ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.1/2010/INF.26

Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables

Fifty-seventh session
Geneva, 25 - 28 May 2010
Item 3(j) of the provisional agenda

REVISION OF UNECE STANDARDS

Pears

This note contains proposals from the UK regarding amendments to the UNECE Standard for Pears

The proposed changes consist of the following:

- Inclusion of russeting in the characteristics of pears in the first line of Class I, and the inclusion of rough russeting as a specific defect allowed within the areas for skin defects in class I. We believe this clarifies the approach to this defect and agrees with the line expressed by most countries when this issue is discussed.

- Amendments to sizing criteria to allow for the grading of pears by weight as well as by diameter. We have included 2 options here, (a) to retain the minimum sizes for each Class by diameter and include appropriate weights (b) to have only one minimum size for all pears by weight and diameter. With associated changes to uniformity, size tolerances and labelling requirements.

- To allow for the inclusion of the summer pear variety Bambinella.

Sizing option (b) would allow the list of varieties to be reduced to a list of only summer pears, which would be excluded from the need to respect the minimum size, but these would of course still need to respect the maturity requirements.

The proposals on weight sizing and summer pears have been made by the UK trade to help in marketing. The proposal on russeting we believe helps clarify the allowances for this defect.

We realise that the pear standard has only recently been amended but these approaches by the UK trade have only arrived in the last few months.