

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) No 543/2011
of 7 June 2011

laying down detailed rules for the application of
Council Regulation (EC) No 1234/2007 in respect of the fruit and
vegetables and processed fruit and vegetables sectors.

CONSOLIDATED TEXT: Annex I; Part 5 of Part B

MARKETING STANDARD FOR PEACHES AND NECTARINES

I. DEFINITION OF PRODUCE

This standard applies to peaches and nectarines of varieties (cultivars) grown from *Prunus persica* Sieb. and Zucc., to be supplied fresh to the consumer, peaches and nectarines for industrial processing being excluded.

II. PROVISIONS CONCERNING QUALITY

The purpose of the standard is to define the quality requirements for peaches and nectarines, after preparation and packaging.

However, at stages following dispatch products may show in relation to the requirements of the standard:

- a slight lack of freshness and turgidity,

for products graded in classes other than “Extra” Class, a slight deterioration due to their development and their tendency to perish.**A. Minimum requirements**

In all classes, subject to the special provisions for each class and the tolerances allowed, peaches and nectarines must be:

- intact,
- sound; produce affected by rotting or deterioration such as to make it unfit for consumption is excluded,
- clean, practically free of any visible foreign matter,
- practically free from pests,
- free from damage caused by pests affecting the flesh,
- free of fruit split at the stalk cavity,
- free of abnormal external moisture,
- free of any foreign smell and/or taste.

The development and condition of peaches and nectarines must be such as to enable them:

- to withstand transportation and handling, and
- to arrive in satisfactory condition at the place of destination.

B. Maturity requirements

The fruit must be sufficiently developed and display satisfactory ripeness. The minimum refractometric index of the flesh should be greater than or equal to 8° Brix¹.

C. Classification

Peaches and nectarines are classified into three classes, as defined below:

(i) "Extra" Class

Peaches and nectarines in this class must be of a superior quality. They must be characteristic of the variety.

The flesh must be perfectly sound.

They must be free from defects with the exception of very slight superficial defects, provided that these do not affect the general appearance of the produce, the quality, the keeping quality and presentation in the package.

(ii) Class I

Peaches and nectarines in this class must be of good quality. They must be characteristic of the variety. The flesh must be perfectly sound.

The following slight defects, however, may be allowed provided these do not affect the general appearance of the produce, the quality, the keeping quality and presentation in the package:

- a slight defect in shape,
- a slight defect in development,
- slight defects in colouring,
- slight pressure marks not exceeding 1 cm² in total surface area,
- slight skin defects which must not extend over more than:
 - 1.5 cm in length for defects of elongated shape,

¹ Calculated as described in the OECD guidance on objective tests, available at <http://www.oecd.org/agriculture/fruit-vegetables/publications>.

- 1 cm² in total surface area for other defects.

(iii) Class II

This class includes peaches and nectarines which do not qualify for inclusion in the higher classes, but satisfy the minimum requirements specified above.

The flesh must be free from major defects.

The following defects may be allowed provided the peaches and nectarines retain their essential characteristics as regards the quality, the keeping quality and presentation:

- defects in shape,
- defects in development, including split stones, provided the fruit is closed and the flesh is sound,
- defects in colouring,
- bruises which may be slightly discoloured and not exceeding 2 cm² in total surface area,
- skin defects which must not extend over more than:
 - 2.5 cm in length for defects of elongated shape,
 - 2 cm² in total surface area for other defects.

III. PROVISIONS CONCERNING SIZING

Size is determined either by the maximum diameter of the equatorial section, by weight, or by count.

The minimum size shall be:

- 56 mm or 85 g in Class "Extra",
- 51 mm or 65 g in Classes I and II.

However, fruit below 56 mm or 85 g, is not marketed in the period from 1 July to 31 October (northern hemisphere) and from 1 January to 30 April (southern hemisphere).

The following provisions are optional for Class II.

To ensure uniformity in size, the range in size between produce in the same package shall not exceed:

(a) For fruit sized by diameter:

- 5 mm for fruit below 70 mm,
- 10 mm for fruit of 70 mm and more.

(b) For fruit sized by weight:

- 30 g for fruit below 180 g,
- 80 g for fruit of 180 g and more.

(c) For fruit sized by count, the difference in size should be consistent with (a) or (b).

If size codes are applied, those in the table below have to be respected.

	Code	Diameter		Weight	
		From (mm)	To (mm)	From (g)	To (g)
1	D	51	56	65	85
2	C	56	61	85	105
3	B	61	67	105	135
4	A	67	73	135	180
5	AA	73	80	180	220
6	AAA	80	90	220	300
7	AAAA	> 90		> 300	

IV. PROVISIONS CONCERNING TOLERANCES

At all marketing stages, tolerances in respect of quality and size shall be allowed in each lot for produce not satisfying the requirements for the class indicated.

A. Quality tolerances

(i) "Extra" Class

A total tolerance of 5 %, by number or weight, of peaches or nectarines not satisfying the requirements of the class, but meeting those of class I is allowed. Within this tolerance not more than 0.5 % in total may consist of produce satisfying the requirements of Class II quality.

(ii) Class I

A total tolerance of 10 %, by number or weight, of peaches or nectarines not satisfying the requirements of the class, but meeting those of class II is allowed. Within this tolerance not more than 1 % in total may consist of produce satisfying neither the requirements of Class II quality nor the minimum requirements, or of produce affected by decay.

(iii) Class II

A total tolerance of 10 %, by number or weight, of peaches or nectarines satisfying neither the requirements of the class nor the minimum requirements is allowed. Within this tolerance not more than 2 % in total may consist of produce affected by decay.

B. Size tolerances

For all classes (if sized): a total tolerance of 10 %, by number or weight, of peaches or nectarines not satisfying the requirements as regards sizing is allowed.

V. PROVISIONS CONCERNING PRESENTATION

A. Uniformity

The contents of each package must be uniform and contain only peaches or nectarines of the same origin, variety, quality, degree of ripeness and size (if sized), and for the "Extra" Class, the contents must also be uniform in colouring.

The visible part of the contents of the package must be representative of the entire contents.

B. Packaging

The peaches or nectarines must be packed in such a way as to protect the produce properly.

The materials used inside the package must be clean and of a quality such as to avoid causing any external or internal damage to the produce. The use of materials, particularly of paper or stamps bearing trade specifications is allowed provided the printing or labelling has been done with non-toxic ink or glue.

Stickers individually affixed to the produce shall be such that, when removed, they neither leave visible traces of glue, nor lead to skin defects. Information lasered on single fruit should not lead to flesh or skin defects.

Packages must be free of all foreign matter.

VI. PROVISIONS CONCERNING MARKING

Each package¹ must bear the following particulars in letters grouped on the same side, legibly and indelibly marked and visible from the outside:

A. Identification

Name and physical address of the packer and/or the dispatcher (for example: street/city/region/postal code and, if different from the country of origin, the country).

¹ These marking provisions do not apply to sales packages presented in packages. However, they do apply to sales packages presented separately.

This mention may be replaced:

- for all packages with the exception of pre-packages, by the officially issued or accepted code mark representing the packer and/or the dispatcher, indicated in close connection with the reference "Packer and/or dispatcher" (or equivalent abbreviations). The code mark shall be preceded by the ISO 3166 (alpha) country/area code of the recognising country, if not the country of origin;
- for pre-packages only, by the name and the address of a seller established within the Union indicated in close connection with the mention "Packed for:" or an equivalent mention. In this case, the labelling shall also include a code representing the packer and/or the dispatcher. The seller shall give all information deemed necessary by the inspection body as to the meaning of this code.

B. Nature of produce

- "Peaches" or "Nectarines", if the contents are not visible from the outside.
- Colour of the flesh.
- Name of the variety (optional).

C. Origin of produce

Country of origin¹ and, optionally, district where grown, or national, regional or local place name.

D. Commercial specifications

- Class.
- Size (if sized) expressed as minimum and maximum diameters (in mm) or minimum and maximum weights (in g) or as size code.
- Number of units (optional).

E. Official control mark (optional)

Packages need not to bear the particulars mentioned in the first subparagraph, when they contain sales packages, clearly visible from the outside, and all bearing these particulars. These packages shall be free from any indications such as could mislead. When these packages are palletised, the particulars shall be given on a notice placed in an obvious position on at least two sides of the pallet.

¹ The full or commonly used name shall be indicated.