



Lettuces – 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	Class I	Class II	GMS limit*
Bruising/damage	Slight bruising of 1 or 2 ribs allowed. Slight red/brown discolouration allowed.	More bruising and damage allowed. Darker brown colouration allowed but no rot.	Allowed as long as no rot or deterioration seriously affecting consumption.
Cleanliness - non-Iceberg	Slight soiling to the outer leaves allowed .	Soiling of outer leaves and slight soiling to inner leaves are allowed. Any soiling to the heart (centre) is out of grade.	
Cleanliness – Iceberg	Very slight soiling on head leaf allowed.	Slight soiling on head leaf allowed	
Note: Overwrapping can make soiling appear worse than it actually is - open the wrapper to check.			
Deterioration of leaf tips (tip burn)	Very slight on 1 or 2 outer leaves allowed.	More allowed on outer leaves, none on heart.	Some allowed on outer leaves, none on heart.
Ethylene damage (russet spotting)	None.	A few traces on not more than 2 leaf stalks allowed.	Traces on not more than 3 leaf stalks allowed.
Flower stems	None.	Not more than half the height of lettuce allowed.	Not more than half the height of lettuce allowed.
Freshness	Must be fresh and turgid.	Some lack of freshness allowed in outer leaves.	Some lack of freshness allowed in outer leaves.
Low temperature damage; tissue thickening and / or epidermis lifting (bubbling) without rots	Allowed on wrapper leaves if not severely distorted.	Inner leaves and heart may be slightly affected.	Allowed if no deterioration, and consumption is not affected.
Pest damage	Very slight on 1 or 2 outer leaves allowed. None allowed on Iceberg.	More allowed on outer leaves, none allowed on heart.	More allowed on outer leaves, none allowed on heart.



Defect	Class I	Class II	GMS limit*
Puffiness – Iceberg	None allowed if grown outdoors. If grown under protection slight puffiness allowed. Prominent ribs allowed if undamaged.	Lettuces may be puffy to the touch.	Allowed if no deterioration.
Trim – Iceberg	Not more than 2 leaf stalks may be separated from the base plate.	Not more than 5 leaf stalks may be separated if appearance remains fresh.	Must remain largely intact and fresh.

Regulated by SMS Cabbage, round or flat, crisp (Webbs type) inc. Batavia, Iceberg, Cos (Romaine), Little Gem, Density, broad leaved Batavian endives (Escaroles), curly leaved endives, Frisee, Oak Leaf, Lollo Rosso pre packed or loose whole baby leaf lettuce.

Regulated by GMS Lambs Lettuce, Radiccio, red and green chicory

*Lettuces 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.