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Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards

Labeling and Presentation of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables

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Report Highlights:

Labeling requirements for fresh fruits and vegetables are laid down in the annexes to the regulations on marketing standards. The annexes stipulate that the labels on **all** packages must include the name and address of the packer/dispatcher, the nature of the produce, its origin and commercial specifications. **Commission Regulation 907/2004** amends the marketing standards applicable to fresh fruit and vegetables with regards to presentation and labeling.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Brussels USEU [BE2]
[E3]

Presentation: stickers on individual products may not leave visible traces or glue and may not damage the skin after they have been removed.

Labeling: recent trends in the fruit and vegetable sector indicate that sales packages are more and more frequently prepared in the region of production itself and then shipped to the consuming markets in re-usable transport packages. To avoid the risk of confusion when labels of re-usable packages are changed, regulation 907/2004 exempts transport packages from the labeling requirements laid down by the marketing standards provided that the sales packages are correctly labeled and are clearly visible from the outside. When transport packages are palletized, the particulars must be given on a notice placed in an obvious position on at least two sides of the pallet.

In addition, on all packages **except pre-packages**, the name and address of the packer/dispatcher may be replaced by the officially issued or accepted code mark representing the packer/dispatcher. On **pre-packages**, the name and address of the packer/dispatcher may be replaced by the mention "packed for:" followed by the name and address of a seller established within the EU. In this case, the label must also include the code representing the packer/dispatcher. This amendment brings the labeling of fresh fruit and vegetables more in line with the provisions of the general food labeling directive 2000/13/EC.

Commission Regulation 907/2004 can be downloaded from the Internet at http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/pri/en/oj/dat/2004/l_163/l_16320040430en00500055.pdf. Marketing standards for fruit and vegetables can be found on our website at www.useu.be/agri/Fruit-Veg.html.

Visit our website: our website www.useu.be/agri/usda.html provides a broad range of useful information on EU import rules and food laws and allows easy access to USEU reports, trade information and other practical information. More information on the EU's horticultural sector can be found at www.useu.be/agri/hortireps.html. E-mail: AgUSEUBrussels@usda.gov

Related reports from USEU Brussels:

Report Number	Title	Date Released
E23043	EU Conformity Certificate Requirements for fruit and vegetables	3/27/2003
These reports can be accessed through our website www.useu.be/agri or through the FAS website http://www.fas.usda.gov/scripts/attacherep/default.asp .		