

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Working Party on the Transport of Perishable foodstuffs  
(Sixty-second session,  
Geneva, 6-9 November 2006)

**PROPOSAL FOR THE SCOPE OF ATP**

Transmitted by the expert from Portugal

Since many years that a discussion about the scope of ATP arises during WP.11 meetings, namely to find if fruits and vegetables should or not should be included on the ATP.

During these discussions, we have heard the several food specialists' interpretation of "perishable", and normally we end up with these discussions with a non conclusive agreement among the present delegates.

As not being a food specialist I have tried to check out on several dictionaries and encyclopedias, an actual definition of "perishable"

As a result I have found on several definitions that "perishable" includes also fruits and vegetables.

I have also found an interesting European legislation (387R1591 - REGLEMENT (CEE) NO 1591/87 DE LA COMMISSION DU 5 JUIN 1987) on which we can clearly see that these products are considered perishables and that special conditions must be taken into account during long way transportation, long way stocking and manipulation.

So in spite of the spirit of the initial scope of the ATP made 30 years ago, and considering the actual European legislation, I think reasonable and advisable to consider the change of the ATP scope in order to included fruits and vegetables as perishable foodstuffs.

Please see in annex, dictionary definitions as well as European legislation

## Cambridge Dictionary

**perishable** Show phonetics

adjective

describes food that decays quickly:

*It's important to store perishable food in a cool place.* **perishable**

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## Unabridged Dictionary

**per ish a ble** ˌpɪrɪʃəbəl - Show Spelled Pronunciation[**per-i-shuh-buh**l]

Pronunciation Key - Show IPA Pronunciation

—*adjective*

1. subject to decay, ruin, or destruction: *perishable fruits and vegetables.*

—*noun*

2. Usually, **perishables**. something perishable, esp. food.

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[Origin: 1605–15; PERISH + -ABLE]



—*Related forms*

**per ish a bil i ty**, **per ish a ble ness**, *noun*

**per ish a bly**, *adverb*

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**The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fourth Edition**  
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**per·ish·a·ble** (pĕr'ɪ-shə-bəl) [Pronunciation Key](#)  

*adj.*

Subject to decay, spoilage, or destruction.

*n.*

Something, especially foodstuff, subject to decay or spoilage. Often used in the plural.

**per'ish·a·bil'i·ty** or **per'ish·a·ble·ness** *n.*

**per'ish·a·bly** *adv.*

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**WordNet ® 2.0, © 2003 Princeton Univ**

**perishable**

*adj* : liable to perish; subject to destruction or death or decay; "this minute and perishable planet"; "perishable foods such as butter and fruit" [*ant*: imperishable]

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**Merriam Webster**

**perishable**


One entry found for **perishable**.

Main Entry: **per·ish·able** 

Pronunciation: 'per-i-sh&-b&l, 'pe-ri-

Function: *adjective*

: liable to perish : liable to spoil or decay <such *perishable* products as fruit, vegetables, butter, and eggs>

- **per·ish·abil·i·ty** /'per-i-sh&-'bi-l&-tE, 'pe-ri-/ *noun*

- **perishable** *noun*

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**Encyclopedia Britannica**

*Processing of vegetables*

Because of the varied growing and harvesting seasons of different vegetables at different locations, the availability of fresh vegetables differs greatly in different parts of the world. Processing can transform vegetables from **perishable** produce into stable foods with long shelf lives and thereby aid in the global transportation and distribution of many...

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**Encarta® World English Dictionary, North American Edition**

**per·ish·a·ble** [ pérrishəb'l ]

adjective

**Definition:**

**spoil** **easily**: liable to decay, rot, or spoil

noun (*plural* per·ish·a·bles)

**Definition:**

**perishable item**: something that is perishable, especially an item of food

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**Compact Oxford English Dictionary**

**perishable**

- **adjective** (of food) likely to rot quickly.
  - **noun** (**perishables**) perishable foodstuffs.
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**Wiktionary**

**Noun**

Singular  
**perishable**

Plural  
**perishables**

**perishable** (*plural* **perishables**)

1. That which is perishable or short-lived.
2. (*in plural*) Perishable food.

**Adjective**

**perishable**

1. Liable to perish, especially naturally subject to quick decomposition or decay.
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**The American Heritage<sup>®</sup> Dictionary of the English Language: Fourth Edition. 2000**

**perishable**

SYLLABICATION: per·ish·a·ble

PRONUNCIATION:  pĕr ˈɪ·shə·bəl

ADJECTIVE: Subject to decay, spoilage, or destruction.

NOUN: Something, especially foodstuff, subject to decay or spoilage. Often used in the plural.

OTHER FORMS: **per** **ish**·a·bil **i**·ty, **per** **ish**·a·ble·ness —NOUN  
**per** **ish**·a·bly —ADVERB

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### UltraLingua English Dictionary

**perishable** *adj.* <'pêri[sh]&b&l> Liable to perish; subject destruction or death or decay; "this minute and perishable planet"; "perishable foods such as butter and fruit." [ETYM: **French** *périssable*.]

**perishables** *n.* Foods that will decay rapidly if not refrigerated;

**perisher** *n.* <'pêri[sh]&r> Bounder.

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### Cambridge Dictionary of American English

#### **perishable**

[Show phonetics]

adjective

Food that is perishable has to be used quickly or it will decay so that you cannot eat it:

*He owns one of the largest distributors of perishable foods.*

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## Législation communautaire en vigueur

Document 387R1591

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387R1591

### **Règlement (CEE) n° 1591/87 de la Commission du 5 juin 1987 fixant des normes de qualité pour les choux pommés, les choux de Bruxelles, les céleris à côtes, les épinards et les prunes**

*Journal officiel n° L 146 du 06/06/1987 p. 0036 - 0052*

*Edition spéciale finnoise ...: Chapitre 3 Tome 23 p. 161*

*Edition spéciale suédoise ...: Chapitre 3 Tome 23 p. 161*

*CONSLEG - 62R0058 - 11/04/1989 - 31 p.*

#### **Modifications:**

*Modifié par [392R0658](#) (JO L 070 17.03.1992 p.15)*

*Modifié par [397R0888](#) (JO L 126 17.05.1997 p.11)*

*Modifié par [399R1168](#) (JO L 141 04.06.1999 p.5)*

*Modifié par [301R1135](#) (JO L 154 09.06.2001 p.9)*

#### **Texte:**

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REGLEMENT ( CEE ) NO 1591/87 DE LA COMMISSION DU 5 JUIN 1987

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CONSIDERANT QUE LES NORMES SONT APPLICABLES A TOUS LES STADES DE LA COMMERCIALISATION; QUE LE TRANSPORT SUR UNE GRANDE DISTANCE, LE STOCKAGE D'UNE CERTAINE DUREE OU LES DIFFERENTES MANIPULATIONS AUXQUELLES LES PRODUITS SONT SOUMIS PEUVENT ENTRAINER CERTAINES ALTERATIONS DUES A L'EVOLUTION BIOLOGIQUE DE CES PRODUITS OU A LEUR CARACTERE PLUS OU MOINS **PERISSABLE**; QU'IL Y A DONC LIEU DE TENIR COMPTE DE CES ALTERATIONS DANS L'APPLICATION DES NORMES AUX STADES DE LA COMMERCIALISATION QUI SUIVENT LE STADE DE L'EXPEDITION; QUE, LES PRODUITS DE LA CATEGORIE " EXTRA " DEVANT FAIRE L'OBJET D'UN TRIAGE ET D'UN CONDITIONNEMENT PARTICULIEREMENT SOIGNES, SEULE DOIT ETRE PRISE EN CONSIDERATION, EN CE QUI LES CONCERNE, LA DIMINUTION DE L'ETAT DE FRAICHEUR ET DE TURGESCE

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## Législation communautaire en vigueur

Document 399R1168

### Actes modifiés:

[387R1591](#) (Modification)

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399R1168

### Règlement (CE) n° 1168/1999 de la Commission, du 3 juin 1999, fixant la norme de commercialisation applicable aux prunes

Journal officiel n° L 141 du 04/06/1999 p. 0005 - 0010

CONSLEG - 87R1591 - 04/06/1999 - 21 p.

### Modifications:

Modifié par [300R0848](#) (JO L 103 28.04.2000 p.9)

### Texte:

RÈGLEMENT (CE) N° 1168/1999 DE LA COMMISSION du 3 juin 1999 fixant la norme de commercialisation applicable aux prunes

LA COMMISSION DES COMMUNAUTÉS EUROPÉENNES,

...

4) considérant que les normes sont applicables à tous les stades de la commercialisation; que le transport sur une grande distance, le stockage d'une certaine durée ou les différentes manipulations auxquelles les produits sont soumis peuvent entraîner certaines altérations dues à l'évolution biologique de ces produits ou à leur caractère plus ou moins **périssable**; qu'il y a lieu de tenir compte de ces altérations dans l'application des normes aux stades de commercialisation qui suivent le stade de l'expédition; que pour les produits de la catégorie "Extra" devant faire l'objet d'un triage et d'un conditionnement particulièrement soignés, seule doit être prise en considération, en ce qui les concerne, la diminution de l'état de fraîcheur et de turgescence;

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