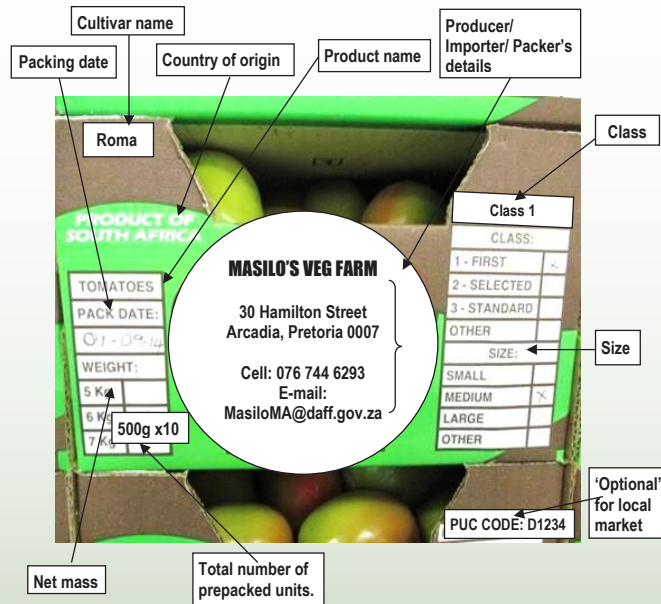


9. Marking requirements

Each container containing fresh vegetables destined for sale shall be marked in clear and legible letters and figures with the following particulars by means of stamping, printing or by affixing a label thereto: provided that all particulars shall be grouped on the same side (see sketch below). Prescribed marking requirements of the regulations are used to provide the consumer with accurate and relevant information on a product, so as to allow informed personal decisions to be made.



10. Prohibited particulars

No wording, illustration or other device of expression which constitutes a misrepresentation or which directly, or by implication, can create a misleading impression of the content, shall appear on a container containing fresh vegetables or on a label affixed thereto or which is displayed therewith.



**Misleading impression:
Tomatoes packed inside a banana box**

11. Non-compliance

In the Republic of South Africa no person shall sell fresh vegetables, other than imported fresh vegetables, unless consignment complies with the following requirements:

- Quality standards requirements
- Classes for vegetables
- Container Requirements
- Packing Requirements
- Marking Requirements

For more technical information on vegetable regulation contact:

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Regulations
*relating to grading, packing
and marking
of fresh vegetables
intended for sale
in the Republic of South Africa*



**agriculture,
forestry & fisheries**

Department:
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



1. Background

In South Africa the sale of fresh vegetables are regulated under Agricultural Product Standards Act, 1990 (Act No. 119 of 1990). Regulation 364 of 24 May prescribes that vegetables shall comply with key elements which include grading, packing and marking requirements.

2. The following are vegetables regulated under Regulation No. 364 dated 24 May 2013:

- Beetroot, cabbages, carrots, spinach
- Artichokes, courgettes/baby marrows, parsley
- Asparagus, cucumber, parsnips, aubergines/eggplant
- Endives, pumpkins, fennel, broccoli, radish
- Gem squash, rhubarb, brussel sprouts, ginger, scorzonera
- Butternut, green beans, green onions, sweet corn, capsicums/peppers
- Sweet potatoes, green peas, okra
- Horse-radish, turnips, cauliflower, Chinese cabbage
- Leeks, witloof chicory, celery, lettuce, mushrooms, chillies
- Unspecified vegetables.

3. Restrictions on sales of fresh vegetable

In the Republic of South Africa, no person shall sell fresh vegetables, other than imported ones, unless:

- The fresh vegetables are unclassified or sold according to the classes.

- The fresh vegetables in that consignment comply with the quality standards.
- The fresh vegetables are packed into containers which comply with container requirements.
- The fresh vegetables in that consignment comply with packing requirements.
- The container of fresh vegetable complies with marking requirements
- If fresh vegetables contains a substance prescribed as a substance which may not be contained by fresh vegetables.

4. Quality standards

Classes for fresh vegetables

- Fresh vegetables shall be sold classified as either fresh vegetables or unclassified fresh vegetables
- Four classes of classified vegetables:
Class 1
Class 2
Class 3
Lowest class

5. Standards for classes

- Fresh vegetables shall be good for human consumption as prescribed in terms of the Foodstuffs, Cosmetics and Disinfectants Act, 1972 (Act No. 54 of 1972)
- Fresh vegetables which are classified as Class1, Class 2, Class 3 and Lowest Class shall comply with specific regulations for fresh vegetables
- No consignment of fresh vegetables classified as Class 1, Class 2, Class 3 and Lowest Class fresh vegetables shall contain:
 - plant injurious organisms of phytosanitary importance as specified by the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, e.g. fruit flies
 - any organisms which may be a source of danger to human being, e.g. bees,
 - Arthropoda infestation, e.g. ants.

6. Packing requirements for fresh vegetables

- Only fresh vegetables of the same quality, cultivar, ripeness, size, and colour may be packed into the same container, provided that different types of fresh vegetables may be packed together in the case of consumer packages.
- Class 1 in the same container shall be uniform with regard to colour and ripeness, unless determined in specific regulations.
- Class 2 and Class 3 in the same container shall be uniform with regard to colour, unless determined otherwise in specific regulations for fresh vegetables.
- Each container should be packed firmly and to capacity.

7. Packing material

Packing material should comply with the following requirements:

- Be clean, dry, odourless
- Not damage the quality of fresh vegetable internally or externally when packed
- Not transmit to fresh vegetables any harmful substances or any substance that may be injurious to human health.

8. Container requirements

Containers in which fresh vegetables are packed shall:

- Be intact, clean, dry, suitable and strong enough for the packing and normal handling of fresh vegetables
- Not impart a foreign taste or smell to the fresh vegetables
- Be free from foreign matter
- In the case of containers that are re-used, the container should
- Be cleaned and disinfected
- Be thoroughly cleaned before fresh vegetables are packed
- Be free from all marks and labels should be removed or be covered by new labels or marks.

An outer container shall be strong enough not to bulge out or dent in during a normal handling and transportation process.