



Notification Number: 1990/158/F

Draft decision approving a decision by the Technical Centre for the Preservation of Agricultural Products.

Date received : 14/06/1990
End of Standstill : Closed
Issue of comments by : Spain
Issue of detailed opinion by : Commission

Message

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TELEX 002

COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION - SG (90) D/50690/2
DIRECTIVES 83/189/EEC AND 88/182/EEC
TRANSLATION OF TELEX 001
NOTIFICATION 90/0158/F

- 3B2 : 9000709.EN

1. Structured Information Line

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2. Member State

France

3. Department Responsible

Commissioner for Standardization,
32, Rue Guersant - 75017 Paris
SGCI- 216, Rue de l'Université - 75700 Paris

3. Originating Department

DGCCRF - 13, rue Saint-Georges - 75009 Paris
Ministry for Agriculture and Forestry - DGAL



35, rue Saint-Dominique - 75700 Paris

4. Notification Number

90/0158/F

5. Title

Draft decision approving a decision by the Technical Centre for the Preservation of Agricultural Products.

6. Products Concerned

Preserved palm hearts

7. Notification Under Another Act

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8. Main Content

This text was prepared on the basis of the minimum qualitative requirements provided for in the recommended Codex Alimentarius International Standard. It defines the quality of the product (raw material and final product), lays down a minimum filling rate and describes in detail the designations corresponding to the various types of presentation.

In AnnexI the decision also states the method to be followed for sampling and AnnexII information on the analysis of the finished product.

9. Brief Statement of Grounds

The aim of defining the quality requirements for this product which in the main is imported is (a) to guarantee that the consumer receives quality products and (b) to ensure that the non-member countries that produce "palm hearts" have a market for their product. Most of those countries adhere strictly to the Codex standards. This action forms part of the Commission's wish that the Codex standards should be better taken into account in international trade (cf. communication from the Commission to the GATT of 19December1989).

The requirements set out in this decision have drawn extensively from those set out in the Codex standard (copy enclosed). They sketch out a flexible legal framework which is not likely to raise any barriers to trade between MemberStates.

Indeed, these requirements concerning designation, can format or normal product features or faults are not very stringent.



- Article 2 accepts designations or methods of preparation other than those provided for in that Article where these meet the requirements concerning acceptable consumer information;
- Article 5 provides a reference list of total net weights and total dry weights for certain nominal capacities without, however, excluding other formats while complying with the "range" directives.
- Article 6 lays down the normal quality characteristics of this plant which are very close to those adopted by the Codex and which constitute a minimum quality threshold for this product (taste, smell, absence of fibres...). A figure of 20 percent for tolerated faults provides producers with an adequate margin of error.

In addition this text authorizes the marketing of preserved palm hearts which do not meet the quality criteria laid down subject to a labelling corrigendum of a type providing fair information to the consumer or of maintaining healthy conditions of competition among economic operators (Article 8).

10. Reference Documents - Basic Texts

Decree No 55-241 of 10 January 1955 implementing the law of 1 August 1905 as amended and supplemented to take account of the fight against fraud in the trade in preserved and semi-preserved foodstuffs.

Draft standard for the preserved palm hearts covered by the Codex Alimentarius (ALINORM 85/2 - Annex VII - Step 8).

11. Invocation of the Emergency Procedure

No

12. Grounds for the Emergency

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D. WILLIAMSON
COMEUR
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