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## Economic Commission for Europe

Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards

**Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards**

**Specialized Section on Standardization  
of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables**

**Seventy-second session**

Geneva, 6–8 May 2024

Item 5 (a) of the provisional agenda

**Review of existing standards:**

**Discussion of proposals resulting from the last session**

### **Proposed revisions to the standard for pears**

**Submitted by the working group on pears**

#### *Summary*

At its 2023 session, the Specialized Section reviewed a proposal by the delegation of France to amend the non-exhaustive list of large-fruited and summer pear varieties annexed to the standard for pears (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.1/2023/11). The Specialized Section decided to set up an ad-hoc working group consisting of Belgium (rapporteur), France, Germany, Spain and the United States to undertake a review of the standard for pears, and to identify alternative terminology and/or categories if needed.

The working group met in three online meetings on 8 November 2023, 11 January 2024 and 7 February 2024. The working group agreed (a) to keep the minimum size requirements for large-fruited varieties and to remove it for other varieties, under provisions concerning sizing; (b) to change the size tolerances, (c) to delete the reference to summer-pears in the annex (i.e. to only keep the reference to large-fruited varieties), and (d) to delete the classification of the variety Celina as a large-fruited variety in the annex.

The following proposal for revisions to the standard for pears is submitted by the ad-hoc working group for the consideration of the Specialized Section. The changes are marked in strike-through for deleted text and underline for added text.



# UNECE Standard FFV-51 concerning the marketing and commercial quality control of pears

## I. Definition of produce

This standard applies to pears of varieties (cultivars) grown from *Pyrus communis* L. to be supplied fresh to the consumer, pears for industrial processing being excluded.

## II. Provisions concerning quality

The purpose of the standard is to define the quality requirements for pears after preparation and packaging.

However, if applied at stages following export, products may show in relation to the requirements of the standard:

- a slight lack of freshness and turgidity
- for products graded in classes other than the “Extra” Class, a slight deterioration due to their development and their tendency to perish.

The holder/seller of products may not display such products or offer them for sale, or deliver or market them in any manner other than in conformity with this standard. The holder/seller shall be responsible for observing such conformity.

### A. Minimum requirements

In all classes, subject to the special provisions for each class and the tolerances allowed, the pears must be:

- intact
- sound; produce affected by rotting or deterioration such as to make it unfit for consumption is excluded
- clean, practically free of any visible foreign matter
- practically free from pests
- free from damage caused by pests affecting the flesh
- free of abnormal external moisture
- free of any foreign smell and/or taste

The development and condition of the pears must be such as to enable them:

- to withstand transportation and handling
- to arrive in satisfactory condition at the place of destination

### B. Maturity requirements

The development and state of maturity of the pears must be such as to enable them to continue their ripening process and to reach a satisfactory degree of ripeness.

### C. Classification

Pears are classified in three classes, as defined below:

#### (i) "Extra" Class

Pears in this class must be of superior quality. They must be characteristic of the variety.

The flesh must be perfectly sound, and the skin free from rough russetting.

They must be free from defects with the exception of very slight superficial defects provided these do not affect the general appearance of the produce, the quality, the keeping quality and presentation in the package.

The stalk must be intact.

Pears must not be gritty.

**(ii) Class I**

Pears in this class must be of good quality. They must be characteristic of the variety.

The flesh must be perfectly sound.

The following slight defects, however, may be allowed, provided these do not affect the general appearance of the produce, the quality, the keeping quality and presentation in the package:

- a slight defect in shape
- a slight defect in development
- slight defects in colouring
- very slight rough russetting
- slight skin defects, which must not extend over more than:
  - 2 cm in length for defects of elongated shape
  - 1 cm<sup>2</sup> of total surface area for other defects, with the exception of scab (*Venturia pirina* and *V. inaequalis*), which must not extend over more than 0.25 cm<sup>2</sup> cumulative in area.
- slight bruising not exceeding 1 cm<sup>2</sup> in area

The stalk may be slightly damaged.

Pears must not be gritty.

**(iii) Class II**

This class includes pears that do not qualify for inclusion in the higher classes but satisfy the minimum requirements specified above.

The flesh must be free from major defects.

The following defects may be allowed, provided the pears retain their essential characteristics as regards the quality, the keeping quality and presentation:

- defects in shape
- defects in development
- defects in colouring
- slight rough russetting
- skin defects, which must not extend over more than:
  - 4 cm in length for defects of elongated shape
  - 2.5 cm<sup>2</sup> of total surface area for other defects, with the exception of scab (*Venturia pirina* and *V. inaequalis*), which must not extend over more than 1 cm<sup>2</sup> cumulative in area.
- slight bruising not exceeding 2 cm<sup>2</sup> in area

### III. Provisions concerning sizing

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

The minimum size<sup>1</sup> 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           |

(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~~ Varieties that are not considered large-fruited 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.

(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> |
|------------------|------------------------------|
| 75 – 100         | 15                           |
| 100 – 200        | 35                           |
| 200 – 250        | 50                           |
| > 250            | 80                           |

- for Class I fruit packed in sales packages or loose in the package:

| <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 in sales packages or loose in the package.

<sup>1</sup> A non-exhaustive list of large-fruited and summer pear varieties is included in the annex to this standard.

## IV. Provisions concerning tolerances

At all marketing stages, tolerances in respect of quality and size shall be allowed in each lot for produce not satisfying the requirements of the class indicated.

### A. Quality tolerances

#### (i) "Extra" Class

A total tolerance of 5 per cent, by number or weight, of pears not satisfying the requirements of the class but meeting those of Class I is allowed. Within this tolerance not more than 0.5 per cent in total may consist of produce satisfying the requirements of Class II quality.

#### (ii) Class I

A total tolerance of 10 per cent, by number or weight, of pears not satisfying the requirements of the class but meeting those of Class II is allowed. Within this tolerance not more than 1 per cent in total may consist of produce satisfying neither the requirements of Class II quality nor the minimum requirements, or of produce affected by decay.

#### (iii) Class II

A total tolerance of 10 per cent, by number or weight, of pears satisfying neither the requirements of the class nor the minimum requirements is allowed. Within this tolerance not more than 2 per cent in total may consist of produce affected by decay.

### B. Size tolerances

For all classes: a total tolerance of 10 per cent, by number or weight, of pears not satisfying the requirements as regards sizing is allowed. This tolerance may not be extended to include produce with a size:

- 5 mm or more below the minimum diameter for Extra class and Class I
- 10 mm or more below the minimum diameter for Class II
- 10 g or more below the minimum weight.
- ~~5 mm or more below the minimum diameter~~
- ~~10 g or more below the minimum weight.~~

## V. Provisions concerning presentation

### A. Uniformity

The contents of each package must be uniform and contain only pears of the same origin, variety, quality and size (if sized) and the same degree of ripeness.

In the case of the "Extra" Class, uniformity also applies to colouring.

However, a mixture of pears of distinctly different varieties may be packed together in a sales package, provided they are uniform in quality and, for each variety concerned, in origin. However, in case of those mixtures uniformity in size is not required.

The visible part of the contents of the package must be representative of the entire contents.

### B. Packaging

The pears must be packed in such a way as to protect the produce properly.

The materials used inside the package must be clean and of a quality such as to avoid causing any external or internal damage to the produce. The use of materials, particularly of paper or stamps bearing trade specifications, is allowed, provided the printing or labelling has been done with non-toxic ink or glue.

Stickers individually affixed to the produce shall be such that, when removed, they neither leave visible traces of glue, nor lead to skin defects. Information lasered on single fruit should not lead to flesh or skin defects.

Packages must be free of all foreign matter.

## **VI. Provisions concerning marking**

Each package<sup>2</sup> must bear the following particulars, in letters grouped on the same side, legibly and indelibly marked, and visible from the outside:

### **A. Identification**

Packer and/or dispatcher/exporter:

Name and physical address (e.g. street/city/region/postal code and, if different from the country of origin, the country) or a code mark officially recognized by the national authority<sup>3</sup> if the country applying such a system is listed in the UNECE database.

### **B. Nature of produce**

- “Pears” if the contents are not visible from the outside
- Name of the variety. In the case of a mixture of pears of distinctly different varieties, names of the different varieties.

The name of the variety can be replaced by a synonym. A trade name<sup>4</sup> can only be given in addition to the variety or the synonym.

### **C. Origin of produce**

- Country of origin<sup>5</sup> and, optionally, district where grown, or national, regional or local place name.

In the case of a mixture of distinctly different varieties of pears of different origins, the indication of each country of origin shall appear next to the name of the variety concerned.

### **D. Commercial specifications**

- Class
- Size, or for produce packed in rows and layers, number of units

If identification is by the size, this should be expressed:

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<sup>2</sup> These marking provisions do not apply to sales packages presented in packages. However, they do apply to sales packages (pre-packages) presented individually.

<sup>3</sup> The national legislation of a number of countries requires the explicit declaration of the name and address. However, in the case where a code mark is used, the reference “packer and/or dispatcher (or equivalent abbreviations)” has to be indicated in close connection with the code mark, and the code mark should be preceded by the ISO 3166 (alpha) country/area code of the recognizing country, if not the country of origin.

<sup>4</sup> A trade name can be a trade mark for which protection has been sought or obtained or any other commercial denomination.

<sup>5</sup> The full or a commonly used name should be indicated.

- for produce subject to the uniformity rules, as minimum and maximum diameters or minimum and maximum weight.
- optionally, for produce not subject to the uniformity rules, the diameter or the weight of the smallest fruit in the package followed by “and over” or equivalent denomination or, where appropriate, the diameter or weight of the largest fruit in the package.

#### **E. Official control mark (optional)**

Adopted 1960

Last revised 2020

Aligned with the Standard Layout 2017

The OECD Scheme for the Application of International Standards for Fruit and Vegetables has published an explanatory illustrated brochure on the application of this standard. The publication may be obtained from the OECD bookshop at: [www.oecdbookshop.org](http://www.oecdbookshop.org).

## Annex

### Size criteria for pears

L = Large-fruited variety

SP = Summer pear, for which no minimum size is required.

### Non-exhaustive list of ~~large-fruited and summer~~ pear varieties

~~Small fruited and other varieties~~ Varieties which do not appear in the list may be marketed as long as they meet the size requirements ~~for other varieties~~ as described in section III of the standard.

Some of the varieties listed in the following may be marketed under names for which trademark protection has been sought or obtained in one or more countries. Names believed by the ~~United Nations~~ Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards to be varietal names are listed in the first column. Other names by which the ~~United Nations~~ Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards believes the variety may be known are listed in the second column. Neither of these two columns is intended to include trademarks. References to known trademarks have been included in the third column for information only. The presence of any trademarks in the third column does not constitute any licence or permission to use that trademark – such licence must come directly from the trademark owner. In addition, the absence of a trademark in the third column does not constitute any indication that there is no registered/pending trademark for such a variety. For labelling requirements please refer to section VI of the standard.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> Some of the varietal names listed in the first column may indicate varieties for which patent protection has been obtained in one or more countries. Such proprietary varieties may only be produced or traded by those authorized by the patent holder to do so under an appropriate licence. The United Nations takes no position as to the validity of any such patent or the rights of any such patent holder or its licensee regarding the production or trading of any such variety.

The ~~United Nations~~ Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards endeavoured to ensure that no trademark names are listed in columns 1 and 2 of the table. However, it is the responsibility of any trademark owner to notify the secretariat of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe promptly if a trademark name has been included in the table and to provide the ~~United Nations~~ secretariat (see address below) with an appropriate varietal, or generic name for the variety, as well as adequate evidence ownership of any applicable patent or trademark regarding such variety so that the list can be amended. Provided that no further information is needed from the trademark holder, the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards will ~~change~~ revise the list accordingly at the session following receipt of the information. The United Nations takes no position as to the validity of any such trademarks or the rights of any such trademark owners or their licensees.

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| <i>Variety</i>           | <i>Synonyms</i>   | <i>Trademarks / Trade names</i>              | <i>Size</i>    |
|--------------------------|---|--|----------------|
| <i>Variété</i>           | <i>Synonymes</i>  | <i>Marque commerciale/ nom de marque</i>     | <i>Calibre</i> |
| <i>Разновидность</i>     | <i>Синонимы</i>   | <i>Торговые знаки/ Торговое наименование</i> | <i>Размер</i>  |
| Abbé Fétel               | Abate Fetel   |  | L              |
| Abugo o Siete en Boca    |   |  | SP             |
| Akça                     |   |  | SP             |
| Alka                     |   |  | L              |
| Alsa                     |   |  | L              |
| Alexandrine Douillard    |   |  | L              |
| Amfora                   |   |  | L              |
| Angelys                  |   | Angys ®                                      | L              |
| Bambinella               |   |  | SP             |
| Bay 6474                 |   | Alessia ®                                    | L              |
| Bergamotten              |   |  | SP             |
| Beurré Alexandre Lucas   | Lucas   |  | L              |
| Beurré Bosc              | Bosc, Beurré d'Apremont, Empereur Alexandre, Kaiser Alexander |  | L              |
| Beurré Clairgeau         |   |  | L              |
| Beurré d'Arenberg        | Hardenpont  |  | L              |
| Beurré Giffard           |   |  | SP             |
| Beurré précoce Morettini | Morettini   |  | SP             |
| Blanca de Aranjuez       | Agua de Aranjuez, Espadona, Blanquilla                        |  | SP             |
| Bon Rouge                |   | Victoria Blush                               | L              |
| Cape Rose                |   | Cheeky ®                                     | L              |
| Carusella                |   |  | SP             |
| Castell                  | Castell de Verano   |  | SP             |
| Celina                   |   | QTee ®                                       | L              |
| Cepuna                   |   | Migo ®                                       | L              |
| CH 201                   |   | Fred ®                                       | L              |
| Colorée de Juillet       | Bunte Juli  |  | SP             |
| Comice rouge             |   |  | L              |
| Concorde                 |   |  | L              |
| Condoula                 |   |  | SP             |
| Coscia                   | Ercolini  |  | SP             |
| Curé                     | Curato, Pastoren, Del cura de Ouro, Espadon de                |  | L              |

| <i>Variety</i>       | <i>Synonyms</i>   | <i>Trademarks / Trade names</i>                     | <i>Size</i>    |
|----------------------|---|---|----------------|
| <i>Variété</i>       | <i>Synonymes</i>  | <i>Marque commerciale/ nom de marque</i>            | <i>Calibre</i> |
| <i>Разновидность</i> | <i>Синонимы</i>   | <i>Торговые знаки/ Торговое наименование</i>        | <i>Размер</i>  |
|                      | invierno, Bella de Berry, Lombardia de Rioja, Batall de Campana     |   |                |
| D'Anjou              |   |   | L              |
| Deveci               |   |   | L              |
| Dita                 |   |   | L              |
| D. Joaquina          | Doyenné de Juillet  |   | SP             |
| Doyenné d'hiver      | Winterdechant   |   | L              |
| Doyenné du Comice    | Comice, Vereinsdechant  |   | L              |
| Dpp1                 |   | Flare <sup>TM</sup> , Cape Fire <sup>®</sup>        | L              |
| Erika                |   |   | L              |
| Etrusca              |   |   | SP             |
| Falstaff             |   |   | L              |
| Flamingo             |   |   | L              |
| Forelle              |   | Vermont Beauty                                      | L              |
| Général Leclerc      |   | Amber Grace <sup>TM</sup>                           | L              |
| Gentile              |   |   | SP             |
| Golden Russet Bosc   |   |   | L              |
| Gräfin Gepa          |   | Saxonia <sup>®</sup> ,<br>Early Desire <sup>®</sup> | L              |
| Grand Champion       |   |   | L              |
| H2-169               |   | Ambrosia <sup>®</sup>                               | L              |
| Harovin Sundown      |   | Cold Snap <sup>®</sup>                              | L              |
| Harrow Delight       |   |   | L              |
| Jeanne d'Arc         |   |   | L              |
| Joséphine            |   |   | L              |
| Kieffer              |   |   | L              |
| Klapa Milule         |   |   | L              |
| Leonardeta           | Mosqueruela, Margallon, Colorada de Alcanadre, Leonarda de Magallon |   | SP             |
| Lombacad             |   | Cascade <sup>®</sup>                                | L              |
| Moscarella           |   |   | SP             |
| Mramornaja           |   |   | L              |
| Mustafabey           |   |   | SP             |

| <i>Variety</i>         | <i>Synonyms</i>                                      | <i>Trademarks / Trade names</i>              | <i>Size</i>    |
|------------------------|--|--|----------------|
| <i>Variété</i>         | <i>Synonymes</i>                                     | <i>Marque commerciale/ nom de marque</i>     | <i>Calibre</i> |
| <i>Разновидность</i>   | <i>Синонимы</i>                                      | <i>Торговые знаки/ Торговое наименование</i> | <i>Размер</i>  |
| Nojabrskaja            | Novemberbirne  | Xenia ®, Novembra®                           | L              |
| Packham's Triumph      | Williams d'Automne                                   |  | L              |
| Passe Crassane         | Passa Crassana                                       |  | L              |
| PE2UNIBO               |  | Early Giulia ®                               | L              |
| PE3UNIBO               |  | Debby Green ®                                | L              |
| Perita de San Juan     |  |  | SP             |
| Pérola                 |  |  | SP             |
| Pitmaston              | Williams Duchesse                                    |  | L              |
| Précoce de Trévoux     | Trévoux  |  | SP             |
| Président Drouard      |  |  | L              |
| Rode Doyenne van Doorn |  | Sweet Sensation ®,<br>Sweet Dored ®          | L              |
| Rosemarie              |  | Sempre                                       | L              |
| Santa Maria            | Santa Maria Morettini                                |  | L              |
| Spadoncina             | Agua de Verano, Agua de Agosto                       |  | SP             |
| Suvenirs               |  |  | L              |
| Taylors Gold           |  |  | L              |
| Thimo                  |  | Saxonia ®,<br>Queens Forelle ™               | L              |
| Triomphe de Vienne     |  |  | L              |
| Uta                    |  | Dazzling Gold ®                              | L              |
| Vasarine Sviestine     |  |  | L              |
| Williams Bon Chrétien  | Bon Chrétien, Bartlett,<br>Williams, Summer Bartlett |  | L              |