

Strawberries – 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 *
Calyx	Must be fresh and green.		May be less fresh and green, some browning / frost damage allowed.	Calyx may be missing.
Cleanliness	Must be clean, no soiling allowed.	Slight traces allowed, no soil should be embedded in the fruit.		
Colour	Must be uniform colour.	<p>A small white patch not more than 1/10 of the total surface area allowed.</p> 	<p>A white patch not more than 1/5 of the total surface area allowed, ignore pink areas.</p> 	<p>A white patch not more than 1/5 of the total surface area allowed, ignore pink areas.</p> 

Defect	Extra class	Class I	Class II	GMS limit *
Shape	Characteristic of variety	Slight shape defect allowed, taking account of the variety	Defects in shape, including multiple points allowed. Dense collections of seed caused by poor pollination and hollow fruit are out of grade	Defects in shape, multiple points, hollow fruit and poor pollination shapes are allowed if consumption is not affected
Splits	None	None	Slight healed splits allowed if covered by the calyx	Splits allowed if consumption is not affected
Stalk punctures	Out of grade			Allowed if healed and dry



SMS regulated
GMS regulated

Strasberry

and Pineberry

*Strawberries 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.