

Peaches and nectarines – note to interpret the UNECE/EU marketing standard

This note has been agreed internationally to explain some areas of the marketing standard that are not clear. It also gives information about defects that are not in the marketing standard. It does not cover all the requirements, you can read these in the marketing standard on GOV.UK.

Defect	Extra Class	Class I	Class II	GMS limit *
Bruise	None.	Slight pressure marks of 1cm ² or less allowed.	Slight discoloured bruise of 2cm ² or less allowed.	
Chill injury	Cut to check glassy appearance to flesh, only very slight amount allowed in Class II and under GMS.			
Development shape	Typical.	Slightly uneven halves of fruit are allowed in early season varieties.	Defects allowed but must not be excessive.	Any shape allowed if properly developed and consumption is not affected.
Hail	None.	None.	1 or 2 slight shallow healed marks allowed.	Several slight shallow healed marks are allowed if consumption is not affected.
Maturity	Minimum 8% Brix measured at the mid point of the fruit pulp at the equatorial section.			
Minimum size	Fruit from the northern hemisphere below 56mm or 85g (size D) cannot be marketed in the period from 1 July to 31 October. Fruit from the southern hemisphere cannot be marketed from 1 January to 30 April.			No minimum size, if fruit meets the maturity requirements.
Picking damage	Must be carefully picked.			Slight tears allowed, if dry and no deterioration.

Defect	Extra Class	Class I	Class II	GMS limit *
Skin defect contrasting blemish	Very slight superficial allowed.	Allow if 1cm ² or less in area allowed or 1.5cm or less in length.	Allow if 2cm ² or less in area or 2.5cm in length.	Allowed if only skin deep and consumption is not affected. Heavy cracking is not allowed.
	Ignore contrasting areas of yellow and red.			
Split fruit	Fruits with splits in the stem cavity are out of grade and only allowed within tolerance.			
	None.	1% tolerance allowed.	10% tolerance allowed. Fruit with internal split is allowed if split is closed and flesh is sound.	10% tolerance allowed.
Suture lines	None.	Allowed if shallow and very slight stitching.	Stitching allowed, must not be deep or gritty affect consumption.	

SMS regulated Flat/doughnut peaches.

GMS regulated Hybrids of peaches/ apricots. Peachcots.

*Peaches and nectarines that do not meet the requirements of the specific marketing standard (SMS) can still be sold for home processing if they meet the sound, fair and marketable requirements of the general marketing standard. They must be labelled 'for home processing', but must not be labelled with an SMS class.