

05 June 2018

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

41st Session

Rome, 2-6 July 2018

European Union Comments on

CL 2017/91/OCS-FFV:

Request for Comments at Step 5 on the draft standard for ware potatoes

Mixed Competence

Member States vote

The European Union and its Member States (EUMS) consider that in accordance with Article 1(b) of the statutes of the Codex Alimentarius, Codex standards should "promote coordination of all food standards work undertaken by international governmental and non-governmental organizations".

There are two international standards on potatoes established by the UNECE and by the OECD. Contrary to these two existing standards, the draft Codex standard does not cover "early potatoes", this should be clarified in the scope of the draft Codex standard and the EUMS suggest to add a footnote defining early potatoes mentioned in the scope: "*Early potatoes are obtained from early varieties and/or are harvested at the beginning of the season in the country of origin. Early potatoes means potatoes harvested before they are completely mature, marketed immediately after their harvesting, and whose skin can be easily removed without peeling*"

In line with the purpose of Codex Alimentarius standards to facilitate trade, the EUMS consider that the producers and traders using this Codex standard should be informed of the existence of other international standards; a new section at the end of the Codex standard for ware potatoes should be added:

NOTE:

The UNECE has published the Standard FFV-52 concerning the marketing and commercial quality control of early and ware potatoes. This Standard is available at:
http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trade/agr/standard/fresh/FFVStd/English/52_EarlyAndWarePotatoes_2011.pdf

The OECD Scheme for the Application of International Standards for Fruit and Vegetables has published an explanatory illustrated brochure on the application of this standard. The publication may be obtained from the OECD bookshop at:
<http://www.oecd.org/agriculture/fruit-vegetables/publications/brochures/>

The EUMS support the adoption of the draft standard for ware potatoes at step 5 and will continue to contribute actively to the elaboration of the draft Codex Standard on ware potatoes.