



# Economic and Social Council

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## Economic Commission for Europe

### Committee on Trade

### Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards

Specialized Section on Standardization  
of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables  
Intersessional Approval Procedure 2  
Geneva, 26 July 2017

### Standards for Apples and Pears

Pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 19 of the Working Party's Working Procedures, the secretariat in consultation with the Bureau of the Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables would like to circulate the attached request by the delegation of the Netherlands to change the sorting provisions for apples and pears.

**Please note:** The attached proposal is for approval by the Specialized Section. In the absence of comments or substantive change requests after the one month comment period, with a reminder from the secretariat one week before the deadlines, the proposal will be considered approved. The absence of any response will be considered as support for the document.

Please submit your comments to the secretariat, Mr. Korkut Yavuz (korkut.yavuz@unece.org) **by 26 August 2017**.

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#### **1. Proposal by the Delegation from the Netherlands for the Standard for Apples:**

Comments: Currently, the specific marketing standard for apples states that, to ensure uniformity in size, apples of Class II packed in rows and layers may have a 5 mm difference in diameter between fruit in the same package. This is the same requirement as for Class I in rows and layers.

The delegation from the Netherlands considers this not to be logical. If a lot does not meet the sizing criteria for Class I, it cannot be downgraded, as the requirement for Class II is the same. One would have to mix the nicely arranged fruits to create "loose in the package", which could cause damage to the fruits.

The delegation from the Netherlands proposes to change the 5 mm sorting requirement to 10 mm for Class II and change the sizing by weight accordingly (see proposed changes **highlighted** in the standard):

#### **III. Provisions concerning sizing**

Size is determined either by the maximum diameter of the equatorial section or by weight.

The minimum size shall be 60 mm, if measured by diameter, or 90 g, if measured by weight. Fruit of smaller sizes may be accepted if the Brix level of the produce is equal to or greater than 10.5° Brix and the size is not smaller than 50 mm or 70 g.

To ensure uniformity in size, the range in size between produce in the same package shall not exceed:

(a) For fruit sized by diameter:

- 5 mm for “Extra” Class fruit and for Classes I **and II** fruit packed in rows and layers
- 10 mm for Class I fruit packed in sales packages or loose in the package, and for **Class II fruit packed in rows and layers.**

(b) For fruit sized by weight:

- For “Extra” Class and Class I **and II** fruit packed in rows and layers:

| <i>Range (g)</i> | <i>Weight difference (g)</i> |
|------------------|------------------------------|
| 70-90            | 15                           |
| 91-135           | 20                           |
| 136-200          | 30                           |
| 201-300          | 40                           |
| > 300            | 50                           |

- For Class I fruit packed in sales packages or loose in the package **and for Class II fruit packed in rows and layers:**

| <i>Range (g)</i> | <i>Weight difference (g)</i> |
|------------------|------------------------------|
| 70-135           | 35                           |
| 136-300          | 70                           |
| > 300            | 100                          |

There is no sizing uniformity requirement for Class II fruit packed loose in the package or in sales packages.

Varieties of miniature apples, marked with an “M” in the Annex to this standard, are exempted from the sizing provisions. These miniature varieties must have a minimum Brix level of 12°.

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## **2. Proposal by the Delegation from the Netherlands for the Standard for Pears:**

**Comments:** In line with the proposed changes for the sorting of apples, the standard for pears is proposed to be adapted as follows (See proposed changes **highlighted** in the standard):

### **III. Provisions concerning sizing**

Size is determined by the maximum diameter of the equatorial section or by weight.

The minimum size shall be:

(a) For fruit sized by diameter:

|                         | <i>“Extra” Class</i> | <i>Class I</i> | <i>Class II</i> |
|-------------------------|----------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Large-fruited varieties | 60 mm                | 55 mm          | 55 mm           |
| Other varieties         | 55 mm                | 50 mm          | 45 mm           |

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(b) For fruit sized by weight:

|                         | <i>“Extra” Class</i> | <i>Class I</i> | <i>Class II</i> |
|-------------------------|----------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Large-fruited varieties | 130 g                | 110 g          | 110 g           |
| Other varieties         | 110 g                | 100 g          | 75 g            |

Summer pears included in the annex to this standard do not have to respect the minimum size.

To ensure uniformity in size, the range in size between produce in the same package shall not exceed:

(a) For fruit sized by diameter:

- 5 mm for “Extra” Class fruit and for Class I **and II** fruit packed in rows and layers
- 10 mm for Class I fruit packed in sales packages or loose in the package, and for Class **II fruit packed in rows and layers.**

(c) For fruit sized by weight:

- For “Extra” Class and Class I **and II** fruit packed in rows and layers:

| <i>Range (g)</i> | <i>Weight difference (g)</i> |
|------------------|------------------------------|
| 75-100           | 15                           |
| 100-200          | 35                           |
| 200-250          | 50                           |
| > 250            | 80                           |

- For Class I fruit packed in sales packages or loose in the package **and for Class II fruit packed in rows and layers:**

| <i>Range (g)</i> | <i>Weight difference (g)</i> |
|------------------|------------------------------|
| 100-200          | 50                           |
| > 200            | 100                          |

There is no sizing uniformity limit for Class II fruit packed loose in the package or in sales packages.

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