

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of
the United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda Item 3

CX/FFV 14/18/5-Add.1

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

18th Session
Phuket, Thailand, 24 – 28 February 2014

DRAFT CODEX STANDARD FOR GOLDEN PASSION FRUIT AT STEP 7

Comments in reply to CL 2013/20-FFV (Scope)
(Comments at Step 6 submitted by Australia, Costa Rica, Egypt and Kenya)

AUSTRALIA

Australia wishes to provide the following comments with regard to Circular Letter 2013/20 -FFV

Scope of the Standard

Australia supports the development of a general standard covering all species of passion fruits. However, in recognising the substantial progress already made on the standard for golden passion fruit we suggest the following be considered as Option e).

Option E

The committee continues to finalise the standard for golden passion fruit with a view to its adoption at Step 8 by the 37th CAC (2014). The current electronic working group prepares a revised Project Document for a standard for passion fruit. The Project Document would use the information contained in CX/FFV 11/16/11¹, in particular the trade data in Table 8 which supports development of a worldwide standard. Then at its next session (Feb 2014) the Committee considers the Project Document and recommends approval of new work on a Codex Standard for Passion fruit, with the scope being all species. This new work could be recommended for approval in the Accelerated Procedure (i.e. adoption at Step 5) as we understand that most of the work will already have been done in the standard for golden passion fruit. In addition, once the Codex Standard for Passion fruit is adopted, relevant provisions of the standard for golden passion fruit could become an annex to the more general standard.

Rationale:

Australia believes that there is a need for a Codex Standard for Passion Fruit that includes all species in order to protect consumers and promote fair practices in the food trade. There are many varieties of passion fruit that are traded internationally and the volume of trade would support expansion of the scope of the current draft standard. However as noted above because of the significant progress already made and to avoid any delay in having a standard we propose the alternate **Option E**) above which would utilise the existing work already done and also facilitate the development of broader general commodity standard.

We also note that in the interim the electronic working group is continuing to revise the standard for golden passion fruit and we do not want to see this effort wasted.

COSTA RICA

Costa Rica appreciates the attention to the following comments:

Standard Scope: Costa Rica supports option a) **to have a single standard for the Golden passion fruit.**

Rationale: Golden passion fruit has its own characteristics, which may not be generalized with other passiflora, aspects such as: handling, type of consumption and conservation (keeping) status (storage at 8°C)).

Likewise, due to golden passion fruit arises from a partially warm weather, it is stored under very different conditions to other passion fruits like “maracuyá” (relatively high temperatures (12°C)). In addition to this, these two products have different shape and organoleptic characteristics.

Therefore, and given that golden passion fruit is widely traded, it has two varieties (dulis and flavicarpa) well positioned in the international market. Costa Rica proposes to make two single standards, one for golden passion fruit and one for passion fruit (“maracuyá”).

In case of other passifloras, it can be included as annexes to these standards according to similar storage, treatment, required conditions, physical and organoleptic characteristics, etc.

¹ CX/FFV 11/16/11 contains the original proposal for new work which was initially for a standard for passion fruit.

EGYPT

Referring to your document CX/FFV14/18/5 dated December 2013 concerning Draft Codex Standard for Golden Passion fruit.

We would like to call your kind attention that Egypt did not cultivate or import this kind of fruit, so Egypt has no comments up till now.

KENYA**GENERAL COMMENT**

We would like to appreciate the good work done by eWG to come up with this wonderful document for members to critique.

However, we are of the opinion that the Standard for Golden Passion fruit should be expanded to include other passion fruit varieties / species. For this case the word 'GOLDEN' will have to be deleted in the standard and the word '**PASSION Fruit**' to be used.

Also the words '**practically**' to **be deleted** and '**must**' to be replaced with the word '**shall**'

JUSTIFICATION

It will be easier for multiple countries to implement and regulate a single standard for passion fruit compared with multiple passion fruit standards.

1. PROVISIONS CONCERNING SIZING**Comment**

~~Golden~~ passion fruit may be sized by diameter or count [or weight.]

- (A) When sized by diameter, size is determined by the maximum diameter of the equatorial section of each fruit, in accordance with the following table:

SPECIFIC COMMENTS**3.- Provisions Concerning Sizing.**

We suggest that the units for diameter be changed from millimeters (mm) to **centimetres (cm)** and the word '**Golden**' to be deleted if other varieties/species to be included in the standard.

JUSTIFICATION:

It is easier to measure the size range as 5.6 to 7.8 cm compared with 56 to 78 mm. The size of the fruit is greater than 10 mm, thus it is easier to work in the next higher unit which is centimetres.

6.1.1 Nature of Produce - Name of the product**Comment**

The information provided below the subheading 6.1.1 Nature of Produce is not in line with the content. The information does not refer to the nature of the produce but rather emphasizes on the '**Name of the Product**' labelling of the contents of on **the container package**.

The information below the subheading is a description of ~~package~~ **container** contents.

We propose that the subheading is changed to reflect the information provided therein.

We suggest that the word "**the**" be inserted in the sentence below the heading 6.1.1.

"If the produce is not visible from the outside, each package shall be labelled as to the name of the produce, "**Golden** Passion Fruit (*Passiflora ligularis* Juss)", and may be labelled as to **the** name of the variety."