



# MARKETING STANDARDS

## CUCUMBERS (*Cucumis sativus* L.)



<b>PRODUCT: CUCUMBERS (<i>Cucumis sativus</i> L.)</b> <b>VARIETIES: Several</b>		<b>FILE NUMBER: 16</b> <b>VERSION: 1</b> <b>SOURCE: EU</b>	
<b>0. REFERENCE</b>		Regulation 1977/88 of 15 June 1998 Amended by: Regulation 888/97 of 16 May 1997; Reg. 46/2003 of 10 January 2003.	
<b>1. DEFINITION</b>		This standard applies to cucumbers for supply fresh to the consumer. Cucumbers for industrial use are excluded.	
<b>2. MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS</b>			
Intact, sound, fresh in appearance, firm, clean, practically free from pests and their damages, free of bitter taste (Class II may have tips with it), free of abnormal external moisture, free of any foreign smell and/or taste.			
<b>3. DEVELOPMENT AND CONDITION</b>			
Cucumbers must be sufficiently developed but their seeds must be soft. Development and condition must be such as to enable them to withstand transport and handling, and to arrive in satisfactory condition at destination.			
<b>4. CLASSIFICATION</b>			
<p><b>'Extra' Class:</b> Superior quality. Characteristic of the variety. Well developed, well shaped and practically straight (maximum height of the arc: 10 mm per 10 cm of the length of the cucumber). Typical colouring for the variety. Free of defects, including all deformations and particularly those caused by seed formation.</p> <p><b>Tolerance:</b> 5% by number out of standards, but within Class I standards or, exceptionally, coming within the tolerances of that class.</p> <p><b>Class I:</b> Good quality. Reasonably developed, well shaped and practically straight (maximum height of the arc: 10 mm per 10 cm of the length of the cucumber). Defects admitted, if they do not affect appearance, quality, postharvest life or presentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- a slight deformation, but excluding that caused by seed formation,</li> <li>- a slight defect in colouring, especially the light coloured where the cucumber touched the ground during the growth,</li> <li>- slight skin blemishes due to rubbing and handling or low temperatures, provided that such blemishes have healed and do not affect the keeping quality.</li> </ul> <p><b>Tolerance:</b> 10% by number out of standards, but within Class II standards or, exceptionally, coming within the tolerances of that class.</p> <p><b>Class II:</b> Defects admitted for straight and slightly crooked cucumbers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- deformations other than serious seed development,</li> <li>- defects in colouring <math>\leq 1/3</math> of the surface (cucumbers grown under protection: considerable defects in colouring in the affected part are not allowed),</li> <li>- healed cracks,</li> <li>- slight damage caused by rubbing and handling which does not seriously affect the keeping quality and appearance.</li> </ul> <p>Crooked cucumbers are allowed only if they have no more than slight defects in colouring and have no defects or deformation other than crookedness.</p> <p>Height of the arc:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- slightly crooked cucumbers: <math>\leq 20</math> mm per 10 cm of length of the cucumber,</li> <li>- crooked cucumbers may have a greater arc and must be packed separately.</li> </ul> <p><b>Tolerance:</b> 10% by number out of standards, with the exception of produce affected by deterioration affecting consumption (e.g. rotting). Within this tolerance a maximum of 2% by number of cucumbers may have tips with a bitter taste.</p>			
<b>5. SIZING</b> By weight  Compulsory for classes 'Extra' and I		<b>By weight:</b> (Provisions not applicable to 'short cucumbers')	
		<i>Open grown cucumbers:</i> $\geq 180$ g	<i>Under protection grown cucumbers:</i> $\geq 250$ g 'Extra' Class & Class I pieces weighing: 250-500g must be $\geq 25$ cm long $\geq 500$ g must be $\geq 30$ cm long
		<b>Uniformity</b>	
		Lightest piece weight	$180-400$ g
		<b>Maximum variation in the same package</b>	
		$100$ g	$150$ g
<b>Size tolerance:</b> 10% by number of cucumbers out of specifications. This tolerance is applicable to produce which differs $\leq 10\%$ from the size and weight limits specified.			
<b>6. PRESENTATION</b>		<b>Uniformity:</b> in origin, variety or type, quality and size (where required). The visible part must be representative of the entire contents.	
		<b>Packaging:</b> The produce must be packed in such a way to assure its protection. Materials must be new, clean and of a proper quality. Non-toxic ink or glue. Packages must be free of all foreign matter.	
		<b>Mixed products:</b> Cucumbers may be mixed, in sales packages of $< 3$ Kg net weight, with different types of fresh fruit and vegetables on the condition laid down by the Regulation 48/2003 of 10 January 2003.	
		<b>Identification:</b> Name and address or code mark (officially issued or accepted) of packer and/or dispatcher. The latter should be accompanied by the words " packer and/or dispatcher (or equivalent abbreviations)".	
<b>7. MARKING</b> -legibly and indelibly marked, - grouped on the same side, - visible from the outside		<b>Nature of the produce:</b>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 'Cucumbers', if not visible from the outside,</li> <li>- 'under protection', where appropriate, or an equivalent expression,</li> <li>- 'short cucumbers' or 'mini-cucumbers', as appropriate.</li> </ul>	
		<b>Origin:</b> Country (comp) and district or local name (opt)	
		<b>Commercial specifications:</b> Class and, as appropriate, for Class II, 'crooked cucumbers'; Size (if sized) expressed in min. and max. weight of the cucumbers; Number of units (opt).	
		<b>Official control mark:</b> (opt)	
<b>8. CONTAMINANTS</b>			
<b>Heavy metals</b>	<b>Maximum level</b>	<b>Commission Regulation</b>	<b>Sampling &amp; Analysis methods</b>
<b>Lead (Pb)</b>	0,1 mg/kg wet weight	466/2001	Directive 2001/22/EC
<b>Cadmium (Cd)</b>	0,05 mg/kg wet weight	466/2001	Directive 2001/22/EC