



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

17th Session

Mexico City, Mexico, 3 – 7 September 2012

PROPOSED DRAFT PROVISIONS FOR SIZING AND UNIFORMITY RULES

(Sections 3 and 5.1) (draft Standard for Pomegranate)

(At Step 3)

(Prepared by the Electronic Working Group on Pomegranate led by the United States of America)

Codex Members and Observers wishing to submit comments on this proposal should do so in conformity with the Uniform Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Standards and Related Texts (Codex Alimentarius Procedural Manual) as presented in the [Annex I](#) before **31 July 2012** to: the Codex Contact Point of Mexico, Dirección General de Normas (DGN), Av. Puente de Tecamachalco 6, 2do piso, Lomas de Tecamachalco Sección Fuentes, C.P. 53950 Naucalpan de Juárez, Estado de México, México (Tels.: +52 (55) 57 29 94 80, +52 (55) 57 29 91 00, Ext.: 43220, 43218; Fax: +52 (55) 55 20 97 15; E-mail: codexmex@economia.gob.mx; codexmex1@economia.gob.mx), with a copy to the Secretariat, Codex Alimentarius Commission, Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme, FAO, Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, Italy (Fax: +39 (06) 5705 4593; E-mail: codex@fao.org)

Format for submitting comments: In order to facilitate the compilation of comments and prepare a more useful comments document, Members and Observers, which are not yet doing so, are requested to provide their comments in the format outlined in Annex III to this document.

BACKGROUND

1. The 16th Session of the Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (May 2011) discussion on the “Sizing and Uniformity” provisions (Section 3 and Section 5.1) of the proposed draft Codex Standard for Pomegranate were inconclusive. The Committee established an electronic Working Group, led by the United States of America to address these concerns.¹

2. The working group commenced deliberations in September, 2011; with the goal of completing the assigned task for consideration by the CCFFV’s 17th Session in 2012. All written proposals submitted to the 16th CCFFV session on these two sections of the standard were distributed to members of the working group and other interested parties. On January 20, 2012 report of the first e-working group session was circulated to members with March 30th, 2012 as a deadline for comments to the first report.

SUMMARY

3. This report is based on the responses to the correspondence circulated in September 2011, prior written comments to the 16th CCFFV session, and extracts from the report of the 16th CCFFV session (REP11/FFV), and comments received in response to CCFFV pomegranate e-working group’s first report - circulated on 1/20/2012 with a deadline for comments of 3/30/2012.

4. Differences on sizing methods persisted into this second round of comments even among the members that submitted proposals to amend the sizing requirements in the last e-working group session. Concerns were re-emphasized that any sizing table included in the standard would be disruptive to the international fresh pomegranate trade.

5. Two amendments were submitted on sizing by weight- both reducing the number of sizes codes. One indicated that the differential between the size codes were too narrow and as a result there were too many size codes; while the other allowed greater differences/ranges per box based on the weight.

¹ REP11/FFV, paras. 107-108, 110-113 and 123.

6. A review of: (i) the comments submitted to the both sessions of the e-working group, (ii) those submitted to and made at the 16th CCFFV session, (iii) those submitted to the working group that initially drafted standard, (iv) websites of pomegranate exporters globally- it is obvious that any mandatory sizing parameter (sizing table and uniformity requirement) included in the standard will be very disruptive to the international pomegranate trade.

PROVISIONS CONCERNING SIZING

Section 3- Provision Concerning Sizing:

7. Comments submitted are summarized as follows:

- A. **Size Codes:** Comment from India indicated a preference for an alphabetical sizing code as done in most Codex Standards. Since previous comments from other countries indicated a numeral sizing code and research indicates that both are used in trade, it is recommended that both (alphabet and numeral) be indicated in the standard.
- B. **Sizing by weight:** Comments from Australia and Chile proposed amendments to the sizing by weight scales. Both proposals broaden the weight ranges and reduce the number of sizes.
- C. **Sizing by Diameter:** There were no comments on the proposed table in the report. The absence of comments indicate consensus on this issue among working group members.
- D. **Sizing by count:** There were no comments on the provision for sizing by count as laid out in the report. Therefore, there is consensus on sizing by count among working group members

8. **Conclusion:** Based on the two rounds of comments submitted to the e-working group, those submitted to the 16th CCFFV session, the report of the 16th CCFFV session and a review of current trading practices. It can be said with certainty that the international pomegranate trade is conducted without hindrances due to the absence of internationally accepted uniform sizing and uniformity of size mechanisms; irrespective of different size codes, sizing methods- count, diameter, weights and presentations being used. Hence, the provisions within the Proposed Codex Standard for Fresh pomegranate must take current trading practice into consideration; it should not seek to impose any obligatory sizing or uniformity method/criteria in the absence of indisputable evidence that such is needed.

9. The recommended text for Section 3 Provision Concerning Sizing is predicated on the following:

- i. Section 3 of the standard: Provisions Concerning Sizing “must be” optional.
- ii. Section 3 on Provisions Concerning Sizing must clearly indicate that other sizing codes and sizing parameters are allowed provided that the method used is clearly indicated on the packages.
- iii. The sizing by diameter table from the first round of comments is retained. While, the sizing by weight table is changed to reflect the new weight range proposals received. The size codes there-in are also reduced to six for consistency with the diameter table.

PROVISIONS CONCERNING PRESENTATION

Section 5:1 Uniformity:

10. Size Uniformity and Colour Uniformity were the two main issues addressed in this section. There was consensus on both parameters as presented in the first report of the e-working group - except for structural changes proposed by a member to the standard layout language. Though the proposed changes would enhance the text structure, there is concern that changes to the standard layout text and structure would result in lengthy debates and discussion at the 16th CCFFV plenary session. Therefore, the text was not changed.

Size Uniformity:

11. There were no comments seeking or proposing changes to this section draft standard as presented in the first e-working group report. This absence of comments indicate consensus on this issue.

Colour uniformity:

12. In this round of comments there was consensus - no proposals to change- the color uniformity requirements; hence the existing text on color uniformity requirement is retained.

ANNEX I

**PROPOSED DRAFT PROVISIONS FOR SIZING AND UNIFORMITY RULES
(Sections 3 and 5.1) (draft Standard for Pomegranate)**

3. PROVISIONS CONCERNING SIZING

Pomegranate **may be** sized by count, diameter and weight, in accordance with pre-existing commercial trading practices. When such is the case, the package must be labeled accordingly.

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

The following tables on sizing by diameter (Table A) and Weight (Table B) are guides.

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

Table A

Size Code		Diameter (mm)
1	A	>114
2	B	>103-114
3	C	>92-103
4	D	>79-92
5	E	>69-79
6	F	59-69

C) When sized by weight, size is determined by the maximum weight of each fruit in accordance with the following table.

Table B

Size Code		Weight(g)
1	A	≥ 590
2	B	>470 -590
3	C	>360 -470
4	D	>300 - 360
5	E	>240 - 360
6	F	>175 - 240

5.1 UNIFORMITY

The contents of each package must be uniform and contain only pomegranates of the same origin, variety, quality and size. Sales packages may contain mixtures of varieties and sizes provided 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.

ANNEX II

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ANNEX III**GENERAL GUIDANCE FOR THE PROVISION OF COMMENTS**

In order to facilitate the compilation and prepare a more useful comments' document, Members and Observers, which are not yet doing so, are requested to provide their comments under the following headings:

- (i) General Comments
- (ii) Specific Comments

Specific comments should include a reference to the relevant section and/or paragraph of the document that the comments refer to.

When changes are proposed to specific paragraphs, Members and Observers are requested to provide their proposal for amendments accompanied by the related rationale. New texts should be presented in underlined/bold font and deletion in ~~strikethrough font~~.

In order to facilitate the work of the Secretariats to compile comments, Members and Observers are requested to refrain from using colour font/shading as documents are printed in black and white and from using track change mode, which might be lost when comments are copied/pasted into a consolidated document.

In order to reduce the translation work and save paper, Members and Observers are requested not to reproduce the complete document but only those parts of the texts for which any change and/or amendments is proposed.