



**Economic and Social  
Council**

Distr.  
GENERAL

TRADE/WP.7/2005/3  
11 August 2005

ORIGINAL : ENGLISH

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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND  
ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards

Sixty-first session

Geneva, 18 - 20 October 2005

Item 3(b) of the Provisional Agenda

**PROPOSED UNECE RECOMMENDATION FOR CEPS\***

**Note by the secretariat:** This document was prepared by the secretariat on the basis of TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/2005/14 and TRADE//WP.7/GE.1/2005/18/Add.4 and contains the consolidated proposal for the new UNECE Recommendation for Ceps. It is proposed for adoption for a 2-year trial period until 2007.

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\* The present document has been submitted after the official documentation deadline by the Trade Development and Timber Division due to resource constraints.

**UNECE Recommendation FFV-54**  
concerning the marketing and commercial quality control of

**CEPS**

**I. DEFINITION OF PRODUCE**

This standard applies to ceps of species *Boletus edulis* Bull., *Boletus pinophilus* Pil.& Dermek, *Boletus reticulatus* Schaeff. (syn. *Boletus aestivalis*) and *Boletus aereus* Bull. to be supplied fresh to the consumer, ceps for processing being excluded.

**II. PROVISIONS CONCERNING QUALITY**

The purpose of the standard is to define the quality requirements of ceps at the export control stage, after preparation and packaging.

**A. Minimum requirements**

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

- positively identifiable
- firm
- intact; the stalk must be attached to the cap; the earth-soiled foot can be cut; ceps cut in half along the longitudinal axis are regarded as intact
- sound; produce affected by rotting or deterioration such as to make it unfit for consumption is excluded
- free of mould
- practically free from pests
- practically free from damage caused by pests
- clean, practically free of any visible foreign matter, other than earth or soil on the foot
- free of abnormal external moisture
- free of any foreign smell and/or taste

The pore layer must not be green.

The development and condition of the ceps must be such as to enable them:

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

**B. Classification**

Ceps are classified in three classes defined below:

**(i) Extra class**

Ceps in this class must be of superior quality. In shape, size and colouring they must be characteristic of the species. The pore layer must be white.

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

The ceps must be practically free of residual soil.

**(ii) Class I**

Ceps in this class must be of good quality. They must be characteristic of the species.

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:

- slight damage caused by pests
- slight damage of the head
- slight traces of residual soil on the foot
- slightly yellowish pore layer

**(iii) Class II**

This class includes ceps which do not qualify for inclusion in higher classes but satisfy the minimum requirements specified above. They must be characteristic of the species.

The following defects are allowed provided the ceps retain their essential characteristics as regards the quality, the keeping quality and presentation:

- damage caused by pests
- damage of the head
- traces of residual soil on the foot
- yellowish or greenish pore layer

Damaged parts and soft pore layer can be removed provided each cep retains its essential characteristics.

### **III. PROVISIONS CONCERNING SIZING**

Size is determined by the maximum diameter of the cap.

If sized, in each package the maximum difference of the diameter between the smallest cap and the largest cap must not exceed 5 cm.

### **IV. PROVISIONS CONCERNING TOLERANCES**

Tolerances in respect of quality shall be allowed in each package for produce not satisfying the requirements of the class indicated.

#### **A. Quality tolerances**

**(i) *Extra Class***

5 per cent by weight or number of ceps not satisfying the requirements of the class, but meeting those of class I or, exceptionally, coming within the tolerances of that class.

**(ii) *Class I***

10 per cent by weight or number of ceps not satisfying the requirements of the class, but meeting those of Class II or, exceptionally, coming within the tolerances of that class.

(iii) ***Class II***

10 per cent by weight or number of ceps satisfying neither the requirements of the class nor the minimum requirements, with the exception of produce affected by rotting or any other deterioration rendering it unfit for consumption.

In addition to the above, 5 per cent by weight or number of ceps with the stalk detached from the cap.

**B Size tolerances**

For all classes (if sized): 10 per cent by weight or number of ceps not satisfying the requirements as regards sizing.

**V. PROVISIONS CONCERNING PRESENTATION**

**A. Uniformity**

The contents of each package must be uniform and contain only ceps of the same origin, quality and size (if sized).

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

**B. Packaging**

The ceps must be packed in such a way as to protect the produce properly.

The materials used inside the package must be new, 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 and glue.

Packages must be free of all foreign matter.

**VI. PROVISIONS CONCERNING MARKING**

Each package <sup>1</sup> must bear the following particulars, in letters grouped on the same side, legibly and indelibly marked, and visible from the outside:

**A. Identification**

Packer	)	Name and address or
and/or	)	officially issued or
Dispatcher	)	accepted code mark. <sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Package units of produce prepacked for direct sale to the consumer shall not be subject to these marking provisions but shall conform to the national requirements. However, the markings referred to shall in any event be shown on the transport packaging containing such package units.

<sup>2</sup> The national legislation of a number of countries requires the explicit declaration of the name and address. However, in the case where a code mark is used, the reference "packer and/or dispatcher (or equivalent abbreviations)" has to be indicated in close connection with the code mark.

**B. Nature of produce**

- "Ceps" if the contents are not visible from the outside.
- name of the species (optional)

**C. Origin of produce**

- Country of origin and, optionally, district where picked, or national, regional or local place name.

**D. Commercial specifications**

- Class
- Size (if sized) expressed as minimum and maximum diameter of the cap in cm
- Net weight (optional)

**E. Official control mark (optional)**

Published as a new UNECE Recommendation 2005