



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
23 February 2024

Original: English

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 (b) of the provisional agenda

Review of existing standards:

New proposals

Proposal by the delegation of Germany to amend the standard for courgettes

Submitted by the delegation of Germany

Summary

The following proposal for revisions to the standard for courgettes (FFV-41) was submitted by the delegation of Germany for the consideration of the Specialized Section. The proposed changes are marked in strike-through for deleted text and underline for added text.



I. Proposal

The delegation of Germany proposes to modify section III, Provisions concerning sizing to allow for more flexible grading of size by length, as follows:

Provisions concerning sizing

Size is determined either by length, measured between the junction of the stalk and the end of the fruit tip, or by weight of the unit.

(a) For sizing by length:

The minimum length shall be 7 cm.

To ensure uniformity in size, the difference in size between the products in a package shall not exceed 7 cm, or 14 cm if the shortest courgette is longer than 21 cm. Uniformity is not required from a length of 35 cm and up.

~~To ensure uniformity in size, the range in size between produce in the same package shall not exceed:~~

- ~~• 7 cm to 14 cm inclusive~~
- ~~• over 14 cm to 21 cm inclusive~~
- ~~• over 21 cm to 35 cm inclusive~~
- ~~• over 35 cm.~~

(b) For sizing by weight:

The minimum weight shall be 50 g.

To ensure uniformity in size, the range in size between produce in the same package shall not exceed:

- 50 g to 100 g inclusive
- over 100 g to 225 g inclusive
- over 225 g to 450 g inclusive
- over 450 g

Uniformity in size is compulsory for Classes “Extra” and I.

The size requirements shall apply neither to miniature produce¹ nor to courgettes presented with the flower.

II. Justification

Until now, producers have not been able to react to changes in cultivation conditions and the associated shifts in standard courgette sizes with flexible grading. For example, a 17- 24 cm size range / grading is often demanded by the trade. These sorting restrictions would be lifted with the proposed simplification.

¹ Miniature product means a variety or cultivar of vegetable, obtained by plant breeding and/or special cultivation techniques. All other requirements of the standard must be met.