



MARKETING STANDARDS

SPINACH (*Spinacia oleracea* L.)



| | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| PRODUCT: SPINACH (<i>Spinacia oleracea</i> L.) | | FILE NUMBER: 32 | |
| VARIETIES: Several | | VERSION: 2 | |
| 0. REFERENCE | | Regulation 1591/87 of 5 June 1987. Amended by: Regulation 658/92 of March 1992; Reg. 888/97 of 16 May 1997; Reg. 1168/1999 of 3 March 1999; Reg. 1135/2001 of 8 June 2001; Reg. 46/2003 of 10 January 2003, Reg. 907/2004 of 29 April 2004.. | |
| 1. DEFINITION | | This standard applies to spinach for supply fresh to the consumer. Spinach for industrial use are excluded. | |
| 2. MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS | | | |
| Sound, clean, fresh in appearance, free of floral stems, practically free from pests and their damages, free of abnormal external moisture, free of any foreign smell and/or taste. Washed spinach must be adequately drained. Spinach heads: the portion comprising the root must be cut close to the base of the outer leaves. | | | |
| 3. DEVELOPMENT AND CONDITIONS | | | |
| Development and condition must be such as to enable them to withstand transport and handling, and to arrive in satisfactory condition at destination. | | | |
| 4. CLASSIFICATION | | | |
| Class I: | | Spinach in leaf (leaf stem length \leq 10 cm) or in heads of good quality. The leaves must be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - normal in colour and appearance for the variety and time of harvest, - free from damage caused by frost, animal parasites or diseases impairing appearance or edibility. Tolerance: 10% by weight out of standards, but within Class II standards or, exceptionally, coming within the tolerances of that class. | |
| Class II: | | Leaf spinach or spinach heads which do not qualify for inclusion in Class I, but satisfy the minimum requirements specified above. Tolerance: 10% by weight out of standards, with the exception of produce affected by deterioration affecting consumption (e.g. rotting). Spinach heads: 10% by weight of heads having attached roots of \leq 1cm in length. | |
| 5. SIZING | | Not compulsory. | |
| 6. PRESENTATION | Uniformity: in origin, quality, size and appreciably the same degree of development and colouring. | | |
| | Packaging: 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. Stickers individually affixed to products shall be removable without leaving a visible trace of glue or damaging the fruit skin. | | |
| | Mixed products: Spinach 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. | | |
| 7. MARKING -legibly and indelibly marked, - grouped on the same side, -visible from the outside. | Identification: The name and address of the packer and/or dispatcher, which can be replaced on: <i>packages but not pre-packages</i> by a code mark (officially issued or accepted) of the packer and/or dispatcher. The latter should be accompanied by the words "packer and/or dispatcher" (or equivalent abbreviations); or <i>pre-packages only</i> by the name and address of a seller in the EU in close connection with the words "Packed for:" and a code to represent the packer and/or distributor (coded information must be available on request). Packages containing sales packages visible from the outside, marked with the above markings, must be free of markings. Where palletised, the pallet should be labelled with the above information on two sides. | | Origin: Country (comp) and district or local name (opt) |
| | Nature of the produce: - 'Leaf spinach' or 'Spinach heads', if not visible from the outside. | | |
| | Commercial specifications: Class | | Official control mark: (opt) |
| 8. CONTAMINANTS | | | |
| | | Maximum level | Commission Regulation |
| Heavy metals | Lead (Pb) | 0,1 mg/kg wet weight | 466/2001 |
| | Cadmium (Cd) | 0,05 mg/kg wet weight | 466/2001 |
| Nitrates | 3000 mg NO ₃ / kg (harvested 1 November to 31 March) 2500 mg NO ₃ / kg (harvested 1 April to 31 October) | | 563/2002 |
| | Member States may authorise for a transitional period (revision not later than 1 January 2005) in which fresh spinach grown and intended for consumption in their territory, present nitrate levels higher than those set below as maximum levels, provided that codes of good agriculture practice are applied to achieve gradual progress towards the levels laid down (the Commission must be inform each year of the steps taken to its implementation). | | |
| (Only including sampling method) Directive 2002/63/EC The min. number of units per laboratory sample is 10. | | | |