

European Union comments on
Codex Circular Letter CL 2015/29-FFV
MATTERS FOR ADOPTION BY THE 39TH SESSION OF THE
CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Draft and Proposed Draft Standards and Related Texts
at Steps 8 or 5/8 of the Procedure

Proposed Draft Standard for Aubergines at Step 5/8 (with omission
of Steps 6/7) (para 51 and Appendix III)

Mixed Competence

Member States Vote

The European Union and its Member States (EUMS) propose adoption at step 5 rather than at step 5/8 for the Draft Standard for Aubergines due to our concerns on the inclusion of decay tolerances for produce in Extra Class, as expressed during the Codex Committee for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables. Adoption at Step 5 allows for more time to find a way forward on the Standard Layout, where the percentage for decay tolerance has not been agreed yet.

The EUMS consider that it is not acceptable to have a tolerance for decay in Extra Class. This is not in line with the concept of Extra Class, where the products classified "extra" must be of an exceptional nature. In international trade a tolerance for decay will inevitably lead to products which will not meet the quality requirements after long transportation: decay is progressive and a 1 % of decay at export may lead to a 5 % of decay at destination.

It is therefore necessary to exclude the 1% tolerance for decay, soft rot and/or internal breakdown to keep the superior quality of Extra Class. This will allow fair competition between producers who make an effort to increase the value of their production.

Furthermore, it is necessary to have clear distinction between the 3 classes described in Codex commodity standards for them to be truly meaningful. Allowing for the same tolerance for decay (1%) in both Extra Class and Class I clearly does not achieve this aim.