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DRAFT EAST AFRICAN STANDARD

Cut flowers and cut foliage — Part 1: Fresh cut flowers — Specification

EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

PUBLIC REVIEW DRAFT

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Foreword

Development of the East African Standards has been necessitated by the need for harmonizing requirements governing quality of products and services in the East African Community. It is envisaged that through harmonized standardization, trade barriers that are encountered when goods and services are exchanged within the Community will be removed.

The Community has established an East African Standards Committee (EASC) mandated to develop and issue East African Standards (EAS). The Committee is composed of representatives of the National Standards Bodies in Partner States, together with the representatives from the public and private sector organizations in the community.

East African Standards are developed through Technical Committees that are representative of key stakeholders including government, academia, consumer groups, private sector and other interested parties. Draft East African Standards are circulated to stakeholders through the National Standards Bodies in the Partner States. The comments received are discussed and incorporated before finalization of standards, in accordance with the Principles and procedures for development of East African Standards. XXXXXX.

East African Standards are subject to review, to keep pace with technological advances. Users of the East African Standards are therefore expected to ensure that they always have the latest versions of the standards they are implementing.

The committee responsible for this document is Technical Committee EASC/TC 016 Fresh Fruits, vegetables and Tuber

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (EAS 286-1:2002), which has been technically revised.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be subject of patent rights. EAC shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

Introduction

Fresh cut flowers and foliage are parts of plants, characteristically including the inflorescences and some attached plant materials (foliage), harvested for decorative purposes such as vase arrangements and bouquets at formal events; designs for weddings and funerals; gifts on occasions and at holidays, corsages and boutonnieres; and informal displays to beautify homes and public places. It does not include roots, soil that may be associated with fresh cut flowers and foliage

Fresh cut flowers are highly perishable because they maintain only limited life-supporting processes by taking water up through their stems. To maintain good quality, cut flowers should be treated in such a manner that they reach the market in their best condition. The minimum requirements specified in this standard stipulate conditions for harvesting, storage, postharvest treatment, grading and packaging.

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1 Scope

This Draft East African Standard specifies essential quality requirements for fresh cut flowers.

2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

EAS 865, *Corrugated fibre board boxes for general packaging -Specification*

3 Terms and definitions

No terms and definitions are listed in this document.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

— ISO Online browsing platform: available at <http://www.iso.org/obp>

4 Minimum requirements

In all classes, subject to the particular provisions in each class and tolerances allowed, fresh cut flowers shall be:

- a) characteristic of the species and, where appropriate, the variety.
- b) fresh (depending on the nature of the flower).
- c) free of pest, disease and pest damage.
- d) free of foreign matter
- e) free from mechanical/physical damage.
- f) of correct harvest or bud stage
- g) free from discoloration
- h) free from growth disorders (abnormal growth)
- i) free of chemical stains

5 Classification

Cut flowers shall be classified into grade 1, grade 2 and grade 3 as follows:

5.1 Grade 1

Flowers with qualities for grade 2 may be called grade 1 where no more than 3 % tolerances as to quality are conceded.

5.2 Grade 2

Flowers in this class meet the minimum requirements in clause 4 and in addition they shall be:

- a) unbruised.
- b) free from insect damage.
- c) free of chemical stains.
- d) free of growth and development abnormalities.
- e) the stem shall be sufficiently strong for either one-lower-per-stem type (standard or disbud) or the many-flowers-per-stem type depending on the species and variety.

5.3 Grade 3

Flowers in this class shall meet the minimum requirements in Clause 4 but may not meet all requirements of grade 2. The following defects may be permitted provided they do not affect the keeping quality, appearance or use of the flower.

- a) Slight malformation.
- b) Slight bruising.
- c) Slight damage, including that caused by pests or diseases
- d) Small marks resulting from chemical stains.
- e) Weaker and less rigid stems

This provision does not prevent there being signs of disbudding or the removal of auxiliary growth, secondary buds, leaves, thorns, etc., operations carried out during cultivation or after harvesting in order to improve the presentation and/or quality of the product.

6 Quality tolerances

6.1 Grade 1

A total tolerance of 3 %, by number or weight, of flowers not satisfying the requirements of the class, but meeting those of grade 2 is allowed. Within this tolerance, not more than 0.5 % in total may consist of flowers satisfying the requirements of grade 3 quality.

6.2 Grade 2

A total tolerance of 10 %, by number or weight, of flowers not satisfying the requirements of the grade, but meeting those of grade 3 is allowed. Within this tolerance, not more than 1 % in total may consist of flowers satisfying the requirements of grade 3 quality nor the minimum requirements, or of flowers affected by decay.

6.3 Grade 3

A total tolerance of 15 %, by number or weight, of flowers satisfying neither of the requirements of the grade nor the minimum requirements is allowed. Within this tolerance, not more than 2 % in total may consist of flowers affected by decay.

7 Sizing

7.1 Cut flowers shall comply with the size ranges given below. The stem length quoted includes the flower head as shown in Table 1

Table 1 — Sizing requirements for cut flowers

Description code	Minimum and maximum stem length (cm)
0	Less than 5 cm or flowers marketed without stems
5	5 to 10
10	10 to 15
15	15 to 20
20	20 to 30
30	30 to 40
40	40 to 50
50	50 to 60
60	60 to 80
80	80 to 100
100	100 to 120
120	More than 120

7.2 Uniformity of sizing

In any one unit of presentation (e.g. bunch, bouquet or box) the maximum permitted difference between the shortest and longest stem lengths is as follows in Table 2

Table 2 — Unit of presentation

Stem length (cm)	Description code	Maximum permitted stem length Difference (cm)
Less than 30	0 to 20	2.5
30 to 60	30 to 50	5
More than 60	60 and over	10

8 Packaging

8.1 Cut flowers shall be packed in fibreboard boxes in accordance with EAS 865

8.2 A unit of presentation (bouquet, bunch, box) shall consist of 5, 10 or a multiple of 5 and 10 pieces (unless specified by the market).

8.3 Each sales unit shall consist of equally developed flowers of the same genus, species or cultivar and of the same quality category with the exception of mixed bouquets

8.4 Primary packaging material, such as paper, polythene and any other material shall be clean, free from damage and free from foreign matter

9 Labelling

The following information shall be shown in respect of each merchandise:

- a) name and address of the producer or exporter or trademark;
- b) name of the produce, i.e. genus or species, cultivar , where appropriate, the word "mixture",etc.
- c) country of origin;
- d) grade;
- e) size (length code);
- f) number of bunches or number of stems
- g) traceability codes
- h) date of packing
- i) variety
- j) batch number

Bibliography

- [1] EAS 286-1:2002, *Cut flowers and cut foliage — Part 1: Fresh cut flowers —Specification*
- [2] <https://www.usitc.gov/publications/other/pub2737.pdf>

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