment
motivation

1ST LINE: DELETE THE WORDS „OF APPROXIMATELY EQUAL SIZE“

this wording should be part of the definition of „primary sample“

24. amendment
motivation

1ST LINE: INSERT THE WORD „TEMPORARILY“ AFTER „TAKEN“

to be in line with the „UN/ECE Guide for the Implementation of Quality Control of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables“ the word „temporarily“ should be inserted to make clear that the samples taken will be part of the lot again after inspection

1. DEFINITIONS: bulk sample

25. amendment *IST LINE: REPLACE THE WORD „INDIVIDUAL“ BY „PRIMARY“*
 motivation the term „individual sample“ should be replaced by the term „primary sample“ to be in line with the definition mentioned above
26. amendment *IST LINE: INSERT THE WORDS „OF APPROXIMATELY EQUAL SIZE“ BEFORE THE WORD „WHOSE“*
 motivation this is the place where the reference to the size of the primary samples should be mentioned (instead of the reference under „sampling“

1. DEFINITIONS: reduced sample

27. amendment *IST LINE: DELETE THE WORDS „IF NECESSARY“*
 motivation The question whether it is necessary or not to make a reduced sample should not be part of a definition

2.1 GENERAL REMARKS

28. amendment *IST LINE: REPLACE THE WORD „LOTS“ BY „LOT“*
 motivation The inspection procedure refers only to one lot at a time.
29. amendment 2nd line: delete the words „quality of the“ twice
 motivation the guideline refers to conformity checks, this means that the word quality could be misleading; moreover the proposed wording would align the text with the „UN/ECE Guide for the Implementation of Quality Control of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables“
30. amendment 2nd line: replace the word „produce“ by „lot“
 motivation the guideline should specify the item inspected which is the lot and not „produce“ in general; moreover the proposed wording would align the text with the „UN/ECE Guide for the Implementation of Quality Control of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables“
31. amendment 3rd to 5th line: text should be deleted
 motivation a selective sampling is not really necessary in the case of conformity checks; the „UN/ECE Guide for the Implementation of Quality Control of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables“ does not provide for such requirements

2.2 PLACE OF INSPECTION

32. amendment *IST LINE: REPLACE THE WORD „OR“ BY „AND“*
 motivation the inspections may be carried out at several places; it is not the question of inspecting either at the dispatch or at the import point, it can be done at both places
33. amendment As the Codex standards are valid at all levels of distribution, it should be discussed whether the place of inspection is sufficiently described; eventually the places wholesale market, distribution centre and retail should be mentioned too

2.3 PREPARATION OF A LOT FOR SAMPLING

34. amendment title: replace the word „preparation“ by „presentation“ and delete the words „for sampling“
 motivation the chapter covers more than just preparation of a lot for sampling, it includes requirements concerning information and presentation. Therefore, it is recommended to align the wording accordingly and to the „UN/ECE Guide for the Implementation of Quality Control of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables“
35. amendment *IST PARAGRAPH SHOULD BE REPLACED BY THE FOLLOWING: „THE TRADER OR HIS/HER REPRESENTATIVE SHALL INFORM THE CONTROL BODY WHENEVER A CONSIGNMENT IS AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION.“*

- motivation In today's business it is mainly not feasible to inform the competent control body 24 or 48 hours before the dispatch of the fact that an inspection would be necessary or possible. Therefor, it is recommended to use the wording of the „UN/ECE Guide for the Implementation of Quality Control of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables“ without any time limits.
- It is important to refer only to the lot in this context, as it is just the lot that should be dealt with and not the whole consignment. An inspector may or may not inspect the whole consignment but one or several lots out of one consignment.
36. amendment the 2nd and 3rd paragraph should be replaced by the following text: „The inspector decides which packages are to be controlled. The presentation shall be made by the trader or his/her representative. The procedure shall include a presentation of the bulk sample as well as the supply of all information necessary for the identification of the consignment or lot.“
- motivation The very detailed provisions concerning preparation of a lot are not really necessary and may not be appropriate at all times and all occasions. Therefor, it is recommended to use the wording of the „UN/ECE Guide for the Implementation of Quality Control of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables“.
37. amendment 4th paragraph: delete the words „to perform more detailed inspections“
- motivation to check for internal defect is not „a more detailed inspection“ but part of the normal inspection, therefor the words mentioned above should be deleted
38. amendment 5th paragraph should be deleted
- motivation this paragraph is part of „1. Definitions: Lot“
39. amendment 6th paragraph should be replaced by the following: „Each lot shall be sampled separately, but if the lot lacks uniformity or shows damage, it shall be divided into uniform lots and each lot shall be sampled separately.“
- motivation The special requirements necessary for lots that are not uniform (special case are lots showing transport damage) are relevant for all levels of distribution. Therefor, the reference to the import stage should be avoided. Anyway, as soon as an inspector verifies a lot as a uniform one, he/she must divide the lot into uniform parts; the reference to consignee, consignor and agreement between buyer and seller is misleading and does not describe the work of an inspector in the right way.

2.6.2 VERIFICATON OF MARKING ON THE BASIS OF PRIMARY SAMPLE

40. amendment 1st line: delete the word „quality“ before „standards“
- motivation the reference should be made to „standards“ instead of „quality standards“, as the CCFV is dealing with minimum standards which are not always considered as being high quality standards

2.6.3 SAMPLING

41. amendment 3rd line: replace the words „individual samples“ by „primary samples“
- motivation the amendment is proposed to refer to the term as defined in this guideline
42. amendment a 2nd paragraph should be annexed: „Damaged packages shall not be used as part of the bulk sample. They should be set aside and may, if necessary, be subject to a separate examination and report.“
- motivation this paragraph is necessary to instruct the inspector, that obviously damaged packages should not be part of the bulk sample otherwise the result would not be conform to the average of the lot
43. amendment a 3rd paragraph should be annexed: „The bulk sample should comprise the following quantities whenever a consignment is declared unsatisfactory.“

motivation It is very important to insert this paragraph to make clear, that in the case of non-conformity the bulk sample must be of a certain minimum size. Moreover, in case of a lot that is obviously uniform and in conformity with the standard, it is not necessary to inspect the number of packages indicated in the table below.

2.6.3 SAMPLING – FOOTNOTE TO PACKAGED PRODUCTS AND PRODUCTS IN BULK

44. amendment delete the footnote „Table 1 and 2 are taken from the ISO 874, Fresh Fruits and Vegetables – Sampling. Participating country may experiment with another sampling method than the one provided, it has previously notified its intention to the Quality Control Body concerned.“

motivation the sampling described in this guideline should be the official reference method; any experiments run by control bodies, countries or traders are possible but the final and official result must be achieved according to this guideline.

2.6.3 SAMPLING - TABLE 1

45. amendment headline: delete the word „similar“

motivation by definition the packages of a bulk sample must be of similar size, whether they are similar with respect to the content, must be checked during inspection.

46. amendment last line: replace „(min.)“ by „(minimum)“

motivation to avoid any misunderstanding it is better to write the full word instead of using an abbreviation

2.6.3 SAMPLING – 2) PRODUCTS IN BULK

47. amendment delete the 1st sentence „At least five primary samples shall be taken at random from each lot, corresponding to a total mass or a total number of bundles as given in table 2.“

motivation The tables referring to the size of the bulk sample are in force since many decades; it has never been necessary to fix a minimum size of the bulk sample in the case of products in bulk

48. amendment The 2nd sentence should come after the table for „products in bulk“

the sentence refers to „packaged products“ as well as to „products in bulk“

2.6.3 SAMPLING - TABLE 2

49. amendment last line: replace „(min.)“ by „(minimum)“

motivation to avoid any misunderstanding it is better to write the full word instead of using an abbreviation

2.6.3 SAMPLING

50. amendment 2nd last paragraph: insert „may carry out another inspection“ after the words „he/she“ and delete the words „take more samples“

motivation it is necessary to refer to another inspection instead of „take more samples“ as the sampling must be based on at least the number of primary samples as laid down in table 1 and 2, otherwise it would not be correct to calculate the average of the two inspections

51. amendment last paragraph: delete the words „(e.g. hollow heart in potatoes)“

motivation it is misleading to draw the attention to one specific internal defect. This sentence refers to the fact that certain methods of inspection may destroy the trade value of a product, e. g. by cutting a fruit in two halves to check for internal defects or inner quality (taking juice for evaluating the Brix value).

2.7 INSPECTION OF PRODUCE

52. amendment 2nd last line: delete the words „officially authorized quality“

motivation by definition in this guideline the correct term is „control body“

2.8 REPORT OF THE INSPECTION RESULTS

53. amendment 1st paragraph, 2nd last line: insert the word „receiver“ after „sender“
 motivation as this guideline is intended for inspection at import stage too, only those lots not in conformity with the standard should be taken together that are destined for the same receiver
54. amendment 2nd paragraph 1st line and 2nd last line: replace the words „authorized person“ by „trader“
 2nd paragraph 1st line: replace the word „his“ by „his/her“
 motivation this is to bring in line with the proposals mentioned above (2.3)
55. amendment 3rd paragraph 1st line: replace the word „may“ by „must“
 motivation this is to underline the need to specify the percentage of defects found
56. amendment 3rd paragraph: the 2nd sentence should be deleted „This is not necessary if it is possible to achieve compliance with the standard by a change in the marking of the product.“
 motivation every result achieved by an inspector should be recorded, once the trader has been informed about the result of the inspection, he or she may decide on the follow-up actions
57. amendment 3rd paragraph 1st line: delete the word „Quality“
 motivation by definition the competent body is named „Control Body“; the reference to „Quality“ should be deleted

2.9 NON-CONFORMING PRODUCE

58. amendment 1st line: replace the words „authorized person“ by „trader“
 motivation this is to bring in line with the proposals mentioned above (2.3)
59. amendment insert the words „or trade to the fresh market“ after the word „shipment“
 motivation this is proposed to refer to the import and later stages of trade as well as to the fact that the non-conformity produce may be marketed to processing companies

2.10 (new) SECURING THE IDENTITY

60. amendment this new chapter should read as follows:
 „If as a result of a conformity control it is necessary for the produce to be reconditioned to comply with the standard, the authorized person or his /her representative should arrange for this to be carried out under the control of the Control Body.
 When completed the produce should be represented and re-inspected.
 The trader, or his/her representative and the Control Body should ensure that there is no sale of the non-conformity produce.
 motivation this proposal is made to align this guide to the „UN/ECE Guide for the Implementation of Quality Control of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables“; the requirements are very necessary to make sure that the follow-up actions in case of non-conformity are carried out correctly

2.10 DECLINE IN VALUE BY QUALITY CONTROL

61. amendment title: replace „2.10“ by „2.11“ and „Quality“ by „Conformity“
 motivation the inspections referred to in this document are intended to check whether the produce is in conformity with the relevant standard; the wording should reflect this
62. amendment 1st paragraph: replace the words „authorized person“ by „trader“
 motivation this is to bring in line with the proposals mentioned above (2.3)
63. amendment 2nd and 3rd paragraph: delete the word „Quality“
 motivation this is proposed to align the text to the definition

ANNEX I – CERTIFICATE OF QUALITY FOR FRESH FRUIT AND VEGETABLES

64. amendment title and 1st paragraph, 1st line: replace „Quality“ by „Conformity“
 motivation the inspections referred to in this document are intended to check whether the produce is in conformity with the relevant standard; the wording should reflect this
65. amendment box no. 1 and box no. 3: delete the word „Quality“
 motivation this is proposed to align the text to the definition
66. amendment box no. 6: insert the word „flight number“ after the word „vessel“
 motivation this is proposed to align the text to the fact that there is a transport via air too
67. amendment box no. 6, 2nd line: replace the word „bay“ by the word „by“
 motivation typing error
68. amendment box no. 12: insert the word „or entry“ after „departure“
 motivation this proposal is made to align the text to the fact that this guideline is valid for the import inspection too
69. amendment box no.12, 1st indent: the word „departure form the exporting country“ should be replaced by the word „inspection“
 motivation this proposal is made to align the text to the fact that this guideline is valid for the import inspection too
70. amendment box no.12, 1st indent: the words „competent national authority“ should be replaced by the word „inspector“
 motivation this proposal is made to align the text to the fact that it is always the inspector who fixes the duration of the certificate; he or she may be guided by a directive of his/her authority, but this guideline should refer to the inspector

ANNEX I – CERTIFICATE OF QUALITY FOR FRESH FRUIT AND VEGETABLES

71. amendment title: replace the word „Quality“ by „Conformity“
 motivation the inspections referred to in this document are intended to check whether the produce is in conformity with the relevant standard; the wording should reflect this
72. amendment box 1: replace „exporter and importer“ by „trader“
 motivation this proposal is made in case the guideline and certificate are intended to cover the subsequent levels of marketing too
73. amendment boxes 8, 9 and 10 need more lines to fill in more than one lot
 motivation this proposal is made to align the certificate to the daily life of an inspector
74. amendment box 12: the text should read „The above-mentioned Control Body certifies that on the basis of inspection by sampling that the goods correspond, at the time of inspection, with the standards in force“
 motivation this proposal is made to align the text of the certificate with the text of the guideline
75. amendment box 12: insert the word „entry“ after the word „departure“
 motivation this proposal is made to align the text to the fact that this guideline is valid for the import inspection too
76. amendment box 12: replace „inspection“ by „inspector“
 motivation typing error
77. amendment box 12: replace „Seal of Quality Control Body“ by „Stamp of the Control Body“

motivation It is better to use the word „stamp“ instead of „seal“ as the latter one may be a term reserved for special authorities or special actions in the one or the other country

ANNEX II – CERTIFICATE OF ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF NOTIFICATION FOR FRESH FRUIT AND VEGETABLES

78. amendment the annex II should be deleted completely

motivation this guideline deals with inspection, but the annex II refers to an acknowledgement of notification which is not mentioned throughout the text of the guideline; moreover, it refers to a special certificate that has been in use in the European Communities before 1993; this certificate turned out to be unnecessary.

GUYANA

1) At sub-clause 1.1, 'Official inspection Systems' should be changed to "Official Inspection System". 'To performed' should be changed to "To perform".

2) At sub-clause 1.2, 'An government agency' should be changed to "A government agency".

3) At sub-clause 1.3., 'person of an official recognized Systems and official certification system' should be changed to "person of an officially recognized inspection system and or an officially recognized certification system".

4) At sub-clause 1.5, 'control of food and distribution including sampling' should be changed to "control of food and distribution, including composite sample".

5) The definition of bulk sample at sub-clause 1.11, is similar to that of composite sample. As such, bulk sample should be excluded. If composite sample is accepted, and bulk sample deleted, all references to bulk sample should be replaced with composite sample.

6) At sub-clause 2.1, 'By assessing bulk sample taken at random' should be changed to "By assessing samples taken random".

At sentence #2, 'Presumption that the quality of the produce conforms to the quality of the bulk sample' should be changed to "Presumption that the quality of the sample conforms to the quality of the produce".

At sentence #4, 'carried out a random' should be changed to "carried out at random".

At sentence #5, 'before sampling is commenced' should be changed to "Before sampling commences".

7) At sub-clause 2.3, 'A person who wishes to have a consignment or a lot of produce inspected, should notify, at least.....or a lot is available for inspection' should be changed to "Before sampling commences", a person..... inspected, should notify the quality control body at least 24 hours in advance that a consignment..... inspection.

At sentence #2, 'should supply of all information necessary' should be changed to "should supply all information necessary".

At paragraph #2 sentence #1, 'In such as way' should be changed to "In such a way". At paragraph #2, sentence #4, 'In order to reach every sample randomly' should be changed to "In order to allow random sampling".

At paragraph #3, 'The samples shall be taken by the quality control body or by officially recognized bodies' should be changed to "The samples shall be taken by an authorized person of the Quality Control Body".

There is no previous reference to the Quality Control Body and a statement should be made about this prior the first reference to this body.

At paragraph #5. 'may be treated as one lot' should be changed to "May be treated as one lot.

8) At sub-clause 2.5, #4, 'scales, when it is required by inspection' should be changed to "Scales, when it is required by the quality inspector".

9) At sub-subclause 2.6.2, sentence #1, 'According to the quality standards' should be changed to "According to the prescribed quality standards".

10) At sub-subclause 2.6.3, sentence #1, 'Size of the bulk sample should be changed to "Size of the composite sample". Sentence #2, 'From which individual samples should be taken' should be changed to "From which primary samples should be taken".

11) At table #one, the second heading, "each constituting a primary sample" should be deleted.

12) At sub-subclause 2.6.3, (2) paragraph #2, 'He/she take more samples' should be changed to "He/she may take more samples".

At paragraph #3, sentence #1, "this applies in particular to.....value of the produce". This statement is unclear.

13) At sub-clause 2.7, sentence #1, should be specific to Guyana. Reference to individual countries should be excluded. The first sentence of the second paragraph needs clarification.

14) At sub-clause 2.10, paragraph #2, "sample destroyed during the inspection" needs to be clarified. One cannot hand back destroyed elements? or can destroyed be replaced with confiscated?

IVORY COAST

1) Introduction

The Fruit and Vegetables Quality Inspection and Certification Systems should lead to the proposal of a task specification considering:

- the geographic indication;
- the country of origin,
- the economical reality,
- the intellectual property right.

The politics of proceedings depend on the engagement of the producers to respect the requirements of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and of the European Union (EU).

The control given to a third party offers to both the producers and the consumers a security and a protection.

The Ivory Coast, by disposing of a respective legislation, will permit to qualify the fruits and vegetables and other agricultural products according to their geographical indication or country of origin and to allow for a protection.

The process of the fruit and vegetable quality control is based on previously fixed characteristics regarding:

- the production,
- the packing,
- the storage and the facilities,
- the transformation,
- the distribution,
- the hygienic conditions.

2) Regarding the inspection of fruits and vegetables (draft document)

2.2) Chapter 2 – Implementation of Inspection Procedures (page 3)

Item 2.2 (page 3): Place of inspection

It would be desirable to mention the places of inspection at the "import point", as these can be the place of packing or the point of loading, and to write: " the inspection may be effected at the point of dispatch, during transport or at the import point (place of packing or point of loading).

Item 2.3 (page 3): Preparation of a lot for sampling

In order to define the responsibilities, it would be desirable to write: "the samples shall be taken by the inspector of the Quality Control Body himself or by the inspector of an officially recognized body".

It would also be convenient to write: "if reduced samples are required to perform more detailed inspections, these are identified and selected once more by the quality inspector himself from the bulk sample".

Regarding the distinction between the different lots of a particular consignment, we think that the introduction of a bar code for tracing would be a solution. It may consist of an 8 number code (producers, day, year, palette number, etc...).

Item 2.10 (page 6): Decline in Value by Quality Control.

The CODEX may propose some legal and legislative dispositions for the member countries that want to force, through their regulations, the quality control body to replace to the producer the samples destroyed during the inspection.

3. Conclusion

Without restrictions to the aforementioned, the Coast of Ivory supports the promotion of this proposed draft guidelines, which respond to a real need.

MEXICO

It is suggested to delete the colon after the subchapters (2.3. , 2.6.3 y 2.7)

1. DEFINITIONS

It says: Official inspection systems and official certification system.

It is suggested: Official inspection and certification systems

It says: official inspection systems and official certification systems

It is suggested: official inspection and certification systems

It says: Officially recognised inspection systems and officially recognised certification systems

It is suggested: officially recognised inspection and certification systems

Quality inspector:

It says: Authorised person from an official recognised inspection system and official certification system

It is suggested: Authorised person from an officially recognised inspection and certification system

Certification:

It says: quality guaranty systems (in the Spanish version), and examination of finished products.

It is suggested: quality assurance systems, and the test of finished products

Inspection:

It says: inspection is the examination of food or systems for control of food and distribution including in-process and finished product testing, in order to verify that they conform to requirements.

It is suggested: inspection is the examination of food (fresh fruits and vegetables) or systems for control of food and distribution, including in-process and finished product testing, in order to verify that they conform to requirements.

Requirements:

It says: Requirements are criteria set down by the competent authorities relating to trade in foodstuffs covering the conditions of fair trading.

It is suggested: Requirements are quality criteria set down by the competent authorities relating to trade in foodstuffs covering the conditions of fair trading.

Consignment:

It is suggested: Consignment (Shipment)

Lot:

It is suggested: Uniform characteristics means

2.1 GENERAL REMARKS

It says: .. by assessing bulk samples taken at randomthe quality of the produce conforms to the quality of the bulk sample.

It is suggested: .. by assessing samples taken at random ,,,the quality of the product conforms to that of the sample.

2.2 PLACE OF INSPECTION

It says: ... or at the import point.

It is suggested: ... or at the destination point

2.3 PREPARATION OF A LOT FOR SAMPLING:

It says: ... if this is provided for in the standard.

IT IS SUGGESTED: IF THIS IS PROVIDED FOR IN THE AGREED STANDARD.

It says: 2.4 IDENTIFICATION OF LOTS AND/OR GETTING A GENERAL IMPRESSION OF THE CONSIGNMENT

It is suggested: 2.4 IDENTIFICATION OF LOTS AND/OR GETTING A GENERAL CRITERIA OF THE CONSIGNMENT

It says: ... to get a general impression of the consignment.

It is suggested: ...to get a general criteria of the consignment.

2.5 ASSISTANCE TO THE QUALITY INSPECTOR

IT IS SUGGESTED TO INCLUDE A COLON AT THE END OF THE FIRST PARAGRAPH.

It says: - a suitable and correctly lighted facility where products may be inspected, which means the lighting is either coming from natural or artificial source and that the illumination...

It is suggested: .. a suitable and correctly lighted facility where produce may be inspected. The intensity

2.6 VERIFICATION OF THE LOT

2.6.1 Assessment of packaging

It says: The packaging, included the material used... If the individual standard includes ...

It is suggested: The packaging and the material used ... If the agreed standard includes...

It says: ... assess the lot to be inspected. (see 2.6.1)

It is suggested: assess the lot to be inspected. (correction of a grammatical error in the Spanish version)

2.6.2 Verification of Marking...

2) Products in bulk (in paragraph 3)

It says: (e.g., hollow heart in potatoes)

It is suggested: (e.g., hollow heart potatoes) (refers to the use of a different term for potatoes in the Spanish version)

2.8 REPORT OF INSPECTION RESULTS

Last paragraph

It says: ... an official certificate should be completed for each ...

It is suggested: an official quality certificate should be completed for each ...

2.9 NON CONFORMING PRODUCE

It says: ... that there is no shipment of the non-conforming produce

It is suggested: ...that there is no shipment of the produce not complying with standard

Annex 1 CERTIFICATE OF QUALITY FOR FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

It is suggested:

To open two boxes, one for the “exporter” and one for the “importer”.

There should be spaces assigned for the shipment number and that of the inspected lot.

To eliminate at Box No. 8 and 12 the (**) for “optional”.

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

1. The EC wonders if definitions drawn from document CAC/GL 20-1995 are really necessary as the cap of the guidelines directly refers to this document?

If it is decided however to maintain these definitions, that of "certification" should be amended to start as follows: "Certification is the procedure by which official **certification** bodies and officially **certification** recognised bodies...".

2. The definition of quality inspector should amended:

"Authorised person of an **official or officially recognised inspection or certification system** who has... "

3. Along the text, the expression "Quality Control Body" is used several times, but not defined in paragraph 1. The following definition could be added:

"Quality Control Body: official or officially recognised certification or inspection body in charge within the framework of the relevant official or officially recognised inspection or certification body of carrying out the tasks relating to inspection or certification."

4. Title of Part 2: The contents of this part only refer to the inspection of products, not to the inspection of control systems (see definition of the word inspection: there are two types of inspection). It is therefore proposed to amend this title as follows:

"2. IMPLEMENTATION OF **FRESH FRUIT AND VEGETABLES** INSPECTION PROCEDURES "

5. Paragraph 2.1.: it is proposed to delete the last three sentences. The bulk sample (all the packages taken from the checked lot) has to be selected randomly in the lot that has been identified to be the subject of an inspection. The objective of the sampling is always known: to check the conformity of a given lot to all the requirements, in this case those fixed by the Codex standard concerned.

6. Paragraph 2.3.:

The first subparagraph could be reformulated in the following way, in order to avoid giving the impression that traders are the ones who decide if they are the subject of an inspection or not:

"Before the inspection, the trader should notify, at least 24 hours... **The trader** should supply of all information..."

In the second subparagraph, last sentence, for the same reasons, the word "applicant" should be replaced by the word "trader".

Sixth (and last) subparagraph could be amended as follows:

"Damaged packages shall not be used as part of the bulk sample. They should be set aside and may, if necessary, be subject to a separate examination and report. If the consignment is not considered by the **inspector** to be uniform, even if the consignor has not indicated this, it shall be divided into uniform lots and each lot shall be sampled, by agreement between **the trader and the inspector**, unless they have decided otherwise."

7. Paragraph 2.5: replace the word "applicant" by the word "trader ".

8. Paragraph 2.6.3. Sampling:

Both tables indicate the minimum size of samples necessary to decide on non-conformity (in order to protect the traders from arbitrary decision). However, it seems important that inspectors are in position to decide on conformity on the basis of more reduced samples (when the quality of the products appears excellent as from the first glance). It is consistent with the statement in the first subparagraph, which says that "the quality inspector should determine the size of the bulk sample in such a way as to be able to assess the lot to be inspected."

The following changes are therefore proposed:

In the first subparagraph of 2.6.3.1.:

"In the case of..., the **primary** samples shall be taken at random, **and, whenever a lot is declared unsatisfactory, should comprise at least the quantities listed below** :

In the first subparagraph of 2.6.3.2.:

"At least five primary samples shall be taken at random from each lot, corresponding, **whenever a lot is declared unsatisfactory, to a total mass or a total number of units, if a nonconformity decision has to be pronounced, to on the whole at least of the quantities listed below.** In the case of large fruit and vegetables (over 2 kg per unit) the primary samples shall consist of at least five units.

Table 2 - Size of primary samples

Mass of the lot (in kg) or total number of units of bundles in the lot	Total mass of primary samples (in kg) or total number of units to be taken
Unchanged	Unchanged

The word "bundles" shall be replaced by the word "units".

In the last subparagraph, the following addition is proposed:

"Certain criteria, such as **the stage of development and/or ripeness** or the presence...."

The addition of the following new subparagraph is proposed:

" The criteria on the degree of development and/or ripeness can be checked using the instruments and methods laid down to this end in the standards or in accordance with accepted practice."

9. Paragraph 2.7: At the end, replace "officially authorised" by "competent".

10. Paragraph 2.8, third subparagraph:

The second sentence should be deleted. Even when it is possible to achieve compliance by degrading the produce, traders shall be in position to know the percentages of defects that led the inspector to decide that the produce does not comply.

11. Paragraph 2.10. The third subparagraph should be deleted. It seems to be an incentive for traders to ask for financial compensations in case there are checks.