

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: Jordan - Fresh Apple Imports Labeling and Inspection and Sampling Standards

Country: Jordan

Post: Amman

Report Category: Agricultural Situation, Agriculture in the Economy, Agriculture in the News, FAIRS Subject Report, Fresh Deciduous Fruit, Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety, Country/Regional FTA's, SP1 - Expand International Marketing Opportunities, SP2 - Prevent or Resolve Barriers to Trade that Hinder U.S. Food and Agricultural Exports

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Report Highlights:

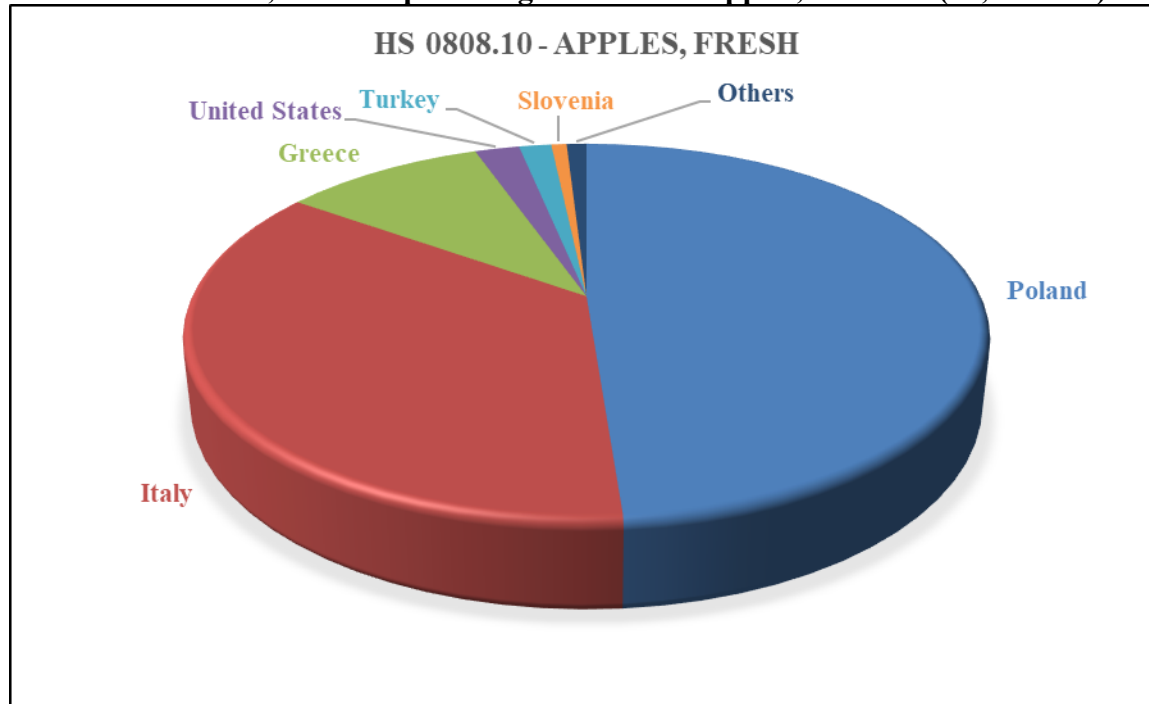
This FAIRS Jordan report includes fresh apples import labeling requirements, as well as the cause leading to consignment rejections at the port-of-entry. The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan (Jordan) sources fresh apples (Harmonized Tariff System – HS No. 0808.10.00) primarily from the European Union (EU-28), the United States, and Turkey. In 2020 (January-May), Jordan has imported already some 24,539 MT (about \$18.5 million by value) of apples, roughly equivalent in volume terms to the same period in 2019, but 46 percent higher by value than last year.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan (Jordan) sources fresh apples (Harmonized Tariff System – HS No. 0808.10.00) primarily from the European Union (EU-28), the United States, and Turkey. In calendar year (CY) 2019 (January-December), Jordan imported some 50,338 metric tons (MT) of fresh apples (about \$29.1 million by value), up some 8,834 MT or 21 percent more compared to the previous year; with shipments coming primarily from Poland (24,229 MT), Italy (17,890 MT), Greece (4,862 MT), and the United States (1,070 metric tons).

In 2020 (January-May), Jordan has imported already some 24,539 MT (about \$18.5 million by value) of apples, roughly equivalent in volume terms to the same period in 2019, but 46 percent higher by value than last year. The greatest changes reported in terms of value are for apples from the EU-28 (up 27 percent at \$14.6 million), the United States (up 345 percent at \$3.3 million), and Turkey (up 3,570 percent at \$257,000, itself a value already greater than the total shipped throughout CY 2019).

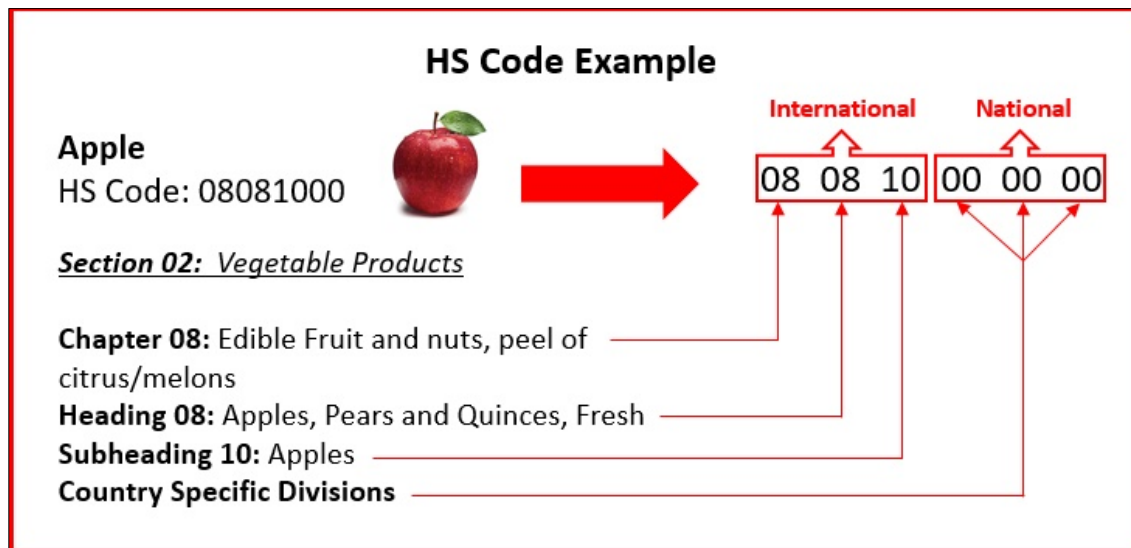
CHART 1: Jordan, Main Import Origins of Fresh Apples, CY 2019 (50,338 MT)



Source: Trade Data Monitor, FAS Amman office research.

Fresh apples arrive to Jordan mainly in refrigerated shipping containers, entering the country primarily through the maritime [Port of Aqaba](#) in the [south of the country](#). Apples from Turkey have at times been trucked overland, but instability in Syria, Lebanon, and northern Iraq is limiting the overland carry trade.

Jordan imported from the United States some 1,070 metric tons of U.S.-origin fresh apples in 2019, valued at over \$1.3 million; with the bulk of imports occurring during the winter-spring-summer period while the local crop has yet to be harvested. U.S.-origin apples now enter Jordan duty-free thanks to the [U.S.-Jordan Free Trade Agreement](#).



SOURCE: GCE Logistics.

IMPORT REQUIREMENTS, LABELING OF FRESH APPLES

The [Jordan Standards and Metrology Organization](#) (JSMO), issued Jordanian Standard No. JS 37:1999. This standard specifies that foreign-origin fresh apples arriving to the country must declare on each packaging carton in the Arabic language:

1. The product name (i.e., apples); especially if the product is not visible from outside of the shipping carton.
2. Name, address, and trademark of the exporter.
3. Variety type.
4. Country of origin and place of production.
5. Commercial specification (grade, size/caliber, etc.). If identifying by size/caliber, the label must state the actual size/caliber of the apple, or the fruit's diameter (see Appendix I).

Jordanian Standard No. JS 1681:2005 – Vegetables, Fruits and Derived Products – Technical Regulation for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (effective June 30, 2005), specifies the general requirements for fresh fruits and products distributed and sold for consumption in Jordan.

INSPECTIONS AND SAMPLING, WHAT CAUSES CONSIGNMENT REJECTIONS

The [Jordan Ministry of Agriculture](#) issues the license permitting the import of fresh apples into the country; the license specifies the requirements and standards governing the import. Ministerial Regulation No. Z-35:2016, is implemented on imported items at the port-of- entry. This regulation elaborates on the type of damage that can be found on imports (see Appendix II). This regulation does not apply to domestically produced product.

An inspection committee, led by a representative from the Ministry of Agriculture and composed of official from [Jordan Customs](#) and JSMO, will inspect and sample the shipment. The inspection and

sampling methodology followed at the port-of-entry for imported fresh apples is conducted as per Jordanian Standard No. JS 1239:1999. Technical Regulation No. JS 1681:2005, establishes parameters and threshold for product rejections. The Jordan Food and Drug Administration does not form part of the inspection committee since fresh apples are not a processed, manufactured food. Causes for a consignment rejection at port include:

- 1) Apparent defects, as well as any trace of injury, and or pest wounds.
- 2) Bruising causing soft, dark discoloration due to mechanical and or rough handling.
- 3) Fruit that is not clean and free from dirt and or deformation.

Consignments graded as premium fresh apples (where the maximum length of the cross-section is less than five millimeters), count with a maximum tolerance threshold level of up to five percent damage by volume (by quantity or weight). Damage, spoiled product over five percent will result in a consignment's rejection.

For consignments graded as first grade fresh apples (where the length of the cross-section is between 5-10 millimeters), the tolerance threshold is extended to 10 percent. For product graded as second and third grade, the tolerance threshold is 10 percent damage by volume (by quantity or weight); excluding rotten fruit and or that which has been bruised making it unfit for human consumption. Second and third grade product by volume, accepts up to a two percent presence of rot accompanied by worm infestation. Second and third grade product also permits up to a threshold of two percent, the presence of defective fruit with cork (bitter pit) or water-core, simple cracks or deformation, or traces of mold.

Rejected consignments must be destroyed, re-exported, or returned to origin.

[FAS Amman](#) (Post) recommends that U.S. exporters and their import partners in Jordan clearly communicate product quality expectations, adhering to the import license requirements and applicable standards. Post can further assist with clarifying food and agricultural import regulations and requirements as needed.

APPENDIX I – JORDANIAN STANDARD NO. JS 37:1999, FRESH APPLES, IMPORT GRADING REQUIREMENTS (UNOFFICIAL POST TRANSLATION)

BEGIN TEXT...

Article 5 - Grading

Apples are graded and ranked in four distinct categories:

- Premium Grade
- First Grade
- Second Grade
- Third Grade

5-1: Premium Grade

5-1-1: Fruit is of high-quality. Variety is determined by color (i.e., mono-colored, or bi-colored); the fruit is mature, and the neck (i.e., stem end) must be intact.

5-1-2: Fruit must be free from defects and (shape) deformation; exceptions being minor variations in the peel, where the condition does not affect the quality or overall appearance of the fruit.

5-2: First Grade

5-2-1: Fruit must be of good overall quality. The fruit may evidence some variation regarding:

- Shape
- Maturity
- Peel
- Minor defects in the neck (stem end)

5-2-2: Fruit flesh must be intact.

5-2-3: Defects (variations) if present on the peel, should not affect the general appearance of the fruit, nor the quality. Defects permissible within limitations include:

- Rectangular shape deformation, not to exceed two square centimeters.
- Shape deformed must not exceed on square centimeter, nor be greater than one-fourth of the fruit total area.

5-3: Second Grade

5-3-1: Fruit is of lower quality, not included in the preceding two grades' (5.1 premium grade and 5.2 first grade) determinants.

5-3-2: Fruit may evidence some deformation in shape. Fruit color and maturity should not affect the quality.

5-3-3: Fruit flesh is free of defects.

5-3-4: The neck (stem end) is absent, but fruit skin is intact.

5-3-5: Fruit shape deformation is not to exceed four centimeters in length, nor the total affected area may exceed 2.5 square centimeters.

Article 6 – Grading, Specific Conditions

6.1: Grade is defined by the maximum diameter of the cross section.

6.2: The diameter of fruit packaged in the same carton does not vary by more than five millimeters (mm):

- For 5.1 premium grade fruit.
- For 5.2 first and 5.3 second grade fruit packed in layers.

6.3: For 5.2 first grade fruit, randomly packed (no layers) a variance of 10 millimeters is permissible.

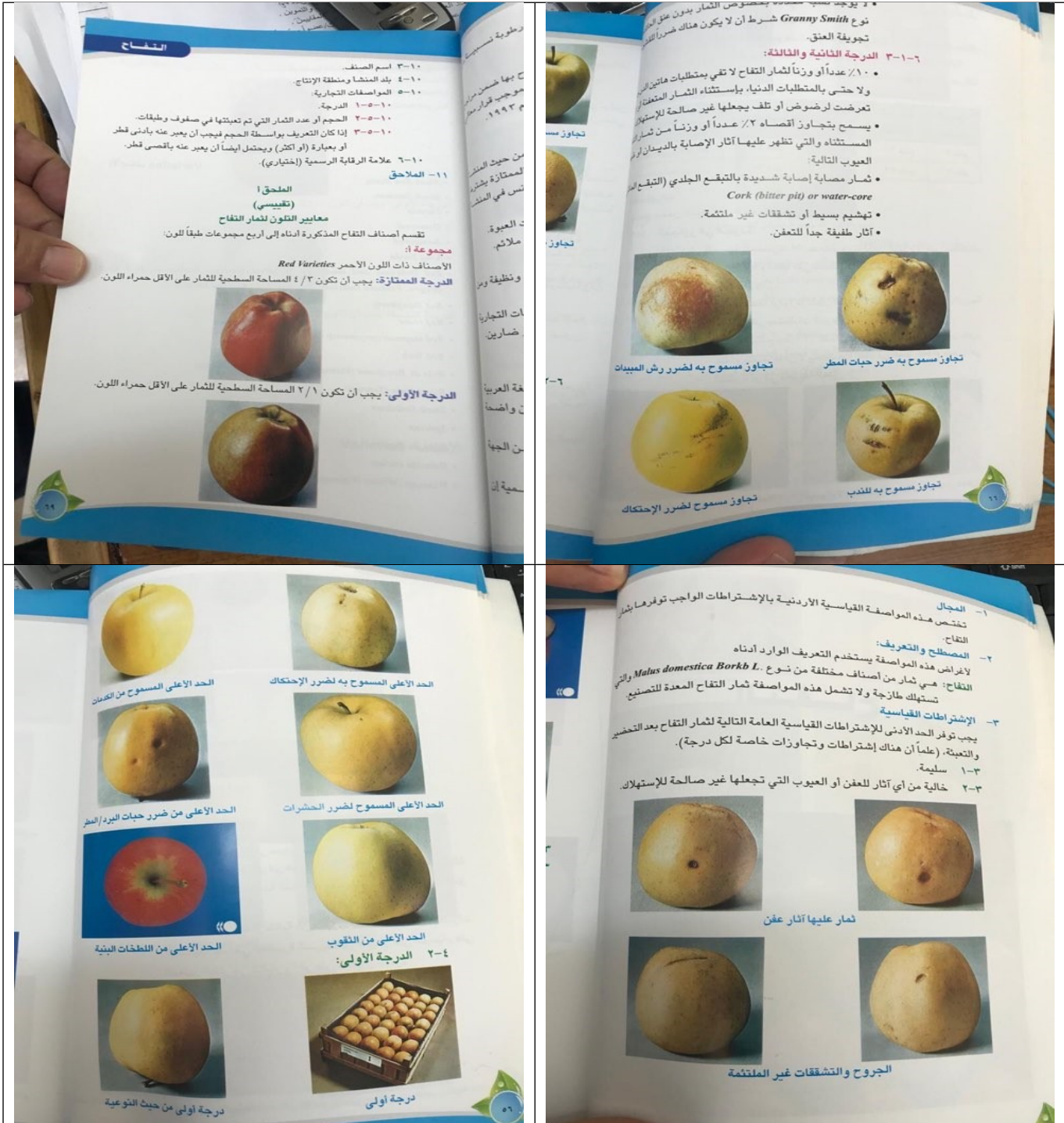
6.4: For 5.3 second grade fruit, there is no specification on fruit diameter variance if the fruit is packed randomly (no layers).

6.5: Grading size, minimum size by grade and varieties:

Apples	Premium Grade	First Grade	Second Grade	Third Grade
Large Varieties	70 mm	65 mm	65 mm	50 mm
Other Varieties	60 mm	55 mm	55 mm	50 mm

...END TEXT

APPENDIX II – FRESH APPLES, DAMAGE/SPOILED PRODUCT



Source: Jordan Ministry of Agriculture, Regulation No. Z-35:2016.

