

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of
the United Nations



World Health
Organization

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CX 5/95.2

CL 2012/16-FFV
June 2012

TO: - Codex Contact Points
- Interested International Organizations

FROM: Secretariat,
Codex Alimentarius Commission
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR COMMENTS AND INFORMATION ON PROVISIONS CONCERNING QUALITY TOLERANCES: ALLOWANCES OF TOLERANCES FOR DECAY AND/OR INTERNAL BREAKDOWN (DRAFT CODEX STANDARD FOR AVOCADO) (REP11/FFV, APPENDIX II)¹

DEADLINE: 31 July 2012

COMMENTS: To:
Secretariat,
Codex Alimentarius Commission,
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme,
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla 00153
Rome, Italy
Fax: +39 06 57054593)
E-mail: codex@fao.org (preferably)

BACKGROUND

1. The 16th Session of the Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (May 2011) agreed to focus the finalization of the draft Standard for Avocado on 3 main points namely: (1) Maturity requirements in relation to the identification of methods of analysis for the determination of dry matter content, (2) Quality tolerances to allow presence of decay and/or internal breakdown and (3) Uniformity including other sizing-related provisions. The draft Standard was retained at Step 7 waiting for completion of these sections.

2. In particular for allowances of tolerances for decay and/or internal breakdown, the Committee could not agree on the introduction of tolerances for decay and internal breakdown and agreed to reconsider this issue at its next session based on the technical justification for the inclusion of such tolerances and the associated figures that would be presented by those countries interested in having these provisions included in the Standard.²

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

3. Codex Members and Observers are invited to submit their comments on the rationale for the inclusion of tolerances for decay and/or internal breakdown in the quality classes and the percentages proposed (Section 4.1). In submitting comments, Codex members and observers should pay due consideration to provisions for minimum requirements regarding soundness of the product and exclusion of produce affected by rotting or deterioration such as to make it unfit for consumption (Section 2.1). To this purpose Codex Members and Observer are invited to provide a clear interpretation of the terms "rotting", "decay" and "internal breakdown".

¹ Reports of Codex meetings are available on the Codex website: <http://www.codexalimentarius.org/> by subsequently clicking on Meetings and Reports.

² REP11/FF, paras. 47-51 and 59.