

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, Italy - Tel: (+39) 06 57051 - E-mail: codex@fao.org - www.codexalimentarius.org

Agenda Item 3, 4, 5

CRD11

Original language only

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Twenty-second Session

Comments of Uganda

Proposed draft standard for onions and shallots (at Step 4)

General comment 1

Position: Uganda proposes to replace “must” with shall in the draft

Rationale: To be consistent with other codex texts.

Editorial comment 1

Title

Position: Uganda proposes to include the word “fresh” before onions in the title of the standard. The proposed to read as PROPOSED DRAFT CODEX STANDARD FOR “FRESH” ONIONS & SHALLOTS

Rationale: To clarify the tittle to be more specific to the scope of the draft standard.

Editorial comment 2

Section 2, bullet 2, DEFINITION OF PRODUCE

Position: Uganda proposes to delete “or” between grey and yellow from the second bullet

Rationale: Sentence is sufficient and complete without the deleted

Editorial comment 3

Position: Uganda proposes in the opening statement under section 3.1.1 to include “for intended purpose” as well as replacing “must” with “shall”. The proposed to read as “Onions and shallots shall be sufficiently matured for intended purpose. They.....”

Technical comment 1

Section 1, Scope

Position: Uganda proposes to consider the opening statement of section 2 as the opening statement for the scope, followed by the restructured statement of the opening statement of the scope. The new modified proposition to read as “This standard applies to onion bulbs of varieties grown from *Allium cepa* L. Cepa group and *Allium fistulosum* L. of the Amarilidaceae family and shallot bulbs grown from *Allium cepa* spp Aggregatum group *Allium oschaninii* O Fedtsch and *Allium ascalonicum* group, to be supplied fresh to the consumer. It defines the quality requirements for fresh onions and shallots after preparation and packaging. Green onions and green shallots with full leaves as well as onions and shallots intended for industrial processing are excluded.

Rationale: The opening statement in section 2 fits more with the scope rather than a definition of produce

Technical comment 2

Position: Uganda proposes to revise and move the second statement in the scope to section 3

Rationale: The statement fits more as a requirement

Technical comment 3

Position: Uganda proposes to expunge the statement in the scope “The holder/seller of products may not display such products or offer them for sale, or deliver or market them in any manner other than in conformity with this standard. The holder/seller shall be responsible for observing with standard such conformity”

Rationale: It is not necessary for a standard setting process to describe to a seller/holder how the product should be displayed/offered for sale, but should rather set the requirements.

Technical comment 4

Position: Uganda proposes to transfer the opening statement under section 2 to the scope and consider the proposed new definition.

“**Onion**”, *Allium cepa*, is a herbaceous biennial plant grown as an annual in the *Amaryllidaceae* family, grown for its edible bulb. The bulbs vary in size, shape, colour, and pungency. The shapes include globular, flat, round while the colors include, red, purple and white.

“**Shallots**”, *Allium cepa*, variety *aggregatum*, *Allium oschaninii* and *Allium aschalonicum* group are mild aromatic plants of the same *Amaryllidaceae* family grown for their edible bulbs. The bulbs are relatively small, less than 5cm and vary in size, shape, colour, and pungency as well

Rationale 1: The transferred statement fits more as a scope and the proposed definitions are clearer

Technical comment 5**Section 3.1, MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS**

Position: Uganda proposes to add the revised para lifted from scope to read. *‘If the standard is applied at stages following packaging, onions and shallots may exhibit changes in relation to the requirements:*

- a slight lack of freshness and turgidity;
- a slight deterioration due to their development and their tendency to perish.

Rationale: Revised and moved from clause 1 to clause 3 since it fits more as a quality concern.

Technical comment 6**Section 3.1.1, Sufficiently *Developed***

Position: Uganda proposes to replace “developed” with “matured” in the heading. New proposition to read as “Sufficiently matured”

Rationale: Physiologically, vegetables are determined on maturity indices during harvest and not developmental stages as alluded to in the current draft.

Technical comment 7**Section 3.2.1, EXTRA CLASS**

Position: Uganda proposes to delete “The following slight defects, however, may be allowed, provided that they do not affect the general appearance of the produce, the quality, the keeping quality and presentation in the package”

Rationale: It’s a repetition of what is already captured in the first sentence

Editorial comment 4**Section 5, PROVISIONS CONCERNING TOLERANCES**

Position: Uganda proposes to add “by number” before weight in the last statements for section 5.1.2 and 5.1.3. The new proposal with additions in both sections to respectively read as “In addition, 4.0%, by **number** or weight, of bulbs may present externally visible shoot growth not exceeding 1 cm.” and “ In addition, 10.0%, by **number** or weight, of bulbs may present externally visible shoot growth not exceeding 1 cm”.

Rationale: For consistency of both clauses with first requirement of 5.1.1 that contains both number and weight.

Technical comment 8**Section 7.2, Non-retail Containers**

Position: Uganda proposes to retain contents in square bracket and replace “must” with “shall”

Rationale: To be consistent with other codex texts.

Technical comment 9**Section 7.2.2, Name of the Produce, bullet one**

Position: Uganda proposes to delete extra wording after the comma

Rationale: Name of produce is sufficient whether it’s visible or not

Proposed draft standard for berry fruits (at Step 4)**General comment 1****Appendix I**

Position: Uganda supports the Proposed Draft Standard (Appendix I), with the view to progress it through the Codex step procedure

General comment 2

Position: Uganda proposes to replace “must” with shall in the draft

Rationale: To be consistent with other codex texts.

Editorial comment 1**Title**

Position: Uganda proposes to include the word “fresh” in the title of the standard. The proposed to read as ‘PROPOSED DRAFT CODEX STANDARD FOR “FRESH” BERRY FRUITS’

Rationale: To clarify the tittle to be more specific to the scope of draft standard.

Editorial comment 2**Section 1, Scope**

Position: Uganda proposes to add “fresh” before berries in the opening statement under section 1

Rationale: To clarify the tittle to be more specific to the scope of the draft standard

Technical comment 1**Section 1, Scope**

Position: Uganda proposes to transfer the second statement “However, if applied at stages following packaging, berry fruits may show in relation to the requirements of the standard to section 3

- a slight lack of freshness and turgidity;
- a slight deterioration due to their development and their tendency to perish.”

Rationale: This statement applies more to quality rather than scope

Technical comment 2**Section 2, DEFINITION OF PRODUCE**

Position: Uganda proposes to consider the proposed new definition “**Berry fruit-** A berry is a small, pulpy, and often edible fruit. Typically, berries are juicy, rounded, brightly coloured, sweet, sour or tart, and do not have a stone or pit, although many pips or seeds may be present.”

Rationale: This definition is clearer

Technical comment 3**Table**

Position: Uganda proposes that some varieties in the table should be numbered independently and not lumped together like in the case of No.5, 9, 15 and 22

Rationale: For consistency and clarity with rest of varieties

Technical comment 4

Position: Uganda proposed to amend opening statement before the table to read. "The commercial varieties of fresh berries shall be of the varieties as shown below"

Rationale: Added this opening statement for clarity

Technical comment 5**Section 3.1, MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS, Bullet 6**

Position: Uganda proposes to add "diseases" at the end of the bullet

Rationale: Damage may be caused as a result of disease as well thus pests and diseases better presented together

Editorial comment 3**Section 3.2.1, "Extra" Class**

Position: Uganda proposes that paragraph 2, 3 and 4 be represented in bullet form

Rationale: For consistency and as presented in in 3.2.2 and 3.2.3

Proposed draft standard for fresh dates (at Step 4)**General comment 1****Appendix I**

Position: Uganda supports the proposed draft standard to progress to step 5 or 5/8

General comment 2

Position: Uganda proposes to replace "must" with shall in the draft

Rationale: To be consistent with other codex texts.

Technical comment 1**Section 1, Scope- para 1**

Position: Uganda proposes to delete "export - control stage"

Rationale: It creates limitations of the standard use as it will work for export-control stage

Editorial comment 1**Section 2, DEFINITION OFPRODUCE**

Position: Uganda proposes to add space between "OF" and "PRODUCE" in the heading

Technical comment 2**Section 3.1, MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS, Bullet 1 and Bullet 5****Bullet 1**

Position: Uganda propose to replace intact with 'whole'

Rationale: For consistence with Scope

Bullet 5

Position: Uganda proposes to add "disease damage" at the end of the bullet

Rationale: Damage may be caused as a result of disease as well thus pests and diseases better presented together

Editorial comment**Section 7, PROVISIONS CONCERNING MARKING ORLABELLING**

Uganda proposes to add space between "OR" and "LABELLING" in the heading