

# CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture  
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Agenda Item 4(b)

CX/FFV 12/17/8-Add.1

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

17<sup>th</sup> Session

Mexico City, Mexico, 3 – 7 September 2012

### PROPOSED DRAFT PROVISIONS FOR SIZING AND UNIFORMITY RULES AT STEP 4 (SECTIONS 3 AND 5.1) (DRAFT STANDARD FOR POMEGRANATE)

CX/FFV 12/17/8

Comments at Step 3 from Argentina, Australia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica and Iran

#### **ARGENTINA**

As regards Section 3 – Provisions concerning sizing, the electronic working group defined the following proposal for a classification:

- Sizing by weight
- Sizing by diameter
- Sizing by count

Argentina does not apply sizing by diameter (we understand that this classification neither applies in Peru, Chile, USA, Israel and Spain).

Sizing by diameter is difficult to perform due to the shape of the pomegranate. The diameter varies very rapidly, from immediately after harvest in the farm, and after one of two days following harvesting in the package. Similarly, the diameter changes radically if fruit packaged in cold storage for two months is processed.

In Argentina, the sizing is basically done by weight.

#### **AUSTRALIA**

Australia wishes to provide the following comments with regard to CX/FFV 12/17/8.

#### **3 Provisions concerning sizing**

Australia suggests that there is a typographical error in Table B. Size code 5 would have the weight:

Size code	Weight (g)
5	E >240-360 300

Australia supports the working group's recommendation that both numeric and alphabetic size codes be indicated in the standard.

#### **5.1 Size Uniformity**

While Australia understands the rationale which the working group provides for not amending the text for size uniformity and colour uniformity, Australia respectfully suggests that the current wording is not entirely consistent with the same section in several other standards for fresh fruit, including the proposed draft standard for golden passionfruit; the draft revision of Codex Standard for Avocado (CODEX STAN 197-1995); and Codex Standard for Pineapple (CODEX STAN 182-1993).

The consistent wording for this section in several Codex standards for fresh fruits is in the form:

*The contents of each package must be uniform and contain only [fruit] of the same origin, variety and/or commercial type, quality and size. For "Extra" Class, colour and ripeness should be uniform. The visible part of the contents of the package must be representative of the entire contents.*

Australia suggests that the proposed text in the draft provisions for sizing and uniformity in pomegranates is contradictory and confusing, indicating in one sentence that packages may only contain pomegranates of the same variety, size and ...., while the next sentence states that: "*packages may contain mixtures of varieties and sizes ...*". Australia reinforces its preference for the following text to be used in the interests of greater clarity and conciseness:

**Where a package contains pomegranates of the same variety, they** must be uniform and contain only pomegranates of the same origin, ~~variety, and~~ quality. ~~and size.~~

Sales packages may contain mixtures of varieties and sizes provided they are uniform in quality, and for each variety concerned, ~~its~~ **in** origin. The visible part of the contents of the package must be representative of the entire contents. ~~except for mixed sizes and varieties.~~

The suggested wording is similar to that used for the same section in the Codex Standard for Apples, Codex Stan 299-2010.Australia.

## CHILE

### Specific comments from Chile

#### Comment 1

##### Section 3. Provisions Concerning Sizing

Regarding the establishment of a size standardization of pomegranate through the tables proposed in the Draft Standard, Chile reiterates its position for not establishing size tables, or to establish wider ranges, as these could mean a restriction to their commercialization; furthermore, the provided tables are not adapted to the actual practices of the industry. In that sense, the European Union proposal seems more suitable in that point, but with some adjustments on the range of difference allowed into a box:

Proposal from Chile:

- **40** g if the weight of the smallest fruit (as indicated on the package) is more or equal to 125 g but less than 225 g;
- **9060** g if the weight of the smallest fruit (as indicated on the package) is more or equal to 225 g but less 375 g;
- **160400** g if the weight of the smallest fruit (as indicated on the package) is more or equal to 375 g but less 575 g;
- there is no limitation for difference in weight for fruits which weigh more than 575 g.

There is no size uniformity requirement for class II.

**Rationale:** Request to modify the size difference allowed between the fruits of a same package is intended to allow increasing the range of varieties included in this difference and thus consider the characteristics of varieties commercialized by Chile. The suggested wording is similar to that used for the same section in the Codex Standard for Apples, Codex Stan 299-2010.

## COLOMBIA

### VI. Section [3. PROVISIONS CONCERNING SIZING

A) When sized by weight, size is determined in accordance with the following table:

Size Code	Weight (g)
A	501 and above
B	401—500
C	311—400
D	251—310
E	191—250
F	151—190
G	125—150

A) When sized by weight, size is determined in accordance with the following table:

Size Code	Weight (g)
A	501 and above
B	<b>311 – 500</b>
C	<b>191 – 310</b>
D	<b>190 or less</b>

It is proposed to modify the size table reducing the number of codes to facilitate the sizing and fruit trade.

VII. Section [3. **PROVISIONS CONCERNING SIZING**

B) When sized by diameter, size is determined in accordance with the following table:

Size Code	Diameter (mm)
A	101 and above
B	<del>86 – 100</del>
C	<del>71 – 85</del>
D	<del>61 – 70</del>
E	<del>51 – 60</del>
F	<del>46 – 50</del>
G	<del>40 – 45</del>

B) When sized by diameter, size is determined in accordance with the following table:

Size Code	Diameter (mm)
A	101 and above
B	<b>71 – 100</b>
C	<b>51 – 70</b>
D	<b>50 or less</b>

It is proposed to modify the size table reducing the number of codes to facilitate the sizing and fruit trade.

VIII. Section [5.1 **UNIFORMITY**

...Sales packages may contain mixtures of varieties and sizes provide they are uniform in quality and for each variety concerned, its origin. The visible part of the contents of the package must be representative of the entire contents except for mixed sizes and varieties...

Eliminate the possibility of different varieties in packages for sale, because these mixtures not contribute to the quality of fruit into the packages.

**COSTA RICA**

Costa Rica welcomes the opportunity to give comments to the document CX/FFV 12/17/8 Proposed Draft Provisions for Sizing and Uniformity Rules at Step 4 (Sections 3 and 5.1) (draft Standard for Pomegranate).

(i) General Remarks:

Costa Rica considers important to standardize the provisions concerning sizing as the market trend is to standardize the produce to make the trade agile. In this sense, it is supported the numeral sizing code by weight for the pomegranate.

**IRAN****Section 3: Provision concerning sizing**

Pomegranates may be sized by count, diameter and weight. If so, then we can also include a third table classifying pomegranate sizes according to the number of individual fruit per package; package sizes of standard dimensions prevalent in commercial trade.

Iran suggestion is as follows:

**A) When sized by count, size is determined by the number of individual fruit per package (Table A).**

Size code	Count Number	Weight(g)
C	9	370-400
D	10	330-360
E	12	280-300
F	15	220-250

The tables on sizing by diameter (table A) and weight (table B) are guidelines.

Iran agrees that provisions concerning sizing should be optional, however, any size coding and parameters utilized should be clearly indicated on the package.

**Section 5.1 Uniformity**

Iran agrees that mixed fruit packages (in sizes and varieties) though rare, are not problematic to consumers or to trade practices. Hence the standard should allow for such possibilities.

In addition, pomegranates are frequently sold as single individual fruit, where standard packaging requirements would not be applicable. Iran agrees that mixed color packages are not detrimental to consumer and trade and the standard should not disallow this practice.