

Apples and pears

As explained in document TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/2002/18, the EC wishes the specialised section studies the issue of objective maturity criteria applicable for apples and pears. As a first step, the Community wishes the specialised section studies the following three criteria that could be possibly inserted in the standard:

- iodide test for measuring starch contents : a minimum stage (referring to an internationally agreed scale) could be compulsory. As an example, Italian producers use the following minimum stages : 2 for varieties Granny smith, Red delicious, Gloster,... ; 2,5 for varieties Elstar, Gala, Braeburn, Idared, Golden delicious, Cripps Pink ; 3,5 for varieties Jonagold and Fuji.
- Minimum contents in soluble solids (° Brix) : a minimum sugar contents could also be included in the standard bfor apples or for pears. Those levels could be differentiated according to the varieties.

The following examples are used by producers and traders in some Member Sates of the Community:

9° for reinettes and James Grieve

10° for Granny smith

10,5° for Idared

11° for Winesap, Morgenduft, Gloster

11,5° for Braeburn

12° for Jonagold and Fuji

13° for Cripps Pink

14° for Pinova

For some other varieties, more diverging criteria are used : Red delicious (10-11°), Gala (10-11,5°), Elstar et Golden (11,5-12°).

For pears, the following minimums are used : 10° (Triomphe de Vienne), 11° (Beurré Hardy), 12° (Doyenné, Comice), 14° (Durondeau). For Conférence variety, diverging criteria are used (11-12°).

More simple solutions can also be envisaged : for example, three groups of varieties : varieties with a low sugar content, varieties with an average sugar content, varieties with a high sugar content.

- Maximum firmness : a cdriterion of maximum firmness could also be included in the standard. For example, for pears, the following levels could be envisaged:
 - <16kg/cm² for Triomphe de Vienne
 - <14kg/cm² for Conférence
 - <12kg/cm² for Durandeau and Doyenné
 - <11kg/cm² for Beurré Hardy

Citrus fruit

The Community proposes the following complementary modifications in part III.C (uniformity in size) .

"Uniformity in size is achieved by the above mentioned size scales, unless otherwise stated as follows:

(i) For fruit arranged in regular layers in the package, **including unit consumer packages**, the maximum difference between the smallest and the largest fruit must not exceed the following maxima:

Table

(ii) For fruit not arranged in regular layers, in packages and ~~fruit~~ in individual **rigid** packages for direct sale to the consumer ~~made up by number of fruit~~, the difference between the smallest and the largest fruit in the same package must not exceed the range of the appropriate size grade in the size scale.

(iii) For fruit in bulk bins and fruit in individual **non-rigid (nets, bags,...)** packages for direct sale to the consumer ~~made up by weight of fruit~~, the maximum size difference between the smallest and the largest fruit in the same lot or package must not exceed the range obtained by grouping three consecutive sizes in the size scale.

Justification:

Size uniformity in consumer packages shall not depend on the fact that they are made up by weight or number of fruit, as it is envisaged by Regulation (EC) n° 1799/2001.

The new Spanish proposal tries to bring the standard closer to commercial practices. Size uniformity is higher (less difference of diameter in the same package) for the nicest type of consumer package, ensuring the best protection for the produce (because they are rigid) in comparison to more flexible packages.