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**COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 1093/97
of 16 June 1997**

laying down marketing standards applicable to ► M2 ————— ◀ watermelons

(OJ L 158, 17.6.1997, p. 21)

Amended by:

	Official Journal		
	No	page	date
► <u>M1</u> Commission Regulation (EC) No 850/2000 of 27 April 2000	L 103	21	28.4.2000
► <u>M2</u> Commission Regulation (EC) No 1615/2001 of 7 August 2001	L 214	21	8.8.2001
► <u>M3</u> Commission Regulation (EC) No 46/2003 of 10 January 2003	L 7	61	11.1.2003
► <u>M4</u> Commission Regulation (EC) No 907/2004 of 29 April 2004	L 163	50	30.4.2004

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 ► M2 ————— ◀ watermelons

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 2200/96 of 28 October 1996 on the common organization of the market in fruit and vegetables ⁽¹⁾, and in particular Article 2 (2) thereof,

Whereas Regulation (EC) No 2200/96, in Annex I, lists the products for which standards must be adopted; whereas, of the products listed in that Annex, no Community standards have yet been laid down for melons and watermelons; whereas it is therefore necessary to lay down marketing standards for those products; whereas, to that end, for the sake of transparency on the world market, account should be taken of the standards recommended for those products by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe;

Whereas application of those standards should have the effect of keeping products of unsatisfactory quality off the market, directing production to meet consumers' requirements and facilitating trade under fair competitive conditions, thereby helping to improve the profitability of production;

Whereas those standards are applicable to all marketing stages; whereas transport over large distances, storage for more than a certain duration and the amount of handling to which products are subject can result in some degree of deterioration owing to the biological development of the product or its perishable nature; whereas such deterioration should be taken into account in the application of the standards to the marketing stages following consignment;

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

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

▼M2

1. The marketing standard for watermelons, falling within CN code 0807 11 00, shall be as set out in the Annex.

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2. The standards shall apply to all marketing stages under the conditions laid down in Regulation (EC) No 2200/96.

However, at stages following consignment the following tolerances shall be allowed:

- (a) a slight loss of freshness and turgidity;
- (b) for products other than the 'Extra' class, slight deterioration due to biological development and perishability.

Article 2

This Regulation shall enter into force on 1 July 1997.

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

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 297, 21. 11. 1996, p. 1.

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ANNEX

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STANDARDS FOR WATERMELONS

I. DEFINITION OF PRODUCE

This standard applies to watermelons of varieties (cultivars) grown from *Citrullus lanatus* (Thunb.) Matsum. et Nakai to be supplied fresh to the consumer, watermelons for industrial processing being excluded.

II. PROVISIONS CONCERNING QUALITY

The purpose of the standard is to define the quality requirements of watermelons after preparation and packaging.

A. Minimum requirements

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

- intact,
- sound; produce affected by rotting or deterioration such as to make it unfit for consumption is excluded,
- clean, practically free from any visible foreign matter,
- practically free from pests,
- practically free from damage caused by pests,
- firm and sufficiently ripe; the colour and taste of the flesh should conform to a sufficient state of ripeness,
- not split,
- free from abnormal external moisture,
- free from any foreign smell and/or taste.

The development and condition of the watermelons 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

The watermelons are classified in two classes defined below:

(i) *Class I*

Watermelons in this class must be of good quality.

They must be:

- well-formed, allowing for the characteristics of the variety,
- free of cracks and bruises; slight superficial cracks are not considered as defects.

A slight defect in colouring is allowed for the paler part of the melon which has been in contact with the ground during the period of growth.

The stem of the watermelon must not exceed 5 cm in length.

(ii) *Class II*

This class includes watermelons which do not qualify for inclusion in Class I, but satisfy the minimum requirements specified above.

The following defects may be allowed provided the watermelons retain their essential characteristics as regards the quality, the keeping quality, and presentation:

- slight defect in shape,
- slight defect in colouring of the rind,
- slight bruising or superficial defects due in particular to mechanical impact or to damage by parasites or diseases.

III. PROVISIONS CONCERNING SIZING

Size is determined by the weight per unit. The minimum weight is fixed at 1,5 kg.

When watermelons are presented in packages, the difference in weight between the lightest and the heaviest unit in the same package should not exceed 2 kg, or 3,5 kg if the lightest unit exceeds 6 kg.

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This relative uniformity of weight is not compulsory for watermelons presented in bulk.

IV. PROVISIONS CONCERNING TOLERANCES

Tolerances in respect of quality and size shall be allowed in each package, or in each lot for produce presented in bulk, for produce not satisfying the requirements of the class indicated.

A. **Quality tolerances**(i) *Class I*

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

(ii) *Class II*

10 % by number or weight of watermelons 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.

B. **Size tolerances**

For all classes: 10 % by number or weight of watermelons not conforming to the size indicated, but no more than 1 kg above or below the size range specified.

The tolerance may in no case extend to fruit weighing less than 1 kg.

V. PROVISIONS CONCERNING PRESENTATION

A. **Uniformity**

The contents of each package, or lot for produce presented in bulk, must be uniform and contain only watermelons of the same origin, variety and quality.

The visible part of the contents of the package, or lot for produce presented in bulk, must be representative of the entire contents.

In addition, in Class I, the shape and colour of the rind of the watermelons must be uniform.

▼M3

Notwithstanding the preceding provisions in this point, products covered by this Regulation may be mixed, in sales packages of a net weight of less than three kilograms, with different types of fresh fruit and vegetables on the conditions laid down by Commission Regulation (EC) No 48/2003 ⁽¹⁾.

▼BB. **Packaging**

The watermelons 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 paper or stamps, bearing trade specifications is allowed provided the printing or labelling has been done with non-toxic ink or glue.

Packages, or lots for produce presented in bulk, must be free from all foreign matter.

Watermelons transported in bulk must be separated from the floor and walls of the vehicles by a suitable protective material, which must be new and clean and not liable to transfer any abnormal taste or smell to the fruit.

▼M4

Stickers individually affixed on product shall be such as, when removed, neither to leave visible traces of glue, nor to lead to skin defects.

▼BC. **Presentation**

The watermelons may be presented:

- in packages,
- in bulk.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 7, 11.1.2003, p. 65.

▼B**VI. PROVISIONS CONCERNING MARKING**

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

For watermelons transported in bulk (direct loading into a transport vehicle) these particulars must appear on a document accompanying the goods, and attached in a visible position inside the transport vehicle.

For this type of presentation the indication of the size, the net weight or the number of units is not compulsory.

▼M4**A. Identification**

The name and the address of the packer and/or the dispatcher

This mention may be replaced:

- for all packages with the exception of pre-packages, by the officially issued or accepted code mark representing the packer and/or the dispatcher, indicated in close connection with the reference 'Packer and/or Dispatcher' (or equivalent abbreviations);
- for pre-packages only, by the name and the address of a seller established within the Community indicated in close connection with the mention 'Packed for:' or an equivalent mention. In this case, the labelling shall also include a code representing the packer and/or the dispatcher. The seller shall give all information deemed necessary by the inspection body as to the meaning of this code.

▼B**B. Nature of produce**

- 'Watermelons', if the contents are not visible from the outside.

C. Origin of produce

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

D. Commercial specifications

- class,
- size (if sized) expressed in minimum and maximum weight,
- net weight or number of units.

E. Official control mark (optional)**▼M4**

Packages need not to bear the particulars mentioned in the first subparagraph, when they contain sales packages, clearly visible from the outside, and all bearing these particulars. These packages shall be free from any indications such as could mislead. When these packages are palletised, the particulars shall be given on a notice placed in an obvious position on at least two sides of the pallet.