

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS

INTERNATIONAL FOOD STANDARDS



Food and Agriculture
Organization of
the United Nations



World Health
Organization

E-mail: codex@fao.org - www.codexalimentarius.org

STANDARD FOR CAPE GOOSEBERRY¹

CXS 226-2001

Adopted in 2001. Amended in 2005, 2011.

¹ Commonly known in certain regions by: physalis, capuli, groseilles du Cap, amour en cage, baguenaude, Lanterne japonaise, etc.

1. DEFINITION OF PRODUCE

This Standard applies to commercial varieties of cape gooseberries grown from *Physalis peruviana* (L.), of the *Solanaceae* family, to be supplied fresh to the consumer, after preparation and packaging. Cape gooseberries for industrial processing are excluded.

2. PROVISIONS CONCERNING QUALITY

2.1 Minimum Requirements

In all classes, subject to the special provisions for each class and the tolerances allowed, the cape gooseberries must be:

- whole, with or without calyx;
- sound, produce affected by rotting or deterioration such as to make it unfit for consumption is excluded;
- clean, practically free of any visible foreign matter;
- practically free of pests affecting the general appearance of the produce;
- practically free of damage caused by pests;
- free of abnormal external moisture, excluding condensation following removal from cold storage;
- free of any foreign smell and/or taste²;
- firm;
- fresh in appearance;
- with a smooth and shiny skin.

If the calyx is present, the peduncle must not exceed 25 mm in length.

2.1.1 The cape gooseberries must have reached an appropriate degree of development and ripeness account being taken of the characteristics of the variety and the area in which they are grown.

The development and condition of the cape gooseberries must be such as to enable them:

- to withstand transport and handling; and
- to arrive in satisfactory condition at the place of destination.

2.1.2 Maturity Requirements

The maturity of the cape gooseberry can be visually assessed from its external colouring, which changes from green to orange as the fruit ripens. Its condition can be confirmed by determining total soluble solids.

A change in colouring of the calyx is not indicative of ripening of the fruit.

The soluble solids content should be at least 14.0°Brix.

2.2 Classification

Cape gooseberries are classified in three classes defined below, regardless of size and colour:

2.2.1 "Extra" Class

Cape gooseberries in this class must be of superior quality. They must be characteristic of the variety and/or commercial type. They must be free of defects, with the exception of very slight superficial defects, provided these do not affect the general appearance of the produce, the quality, the keeping quality and presentation in the package.

² This provision allows for smell caused by conservation agents used in compliance with corresponding regulations.

2.2.2 Class I

Cape gooseberries in this class must be of good quality. They must be characteristic of the variety and/or commercial type. The following slight defects, however, may be allowed, provided these do not affect the general appearance of the produce, the quality, the keeping quality and presentation in the package:

- slight defects in shape;
- slight defects in colouring;
- slight skin defects.

The defects must not, in any case, affect the pulp of the fruit.

2.2.3 Class II

This class includes cape gooseberries which do not qualify for inclusion in the higher classes, but satisfy the minimum requirements specified in Section 2.1 above. The following defects, however, may be allowed, provided the cape gooseberries retain their essential characteristics as regards the quality, the keeping quality, the general appearance and presentation:

- defects in shape;
- defects in colouring;
- skin defects;
- small healed cracks not covering more than 5% of the total surface area of the fruit.

The defects must not, in any case, affect the pulp of the fruit.

3. PROVISIONS CONCERNING SIZING

Size is determined by the maximum diameter of the equatorial section of the fruit, with a minimum diameter of 15 mm, in accordance with the following table:

Size Code	Diameter (mm)
A	15.0 – 18.0
B	18.1 – 20.0
C	20.1 – 22.0
D	≥ 22.1

4. PROVISIONS CONCERNING TOLERANCES

Tolerances in respect of quality and size shall be allowed in each package for produce not satisfying the requirements of the class indicated.

4.1 Quality Tolerances

4.1.1 "Extra" Class

Five percent by number or weight of cape gooseberries with or without calyx not satisfying the requirements of the class, but meeting those of Class I or, exceptionally, coming within the tolerances of that class.

4.1.2 Class I

Ten percent by number or weight of cape gooseberries with or without calyx not satisfying the requirements of the class, but meeting those of Class II or, exceptionally, coming within the tolerances of that class.

4.1.3 Class II

Ten percent by number or weight of cape gooseberries with or without calyx satisfying neither the requirements of the class nor the minimum requirements, with the exception of produce affected by severe bruising, rotting or any other deterioration rendering it unfit for consumption. Up to a maximum of 20% by number or weight of fruit with small healed cracks covering an area greater than 5% is accepted in this class.

4.2 Size Tolerances

For all classes, 10% by number or weight of cape gooseberries corresponding to the size immediately above and/or below that indicated on the package.

5. PROVISIONS CONCERNING PRESENTATION

5.1 Uniformity

The contents of each package must be uniform and contain only cape gooseberries of the same origin, variety, quality, colouring, size and type of presentation (with or without calyx). The visible part of the contents of the package must be representative of the entire contents.

5.2 Packaging

Cape gooseberries must be packed in such a way as to protect the produce properly. The materials used inside the package must be new³, clean, and of a quality such as to avoid causing any external or internal damage to the produce. The use of materials, particularly of paper or stamps bearing trade specifications is allowed, provided the printing or labelling has been done with non-toxic ink or glue.

Cape gooseberries shall be packed in each container in compliance with the *Code of Practice for Packaging and Transport of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables* (CXC 44-1995).

5.2.1 Description of Containers

The containers shall meet the quality, hygiene, ventilation and resistance characteristics to ensure suitable handling, shipping and preserving of the cape gooseberries. Packages must be free of all foreign matter and smell.

6. MARKING OR LABELLING

6.1 Consumer Packages

In addition to the requirements of the *General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods* (CXS 1-1985), the following specific provisions apply:

6.1.1 Nature of Produce

If the produce is not visible from the outside, each package shall be labelled as to the name of the produce and may be labelled as to name of the variety and/or commercial type.

6.2 Non-retail Containers

Each package must bear the following particulars, in letters grouped on the same side, legibly and indelibly marked, and visible from the outside, or in the documents accompanying the shipment.

6.2.1 Identification

Name and address of exporter, packer and/or dispatcher. Identification code (optional)⁴.

6.2.2 Nature of Produce

Name of the produce if the contents are not visible from the outside. Name of the variety (optional).

6.2.3 Origin of Produce

Country of origin and, optionally, district where grown or national, regional or local place name.

6.2.4 Commercial Identification

- Class;
- Size (size code or minimum and maximum diameter in millimeters);
- Number of units (optional);
- Net weight (optional).

6.2.5 Official Inspection Mark (optional)

7. CONTAMINANTS

7.1 The produce covered by this Standard shall comply with the maximum levels of the *General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed* (CXS 193-1995).

³ For the purposes of this Standard, this includes recycled material of food-grade quality.

⁴ The national legislation of a number of countries requires the explicit declaration of the name and address. However, in the case where a code mark is used, the reference "packer and/or dispatcher (or equivalent abbreviations)" has to be indicated in close connection with the code mark.

7.2 The produce covered by this Standard shall comply with the maximum residue limits for pesticides established by the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

8. HYGIENE

8.1 It is recommended that the produce covered by the provisions of this Standard be prepared and handled in accordance with the appropriate sections of the *General Principles of Food Hygiene* (CXC 1-1969), *Code of Hygienic Practice for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables* (CXC 53-2003), and other relevant Codex texts such as Codes of Hygienic Practice and Codes of Practice.

8.2 The produce should comply with any microbiological criteria established in accordance with the *Principles and Guidelines for the Establishment and Application of Microbiological Criteria Related to Foods* (CXG 21-1997).