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(Acts whose publication is obligatory)

COMMISSION REGULATION (EEC) No 2347/84
of 31 July 1984
on dried grapes eligible for production aid

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EEC) No 516/77 of 14 March 1977 on the common organization of the market in products processed from fruit and vegetables [1], as last amended by Regulation (EEC) No 988/84 [2], and in particular Articles 3b (4), 3c (5) and 3d (4) thereof,

Whereas Article 3 of Regulation (EEC) No 516/77 provides for a system of production aid for certain products; whereas under that system a minimum price must be paid to the producer and production aid is to be paid on the basis of the net weight of the processed product;

Whereas the quality of dried grapes intended for processing and of dried grapes ready to be offered for direct consumption varies; whereas the minimum price and the production aid should be fixed for a specified category; whereas the minimum price and the amount of aid for categories other than that for which they have been fixed should be derived from that category; whereas the prices and amounts so derived should take into account the characteristics of the different categories; whereas these categories must be defined;

Whereas Article 3d (1) (b) of Regulation (EEC) No 516/77 provides that processed products must meet minimum Community quality standards to be laid down; whereas such standards are already in application for certain dried fruit, pursuant to Commission Regulation (EEC) No 2425/81 [3]; whereas that Regulation is applicable only to products harvested before the 1984/85 marketing year; whereas new minimum quality standards should be established;

Whereas the measures provided for in this Regulation are in accordance with the opinion of the Management Committee for Products Processed from Fruit and Vegetables,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

1. The minimum price payable to the producer for unprocessed dried grapes shall be fixed per 100 kilograms of sultanas of category 4.

For other categories of sultanas and for currants, the minimum price shall be multiplied by the coefficient listed in Annex I.

2. To qualify for payment of the minimum price, unprocessed dried grapes shall comply with the requirements and one of the classifications set out in Annex II.

Article 2

1. The production aid for dried grapes shall be fixed per 100 kilograms net of sultanas of category 4.

For other categories of sultanas and for currants, the amount of aid shall be multiplied by the coefficient listed in Annex I.

2. To qualify for payment of aid, the dried grapes shall comply with the requirements and one of the classifications set out in Annex III.

Article 3

1. In respect of unprocessed dried grapes, verifications of the requirements and the classifications shall be made

(1) OJ No L 73, 21. 3. 1977, p. 1.
(2) OJ No L 103, 16. 4. 1984, p. 11.
(3) OJ No L 240, 24. 8. 1981, p. 1.

on the basis of samples taken by the processor from a lot. For this purpose 'a lot' means the number of containers presented jointly by the same producer or his recognized producers' group or association of groups handing over to the processor or his processors' group or association of groups. The samples shall be examined by the processor or alternatively on his behalf.

2. The result of the examination referred to in paragraph 1 shall be recorded. The Member States may prescribe a special form to be used for this purpose.

Article 4

The processor shall after processing take an appropriate number of samples of dried grapes to verify that the requirements laid down in Annex III are respected. The result of each verification shall be included in a format which shall contain at least the particulars referred to in Annex IV.

Article 5

1. The processor shall inform the competent authorities in writing each time a consignment of dried grapes is ready for inspection. The consignment may leave the processor only on the third working day after the day on which the information was received by the competent authorities, or with their authorization.

2. The competent authorities shall examine each consignment, in particular by opening between 3 and 5 % of the packings of a size which are not intended for retail sale, and shall take samples from at least one in every 20 for further verification. The result of each verification shall be included in a format which shall contain at least the particulars referred to in Annex IV.

3. In cases where the authorities have established that a consignment or a part thereof does not comply with the requirements laid down in Annex III, no production aid shall be payable for the whole consignment. A consignment for which production aid has been refused may be reprocessed.

Article 6

The Member States shall ensure that samples taken under Article 5 may, on request of the processor and on his behalf, be tested by a different agency from that having made the first test.

Article 7

This Regulation shall enter into force on the day of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*.

It shall apply from 1 September 1984.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at Brussels, 31 July 1984.

For the Commission

Poul DALSAGER

Member of the Commission

ANNEX I

COEFFICIENTS

I. Coefficients applicable to the minimum price

SULTANAS

Category	Coefficient
1	1,05588
2	1,03383
5	0,95588

CURRANTS

Category	Coefficient
1. 'Shade', Eghion region	1,04264
2. 'Select Sun', Eghion region	1,02058
3. 'Shade', Corinth region	1,01323
4. 'Select Sun', Corinth region	0,98332
5. 'Regular', Eghion region	0,96911
6. 'Select Sun', from Patras, the Ionian Islands, the Prefecture of Illias, Triphilias	0,95588
7. 'Regular', Corinth region	0,95588
8. 'Select Sun', remainder of Messenia	0,94117
9. 'Regular', from Patras, the Ionian Islands, the Prefecture of Illias, Triphilias	0,92647
10. 'Regular', remainder of Messenia	0,91176
11. 'Regular', other regions	0,83382

II. Coefficients applicable to the production aid

SULTANAS

Category	Coefficient
00, 0, 1, 21	1,05588
2, 22	1,03383
24	1,00000
25	0,95588

CURRANTS

Category	Designation		
	Vostitsa	Gulf	Provincials
	Coefficient	Coefficient	Coefficient
Extra choicest	1,14264	1,11323	—
Choicest	1,12058	1,08332	1,05588
Choice	1,06911	1,05588	1,04647

ANNEX II

QUALITY REQUIREMENTS AND CLASSIFICATION OF UNPROCESSED DRIED GRAPES

Definition

Sultanas shall be obtained from grapes of varieties (cultivars) Vitis Vinifera L., variety Apyrena.

Currants shall be obtained from grapes of varieties (cultivars) Vitis Vinifera L., variety black currant from Corinth.

A. Minimum requirements

1. The fresh grapes must comply with existing rules, in particular concerning residues of pesticides, and the drying must be carried out without direct contact with the ground and with adequate protection against animals. Initial pre-cleaning (winnowing) must be made, in particular to remove large stalks.

2. The unprocessed dried grapes shall be:

   (a) well-dried and with a moisture content not exceeding 16 %;

   (b) sound, that is to say free of mould, rot, fermentation, insect eggs or any other defect or condition which could detract from the quality or presentation of the product;

   (c) practically free from stones, discernible pieces of grit, metal fragments and other mineral impurities;

   (d) free from foreign materials other than those referred to in (c),

   (e) practically free of stalks and other pieces of harmless vegetable matter arising from the vine;

   (f) free from abnormal smell or taste;

   (g) free from stickiness arising from any cause whatsoever;

   (h) loose or become loose when removed from their container;

   (ij) transported and stored in clean new packings, or clean second-hand packings.

3. The following tolerances are allowed:

Criteria	Tolerance
Sound	4 % by number of affected fruit
Practically free from stone, discernible pieces of grit, metal fragments and other mineral impurities	0,2 % by weight
Practically free of stalks and other harmless vegetable matter arising from the vine	0,3 % by weight

4. In respect of currants, the berries shall be uniform in size between 8,5 and 4 mm. However, the following tolerances are allowed:

   — 6 % maximum by weight of berries of a diameter greater than 8,5 mm,

   — 2 % maximum by weight of berries of a diameter less than 4 mm. This tolerance is increased to 4 % for currants produced in Aegialia, in Corinth or the Ionian Islands.

B. Classification

1. Sultanas shall be classified as follows:

Category	Colour	Dark brown/black fruit allowed (% by number)	Size consistency
1	Yellow to amber	8	Fruit must be large, with 10 % of smaller fruit allowed
2	Yellow to pale brown	14	Not required (fruit must nevertheless be fairly large)
4	Yellow to brown	20	Not required
5	Yellow to dark brown	50	Not required

Large fruit means fruit which would be retained in a sieve with mesh of 8 mm in diameter.

The number of dark brown/black fruit allowed shall from 1 November to 1 August of each marketing year be increased by 0,5 % on the first of each month.

2. Currants shall be classified according to the following criteria:

— drying process,

— colour of berries,

— texture of berries.

Category (denomination)	Drying process	Berry colour	Berry texture
'Shade'	In the shade	Blue-black	Dry and velvety
'Select Sun'	Sunlight	Black	Not specified
'Regular'	Sunlight	Reddish-black	Not specified

ANNEX III

MINIMUM QUALITY STANDARDS FOR DRIED GRAPES

Definition

Dried grapes shall be obtained from unprocessed sultanas and currants complying with the requirements laid down in Annex II.

General requirements

Dried grapes shall have undergone washing in a sufficient quantity of potable water. They may be coated with paraffin oil or authorized vegetables oil.

They shall be:

(a) sound, that is to say free of mould, rot, fermentation, insect eggs or any other defect or condition which could detract from the quality or presentation of the product;

(b) free of live insects and pests;

(c) free from stones, discernible pieces of grit, glass, metal fragments and other visible foreign matter; however, currants may contain harmless visible foreign matter of vegetable origin as provided for under B. 'Currants', I. 'Classification and defect';

(d) practically free from other foreign matter than those referred to in (c), such as sand and earth;

(e) free from abnormal smell or taste. The slight odour of sulphur dioxide (SO_2) is not considered abnormal for bleached sultanas;

(f) free running and free flowing;

(g) free from stickiness arising from any cause whatsoever.

The dried grapes, other than bleached sultanas, shall be subject to proper fumigation prior to the moment when the examination of the quality is carried out by the competent authorities and not more than seven days prior to the day when they are finally dispatched to the consignee.

A. SULTANAS

I. General conditions

Sultanas shall have undergone drying in warm air ovens or similar equipment so that the moisture content is between 15 and 13 %. They may be bleached by sulphur dioxide (SO_2). However, 'natural' sultanas must not have undergone any bleaching treatment.

II. Defects

Common defects may be found when they do not exceed the limits specified in the following table:

Defect	Tolerance
1. Pieces of stalk per 2,5 kilograms of categories 00, 0 and 1	1
2. Pieces of stalk per 2,5 kilograms of the other categories	2
3. Fruits with cap stem	8 % by weight
4. Immature or undeveloped fruits	2 % by weight
5. Sugared fruits	2 % by weight
6. Damaged fruits, including chewed	2 % by weight
7. Visible mould, rot, fermentation, insect eggs or any other defect or condition which could detract from the quality or the presentation of the product	1 % by weight
8. Not visible foreign matter	0,01 % by weight

For the purposes of the determination of defects:

(a) 'Immature or undeveloped fruits' shall mean fruits that are:

— extremely light-weight, lacking in sugary tissue indicating incomplete development,

— completely shrivelled with practically no flesh.

(b) 'Sugared fruit' shall mean fruit with external or internal sugar crystals which are readily apparent and seriously affect the appearance of the fruit.

(c) 'Damaged fruit' shall mean fruit affected by sunburn, scars, mechanical injury or other similar means which seriously affect the appearance, edibility, keeping quality or shipping quality.

(d) In exceptional cases where the competent authorities find a maximum of one stone in a consignment, it shall even so be considered free from stones.

III. Classification and sizing

Sultanas, bleached or natural, are classified into two groups, large and small, with six and three categories respectively. The classification into categories shall be based on:

— colour,

— colour uniformity,

— quantity of dark brown and black fruits,

— size.

The classification shall be made in accordance with the following table:

(a) *Bleached sultanas*

Category	Colour	Colour uniformity (% by number)	Maximum of dark brown/ black fruit (% by number)	Retained in a sieve with mesh of the following diameter while passing a sieve with mesh applicable to the nearest higher size
Large sultanas				
00	Pale to golden	95	0	10 mm
0	Pale to amber	85	4	9 mm
1	Pale amber	85	5	8 mm
2	Pale to pale brown	80	10	7,5 mm
4	Pale to brown	70	17	7 mm
5	Dark brown	Not required	40	6 mm
Small sultanas				
21	Pale to golden	85	10	6 mm
22	Pale	80	10	6 mm
24	Dark brown	Not required	20	6 mm

(b) *Natural sultanas*

Large sultanas				
00	Amber yellow to pale brown	85	5	10 mm
0	Amber yellow to pale brown	85	7	9 mm
1	Amber yellow to pale brown	85	7	8 mm
2	Amber yellow to brown	80	12	7,5 mm
4	Amber yellow to brown	70	20	7 mm
5	Brown to black	Not required	Unlimited	6 mm
Small sultanas				
21	Amber yellow to pale brown	85	10	6 mm
22	Amber yellow to pale brown	70	15	6 mm
24	Amber yellow to brown	Not required	30	6 mm

For the category 00 of both bleached and natural sultanas, no maximum size shall apply.

As from 1 March each year a slightly darker colour is allowed in each category for sultanas harvested as from 1 September in the previous year.

The following size tolerances are allowed:

(a) Fruit of a lower size category may be found up to an amount of:

— 3 % by weight or number for category 00,

— 5 % by weight or number for the other categories.

(b) Fruit of a higher size category may be found up to an amount of:

— 15 % by weight or number for categories 0, 1, 2, 4 and 5,

— 30 % by weight or number for categories 21, 22 and 24.

IV. Marking

Each immediate container shall bear the following information, clearly and indelibly marked in words grouped together on one of the large sides and easily visible from the outside.

A. *Identification*

Name, address and brand name of either the processor, distributor, importer, exporter or vendor.

B. *Type of product*

'Sultanas' or 'natural sultanas'.

C. *Origin of the product*

Country of production and, as the case may be, production zone or national, regional or local designation.

D. *Commercial characteristics*

— category,

— net weight with, optionally, the expression 'at the time of packaging',

— year of harvest.

Transport containers shall bear the name and address of the processor or a code approved by the competent authorities. They shall also bear a reference showing that quality control has been completed.

B. CURRANTS

I. Classification and defects

Currants are to be classified in three categories: extra choicest, choicest and choice. Common defects may be found when they do not exceed the limits referred to for the classifications.

Classification of currants is to be on the basis of the following criteria:

— colour,

— moisture content,

— foreign matter (grit, metal fragment, pieces of stalk and others),

— thin fruit,

— reddish fruit,

— damaged fruit,

— large fruit, that is to say exceeding 8,5 mm,

— small fruit, that is to say less than 4 mm,

— fruit with cap stem.

The requirements for classifying currants are as follows:

	Extra choicest	Choicest	Choice
1. Colour	Dark blue/black	Blue/black	Reddish black/ reddish
2. Moisture content:			
— maximum %	16	16	16
— minimum %	13	13	13
3. Foreign matter:			
(a) Stones, discernible pieces of grit, glass and metal fragments	0	0	0
(b) Not visible matter (weight %)	0,01	0,01	0,01
(c) Harmless visible foreign matter of vegetable origin (number out of 100 fruit)	0,01 maximum	0,05 maximum	0,1 maximum
(d) Pieces of stalk per 2,5 kilograms of fruit	1 maximum	1 maximum	1 maximum
4. Thin fruit (number %)	0,1	0,7 maximum	1,5 maximum
5. Reddish fruit (number %)	10 maximum	15 maximum	20 maximum
6. Damaged fruit (number %)	0,5 maximum	2 maximum	3 maximum
7. Large fruit (number %)	0,5 maximum	1 maximum	1 maximum
8. Small fruit (number %)	2 maximum	2 maximum	2 maximum
9. Fruit with cap stem (number %)	2 maximum	3 maximum	3 maximum

In exceptional cases where the competent authorities find a maximum of one stone in a consignment, it shall even so be considered free of stones.

II. Size

Size of currants is to be determined by:

— fruit passing through a sieve with holes of a given diameter, and

— fruit not passing through a sieve with holes of a diameter lower than that employed previously.

The size denominations and characteristics are as follows:

Denomination	Passing through a sieve with holes of diameter	Retained in a sieve with holes of diameter
Bold	8,5 mm (sieve No 11)	7 mm (sieve No 14)
Medium	8,5 mm (sieve No 11)	6 mm (sieve No 16)
Small	7 mm (sieve No 14)	4,5 mm (sieve No 19)
Siftings	6 mm (sieve No 16)	4 mm (sieve No 20)
Ungraded	8,5 mm (sieve No 11)	4 mm (sieve No 20)

Currants of 'siftings' size may be classified only in categories 'choicest' or 'choice'.

III. Tolerances

Classification and size tolerances are allowed in each package as follows:

A. *Classification tolerances*

(i) 'Extra choicest' category

5 % of fruit by number not conforming to the colour for the category but conforming to that for the category immediately below ('choicest').

(ii) 'Choicest' category

10 % of fruit by number not conforming to the colour for the category but conforming to those for the category immediately below ('choice').

B. *Size tolerances*

For all categories: 5 % of fruit by number not corresponding to the size in question but corresponding to the size immediately below. However, for siftings, the maximum tolerance is 1,5 % by number of fruit less than 4 mm.

IV. Marking

Each container shall bear the following statements in clear and indelible lettering:

A. *Identification*

Name, address and brand name of either the processor, distributor, importer, exporter or vendor.

B. *Type of product*

Currants and the relevant designation.

C. *Origin of the product*

Country of production.

D. *Commercial characteristics*

— category of the currants,

— size, stated by means of the corresponding denomination,

— net weight with, optionally, the expression 'at the time of packing',

— year of harvest.

Transport containers shall bear the name and address of the processor or a code approved by the competent authorities. They shall also bear a reference showing that quality control has been completed.

C. PACKING

The dried grapes shall be packed in such a way that the quality of the fruit is suitably protected and maintained. The following conditions shall be observed:

(a) Packaging materials shall be new and clean;

(b) Adhesives used to seal packages or containers shall be non-toxic and shall not be such as to contaminate the fruit in any way;

(c) Boxes of wood which could transfer abnormal smell to the dried grapes, e.g. pine wood, shall not be used as immediate packings;

(d) Staples shall not be used in packaging;

(e) For products in immediate containers, packed in the same outer package (transport container), the net weight of the content in the outer package shall not exceed 15 kilograms;

(f) Dried grapes from different harvests must not be packed in one and the same immediate container.

ANNEX IV

VERIFICATION FORMAT

A. FOR SULTANAS

Name of processor	Category of sultanas	Weight of sample	Identification of consignment or period of processing	Quantity to which the sample relates

Description of verification	Result
	Number
1. Pieces of stalk per 2,5 kilograms	
	% by weight
2. Moisture content	
3. Fruit with cap stem	
4. Immature or undeveloped fruits	
5. Sugared fruits	
6. Damaged fruits, including chewed	
7. Not sound fruits	
8. Not visible foreign matter	
	Norms respected (Yes/No)
9. Free running, free flowing and free of stickiness	
10. Colour and colour uniformity	
11. Sizes	
12. Packings and marking	

Other remarks

Date: Signature:

B. FOR CURRANTS

Name of processor	Category of currants	Weight of sample	Identification of consignment or period of processing	Quantity to which the sample relates

Description of verification	Result
	Number
1. Pieces of stalk per 2,5 kilograms	
	% by weight
2. Moisture content	
	% by number
3. Allowed foreign matter other than stalks 4. Thin fruit 5. Reddish fruit 6. Damaged fruit 7. Large fruit 8. Small fruit 9. Fruit with cap stem	
	Norm respected (Yes/No)
10. Free running, free flowing and free of stickiness 11. Colour and colour uniformity 12. Sizes 13. Marking	

Other remarks

Date: Signature: