Fatwa no. 11729:

Q: We collect fig fruits in baskets made of branches of palm-trees. We put the fully ripened figs in special baskets marking it as 'first class figs' and in other baskets we place the big fruits on the top and the small underneath

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which are not apparent although they are ripe. The customer is aware that these baskets contain second class fig fruits.

Is this a kind of cheating or not? Furthermore, when the fruits inside these baskets become spoiled in some cases, we do not remove them. That is the reason why people do not buy them, and if they do, it is at a low price. What do you advise us to do knowing that all the people in my village do this? You should also know that the word "Sabat" means the basket in which fruits of figs are put. They are made of braches of palm-trees. Kindly, give us your Fatwa in this regard. May Allah preserve you in this life and the Hereafter.

A: Putting the small fruits under the large ones in the basket is a kind of fraud and cheating which is Haram (prohibited), for it has been authentically reported that the Prophet (peace be upon him) said: ("He who cheats us is not one of us (is not my follower).")

May Allah grant us success! May peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his family, and Companions!

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