

CROSQ Template for Member State Comments, and the Regional Technical Committee observations and action taken

Date:	Document: Proposed standard for Bananas for harmonisation DCRS NORDOM 483 DCRS NORDOM 483: 201X
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1	2	(3)	4	5	(6)	(7)
MS ¹	Clause No./ Subclause No./ Annex (e.g. 3.1)	Paragraph/ Figure/Table/ Note (e.g. Table 1)	Type of comment ²	Comment (justification for change) by the MS	Proposed text of change by the MS	Regional Technical Committee observations and action taken on each comment submitted
GRD			TE	<p>In the disposition of Grenada's comments reference was continuously made to the Codex STAN 205-1997. When compared, Codex STAN and the regional draft specification are similar if not identical in most parts.</p> <p>Grenada cannot support the draft regional standard which is similar to the Codex STAN 2015-1997 for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the draft regional standard is considered minimum and not in keeping with the quality trend demanded by customers; b) Organoleptic properties of the banana which are a major feature of the present trade is not addressed in the draft and; c) Quality requirements needed to be competitive to improve quality and gain market penetration is not addressed in the draft. <p>Although CODEX can be referred to as a market based public standard, it is not sufficiently robust in keeping with the trend in demand for quality in bananas compared to a market based private standards. The quality of bananas is defined, in part, by the customers who purchase those bananas and as such, any standard developed by CARICOM must be cognizant of this.</p>		<p>(a) The Regional standard is developed to facilitate trade and provide minimum market entry requirements.</p> <p>(b) Organoleptic properties are based on individual preference and therefore is beyond the scope of the standard</p> <p>(c) Competitiveness is beyond the scope of this Regional Standard</p>

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2 Type of comment: ge = general te = technical ed = editorial

NOTE Columns 1, 2, 4, 5 are compulsory.

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				<p>Although the CODEX banana standard provides guidelines to protect health of the consumers and ensuring fair trade practices, organoleptic properties of the banana are a major feature of the trade. Base on a '<i>Study on the impact of private standards on cariforum countries</i>' in 2016 prepared by Ian McDonnell, Agri-Food Consultant he noted that 'The farmers and processors in the CARIFORUM region who comply with private standards indicated that they were much better off as a result of certification in a private scheme.'</p> <p>Reference to the CODEX standard must be applicable to the minimum required for bananas but if the region is to improve its competitiveness, the approach has to be one that incorporates measures that lift the standards on the farms thus resulting in a quality product that customers are willing to pay extra.</p>		
SVG	Scope		ge	Scope needs to indicate that plantains are not included		Accepted Plantain excluded
	3.1		te	Wrinkled – not soft (needs definition of this...what does this mean?)	Deformation perhaps?	Definition deleted as there is no reference to the term in the document
	3.6		te	Defoliation – should this be deflowering?	And if so thenElimination of the flower pistils from the extreme of the fingers and the 'navel' for the bunch.	Definition deleted as there is no reference to the term in the document
	3.11		te	Twins – definition needed	Two or more fingers fused together	Accepted
	3.15		te	Bunch is mis-defined	Suggested definition – A bunch is a group of hands attached to the stalk.	Term was redefined in 3.13. 3.15 deleted

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			te	Cluster has a specific definition for trade, thus needs to be defined	Also suggested that the cluster is a market specification and thus should not be defined in terms of fingers 'Cluster is part of a bunch of bananas'	Codex defines a cluster as a part of a hand Definition included as three or more fingers attached to the same crown
	4.1.3		te	The development and condition of bananas should ... (a) achieve the appropriate degree of physical maturity [and size].... Size should be included here		Requirement was changes to Physiological maturity. The sizes are included in section 6
	5			Class "Premium" (not Extra) Class 1 ..In any case the defect shall affect the pulp of the fruit... should be 'shall not' Class 2 Crust should be rust.		Change to Premium accepted Class I accepted Class II – crust/rust was removed and changed to blemish
	6.1		teThe reference fruit for measuring length and thickness is; "for the bunch, the fingers next to the section"..... needs to be clarified or bunch needs to be changed to cluster		Cluster was accepted. Thickness was changed to diameter
	7		te	Classification of varieties or cultivars		Accepted

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				Some species of Cavendish need to be added; I. Jobo 17 II. MA 13 III. CV902 IV. Bamboo V. Jaffa VI. Grande Naine		
	7		te	Another subgroup needs to be included – Triploids (resistant to black sigatoka and is the basis of Jamaica’s cultivation)		Accepted - Please provide the name(s) of varieties
	9		te	These are all market specifications and not be included in the standard		Not accepted. These are minimum requirements for entry
	9.3.1		te	Bananas shall be presented in hands and clusters.(remove “at least four fingers”)		Accepted
	9.3.2		te	Hands with less than two fingers.... (replace hands with clusters)		Clause deleted
	9.3.3		te	The package shall containing.....one three-finger cluster per row		Accepted

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