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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND
ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

Working Party on Standardization of
Perishable Produce and Quality Development

Meeting of Experts on Coordination of
Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables
(Forty-fifth session, Geneva, 26-29 October 1999)

Item 3 (b) of the provisional agenda

OTHER PROPOSALS CONCERNING ASPARAGUS

Note by the secretariat

The following proposal is reproduced in the form in which it was submitted by France.

**Proposed amendment to UN/ECE standard FFV-04 concerning the
marketing and commercial quality control of ASPARAGUS**

(proposed amendments are in bold type)

This proposal would incorporate under the "ASPARAGUS" norm slender green asparagus produced in rapid growth conditions and "trigueros".

These shoots are cultivars of *Asparagus officinalis* and should therefore be covered by the standard in question.

The generic term accepted for describing such asparagus is "slender green asparagus". All slender green asparagus, whatever its origin, could be marketed under this description with shoots of too low quality being removed because of the woody nature of the produce.

These points should be borne in mind when considering all the proposed amendments below.

I. DEFINITION OF PRODUCE

...

This standard does not apply to ... - Delete "**green and**" violet/green asparagus of less than 6 mm diameter and white and violet asparagus of less than 8 mm diameter, packed in uniform bundles or unit packages.

...

III. PROVISIONS CONCERNING SIZING

...

B. Sizing by diameter

...

The minimum diameter and sizing are fixed as follows:

Quality class	Colour group	Minimum diameter	Sizing	
"Extra"	white and violet	12 mm	12 to 16 mm	16 mm and over with a maximum variation of 8 mm in any single package or bundle
	violet/green and violet	10 mm	10 to 16 mm	
	slender green	4 mm	4 to 10 mm	No provisions as to uniformity prescribed
I	white and violet	10 mm	10 to 16 mm	16 mm and over with a maximum variation of 10 mm in any single package or bundle
	violet/green and violet	6 mm	6 to 12 mm	12 mm and over with a maximum variation of 8 mm in any single package or bundle
	slender green	3 mm	3 to 10 mm	No provisions as to uniformity prescribed
II	white and violet	8 mm	No provisions as to uniformity prescribed	
	violet/green and violet	6 mm		
	slender green	3 mm		

...

IV. PROVISIONS CONCERNING TOLERANCES

...

B. Size tolerances

Add at the end of the paragraph: **"(these provisions do not apply to slender green asparagus)"**.

...

VI. PROVISIONS CONCERNING MARKING

...

B. Nature of produce

- "Asparagus" followed by the indication "white", "green", "violet", or "violet/green" if the contents of the package are not visible from the outside and, where appropriate, the indication "**slender**", "short", "tips" or "mixture white and violet".
