



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
7 June 2021

English only

Economic Commission for Europe

Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards

Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards

Specialized Section on Standardization of Dry and Dried Produce

Sixty-eighth session

Geneva, 16—18 June 2021

Item 4(e) of the provisional agenda

Development of new standards

Proposal to develop a new standard for Raw and Roasted Inshell Peanuts – comments from the United States

Submitted by the secretariat

The following proposals (highlighted) were submitted by the delegation of the United States for consideration by the Specialized Section.

This document is submitted according to ECE/CTCS/2019/10 section IV, ECE/CTCS/2019/2 Decision 2019-8.6, and A/75/6 (Sect.20) and supplementary information.

The Specialized Section is invited to continue the discussions on the revised draft standard developed by the working group, led by the Rapporteur (Tajikistan), with the delegations from Germany and the United States.

Raw and Roasted Inshell Peanuts

I. Definition of produce

This standard applies to the inshell peanuts of varieties (cultivars) derived from *Arachis hypogaea* L in the raw stage or roasted, which are intended for direct consumption or mixing with other products for direct consumption. The standard does not apply to inshell peanuts processed by salting, sugaring, or flavoring or intended for industrial processing.

II. Provisions concerning quality

The purpose of this standard is to define the quality requirements for raw and roasted inshell peanuts at the export control stage after preparation and packaging. However, if applied at stages following export, the holder/seller shall be responsible for observing the requirements of the standard. The holder/seller of products not in conformity with this standard may not display such products or offer them for sale or deliver or market them in any other manner.



A. Minimum requirements ¹

In all classes, subject to the special provisions for each class and the tolerances allowed, the inshell peanuts must display the following characteristics:

The shell must be:

- intact; however, minor surface damage is not considered a defect provided that the core is physically protected.
- clean; practically free of any visible foreign matter, including the remains of pericarp, covering in total more than 10 per cent of the total shell surface
- free from blemishes, areas of discolouration or spread stains in pronounced contrast with the rest of the shell affecting in aggregate more than 25 per cent of the surface of the shell
- well formed; not noticeably misshapen. The kernel must be:
- free from rancidity.
- sufficiently developed. The presence of shrunken or shriveled inshell kernels that are extremely flat and cracked, or inshell kernels with areas that have been dehydrated, dried out or tough portions affecting more than 25 per cent of the kernel
- free from blemishes, areas of discoloration or spread stains in pronounced contrast with the rest of the kernel affecting in aggregate more than 25 per cent of the surface of the kernel
- well-formed.

The whole produce (shell and kernel) must be:

- sound; produce affected by rotting or deterioration such as to make it unfit for human consumption is excluded.
- free from mould filaments visible to the naked eye.
- free from living pests, whatever their stage of development;
- free from damage caused by pests, including the presence of dead insects and/or mites, their debris or excreta;
- free of abnormal external moisture;
- free of foreign smell and/or taste
- free from empty whole shells or blanks
- The condition of the inshell peanuts must be such as to enable them:
- to withstand transportation and handling
- to arrive in satisfactory condition at the place of destination.

B. Moisture content ²

Raw inshell peanuts shall have moisture content not exceeding 10 per cent.

[Roasted inshell peanuts shall have moisture content not exceeding [4 per cent]].

(*Comment of the United States*: Proposal based on trade practices.)

¹ Definitions of terms and defects are listed in Annex III of the Standard Layout – Recommended terms and definition of defects for standards of dry (Inshell Nuts and Nut Kernels) and dried produce <http://www.unece.org/trade/agr/standard/dry/StandardLayout/StandardLayoutDDP_e.pdf>.

² The moisture content is determined by one of the methods given in <annex II of the Standard Layout – Determination of the moisture content for dry produce> <http://www.unece.org/trade/agr/standard/dry/StandardLayout/StandardLayoutDDP_e.pdf>. The laboratory reference method shall be used in cases of dispute.

C. Classification

In accordance with the defects allowed in section “IV. Provisions concerning tolerances”, inshell peanuts are classified into the following classes:

“Extra” Class, Class I and Class II.

The defects allowed must not affect the general appearance of the produce as regards quality, keeping quality and presentation in the package.

III. Provisions concerning sizing

Sizing is optional.

When sized, size is determined by count, i.e. the number of inshell peanuts per [500g] or per pound (453.6 g).

[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 minimum requirements of the class indicated.

Quality tolerances

Defects allowed	Tolerances allowed, percentage of defective produce, by number or weight (with regard to the total inshell weight basis)		
	Extra	Class I	Class II
(a) Tolerances for inshell peanuts not satisfying the minimum requirements	<u>5</u> [10]	10 [14]	15 [18]
of which no more than:			
Not sufficiently developed or empty shells	<u>3</u> [7]	7 [10]	10 [12]
Mouldy, rancid or damaged by pests, rotting or deterioration (<i>Comment of the United States: The allowance for any single defect in this group is too high if there are no others.</i>) of which: mouldy not more than : in raw peanuts in roasted peanuts (<i>Comment of the United States: Raw peanuts in storage have a higher risk of mould development due their higher moisture content. Whereas, mould is a minor issue in roasted peanuts.</i>)	2 0,5 0.1	<u>5</u> [3] 1 0.1	<u>7</u> [3.5] 2 0.25
Living pests	0	0	0
(b) Size tolerances			
For produce not conforming to the size indicated, if sized (<i>Comment of the United States: Due to the size and shape characteristics of inshell peanuts a higher allowance is proposed in line with trade practices.</i>)	[15]	[15]	[15]
(c) Tolerances for other defects			
Foreign matter (<i>Comment of the United States: Compared to other nuts, peanuts are harvest from the soil and so there is a propensity for foreign matter such as soil, pebbles and pieces of sticks etc. Therefore, tolerances for foreign matter is indicated separately.</i>)	0.5	1	1

Defects allowed	Tolerances allowed, percentage of defective produce, by number or weight (with regard to the total inshell weight basis)		
	Extra	Class I	Class II
<u>Extraneous matter</u> , loose shells, loose peanuts, shell fragments, fragments of hull, seed coat, dust (by weight) among:			
- <u>raw inshell peanuts</u>	3	3	3
- <u>roasted inshell peanuts*</u>	5	5	5
(Comment of the United States: Tolerances for Extraneous Matter inserted to reflect product characteristics in both raw and roasted forms.)			
Inshell peanuts belonging to varieties or commercial types other than that indicated	5	5	5

* The shells of roasted inshell peanuts are more brittle and prone to breaking

V. Provisions concerning presentation

A. Uniformity

The contents of each package must be uniform and contain only inshell peanuts of the same origin, quality, variety (if indicated) and/or crop year (if indicated), and size (if sized).

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

B. Packaging

Inshell peanuts 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.

Packages must be practically free of all foreign matter in accordance with the table of tolerances in section “IV Provisions concerning tolerances”.

VI. Provisions concerning marking

Each package³ must bear the following particulars in letters grouped on the same side, legibly and indelibly marked and visible from the outside:

A. Identification

Packer and/or Dispatcher:

Name and physical address (e.g. street/city/region/postal code and, if different from the country of origin, the country) or a code mark officially recognized by the national authority.⁴

³ These marking provisions do not apply to sales packages presented in packages.

⁴ The national legislation of a number of countries requires the explicit declaration of the name and address. However, in cases where a code mark is used, the reference “packer and/or dispatcher” (or equivalent abbreviations) must be indicated in close connection with the code mark, and the code mark should be preceded with the ISO 3166 alpha country code of the recognizing country, if not the country of origin.

B. Nature of Produce

- “Inshell peanuts” or “Peanuts in the shell” or “Roasted inshell peanuts” or equivalent denomination
- name of the variety (optional)

C. Origin of produce

- Country of origin⁵ and, optionally, district where grown or national, regional or local place name.

D. Commercial specifications

- class
- size (if sized); expressed in accordance with section III
- crop year (optional)
- “Best before” followed by the date (optional).

E. Official control mark (optional)

⁵ The full or a commonly used name should be indicated.