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Item 4(e) of the provisional agenda

**REVIEW OF UNECE RECOMMENDATIONS
APPLES**

Submitted by Italy^(*)

This document contains proposals to revise the UNECE Recommendation for Apples.

^(*) The present document has been submitted after the official documentation deadline by the Trade and Timber Division due to resource constraints.

1. At its 52nd session, the UNECE Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables discussed the current provisions of the Revised UNECE Standard for Apples concerning fruit sizing.
2. To simplify the present version of the draft Standard, several hypothesis have been considered, assuring that fruit quality (as a complex combination of factors, like size, morphological aspect, firmness, sugar content, acidity, consumer taste, etc.) would be maintained.
3. Since 2004, results of several research projects have been presented to the Specialized Section to clarify the relationship between different quality parameters and fruit dimensions. These studies revealed the existence of a sufficient correlation between these two aspects.
4. Consequently, we can say that the requirements regarding fruit sizing (based on weight and diameter), as traditional selection factors, represent valid quality criteria for the majority of globally commercialized fruits.
5. Section III of the draft Standard for Apples sets the following provisions concerning sizing:

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

When size is determined by diameter the minimum diameter required for each class is as follows:

	Extra	Class I	Class II
Large size fruit varieties	65 mm	60 mm	60 mm
Other varieties	60 mm	55 mm	50 mm

When size is determined by weight, the minimum weight required for each class is as follows:

	Extra	Class I	Class II
Large size fruit varieties	110 g	90 g	90 g
Other varieties	90 g	80 g	70 g”

6. At its 13th session the CODEX Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables held in Mexico City in September 2006, discussed the proposed draft Codex Standard for Apples. Its section III reads:

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

For all varieties and for all classes the minimum sizing is 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 meets or exceeds 11° Brix and the size is not smaller than 50 mm or 70 g.”

7. That being stated and bearing in mind:
- i) the need to provide the global consumers with a minimum fruit quality in the most simple and precise way, in order to guarantee the maximum effectiveness
 - ii) the impossibility to identify a single taste for the consumer
 - iii) the necessity of guaranteeing the legitimate requirements of different countries by international regulations which are meant to assure a minimum level of common quality
 - iv) the results of the meeting of the Codex Alimentarius Working Team on apples, held in Santiago (Chile) in February 2006, and the ongoing discussions at the Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables

We propose to substitute section III (provisions concerning sizing) of the Revised draft UNECE Standard for Apples, regarding the scale of diameters and weights, with the following text:

“For all varieties and all classes the minimum size is 60 mm by diameter and 90 g by weight. Fruits of a smaller size can be accepted only if the Brix degree of the product is equal to, or greater than 11° Brix, and the size is not smaller than 50 mm or 70 g.”

Moreover, considering that the definition of a minimum Brix° for the smallest fruits is the right way to harmonize the minimum sizing of apples in the international trade, we propose to abolish the UNECE recommendation contained in part II of the draft UNECE Standard for Apples on trial for a period of 2 years, specifically the following part:

“if refractometric index of the flesh is measured, the Brix degree must be greater than or equal to 9°. However, for the varieties Annurca, Cripps Pink, Fuji, Golden Delicious, Pinova, Rafzubex, Rafzubin, and their mutants, this value must be greater than or equal to 10°.”