


## Tomatoes – note to interpret the UNECE/EU marketing standard

This note has been agreed internationally to explain some areas of the 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 *
<b>Cleanliness – evaporation deposits</b>	Slight evaporation deposits allowed but no heavy deposits Any soiling or sooty mould is out of grade. Ignore finger prints caused by pickers.			
<b>Colour uniformity</b>	Must be almost uniform in Extra Class and Class I. Use OECD colour chart - ignore colour numbers 1 and 12. Any 3 consecutive colour numbers are considered to be almost uniform.		Green fruit with early signs of colour break (ripening) are allowed.	Green fruit are allowed.
<b>Colour – virus</b>	None.	Slight colour defects are allowed.	Colour defects are allowed.	Virus colour defects are allowed.
<b>Cracking (fine)</b>	None.	Slight – not raised or rough and only on the shoulder of the fruit allowed.	Allowed if not affecting the overall appearance.	Allowed.
<b>Cracks (healed)</b>	None.	None.	Allowed if shallow and healed and not more than 3cm.	Allowed if shallow and healed if not affecting consumption.
<b>Damage – stalk puncture</b>	None.	Very slight bruising is allowed.	Shallow dry punctures are allowed, no breakdown.	Dry punctures are allowed, no breakdown.

Defect	Extra Class	Class I	Class II	GMS limit *
<b>Disease – <i>alternaria sp.</i></b>	None.	None.	<p>Only allowed within tolerance. 1 small spot is limited to 10% tolerance. More spotting is limited to 3% tolerance.</p> 	
<b>Disease – ghost spotting – botrytis</b>	None.	2 small spots allowed if they do not detract from the overall appearance.	Allowed if the overall appearance is not affected.	Allowed.
<b>Firmness</b>	Must be firm.	Must be reasonably firm.	Must be reasonably firm (but may be slightly less firm than Class I).	Must be reasonably firm (but may be slightly less firm than Class II).
<b>Packages of mixed varieties/colours</b>	Allowed in all classes and SMS.			
<b>Skin defects – blemish</b>	Very fine superficial are allowed.	Skin defects – blemish	Very fine superficial are allowed.	Skin defects – blemish

\*Tomatoes 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.