



agriculture, forestry & fisheries

Department:
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Directorate Food Safety and Quality Assurance, Private Bag X343, PRETORIA, 0001

TO: All Manufacturers, Packers, Importers, Exporters and Retailers of Frozen Vegetables
Directorate: Inspection Services
The P.P.E.C.B.

FROM: The Executive Officer

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Subject

DISPENSATION: SIZE GRADING OF AND ALTERNATIVE PRODUCT DESCRIPTIONS FOR FROZEN GREEN PEAS

1. Background

A. Size grading

Regulation 33 of the frozen fruit and frozen vegetables regulations (R.727 of 29/05/1998), as well as item 7 of the export standards and requirements for frozen fruit and frozen vegetables (Notice 1468 of 11/10/1996, as amended by Notice 549 of 11/05/2007) currently do not prescribe any size grading in the case of frozen green peas.

As a result of the above-mentioned shortcoming, many of the frozen green peas available in the retail are not uniform in size. Manufacturers or packers also make use of descriptors such as 'Petits Pois' and 'Baby Peas' for which no minimum/maximum size is prescribed, thus making enforcement impossible.

B. Use of alternative product descriptions

On 24 January 2014 the Department issued a dispensation to (i) allow for the use of the alternative product description "Garden Peas" or "Green Garden Peas", and (ii) omit the style descriptor 'whole' in the case of frozen whole green peas.

Due to the increased use on the local market of words such as, 'Baby' or 'Petite' or 'Petits Pois' as alternative product descriptions for small young frozen green peas, it has from a regulatory point of view become necessary to also make provision for these alternative descriptions.

The Department however thought it best to, for ease of reference, combine the dispensation of 24 January 2014 with the size grading and use of other alternative product descriptions issues and has therefore issued the following dispensation:

2. Dispensation

In view of paragraph 1.B above, the dispensation granted on 24 January 2014 on the use of alternative product descriptions for frozen green peas is hereby revoked and replaced with the following:

Permission is hereby granted by the Executive Officer: Agricultural Product Standards in terms of sections 3(1)(c) and 4(4) of the Agricultural Product Standards Act, 1990 (Act No. 119 of 1990), to all manufacturers, packers, importers, exporters and retailers of frozen whole green peas to –

- (1) make use of the below-mentioned alternative product descriptions;
- (2) omit the style descriptor “whole”; and
- (3) apply the below-mentioned optional size grading system and additional marking requirements:

(a) Alternative product descriptions:

“**Garden Peas**” or “**Green Garden Peas**” or “**Baby Peas**” or “**Petite Peas**” or “**Petits Pois**”: Provided that in the case where the descriptor “Baby Peas” or “Petite Peas” or “Petits Pois” is used, the peas shall fall within the size group ‘small’.

(b) Size grading:

- (i) Frozen green peas may be presented either sized or unsized.
- (ii) If frozen green peas are size graded, they shall conform to the following specifications for the size designation concerned:

Size designation	Round hole sieve size in mm
Small	Up to 9.00
Medium	Up to 10.7
Large	Larger than 10.7

(iii) Tolerances for sizes

If size graded, each container shall contain not less than 80% either by number or mass of peas of the declared size or of smaller sizes: Provided that –

- (aa) it shall contain no peas of sizes larger than the next two larger sizes nor more than 20% either by number or mass of peas of the next two larger sizes, if such there be; and
- (bb) not more than one quarter of these peas whether by number or mass, shall belong to the larger of the next two sizes.

(iv) Additional marking requirements

- (aa) When a statement of size is made on the packaging, the sieve size or the size designation ‘small’, ‘medium’ or ‘large’, as the case may be, shall be indicated (or both if so preferred) on every main panel.
- (bb) If the size designation ‘small’ is used on the packaging, it may be replaced by the product description “Baby Peas” or “Petite Peas” or “Petits Pois”.
- (cc) If frozen green peas are not size graded, the words ‘mixed sizes’ shall be indicated on the main panel of each container.

This permission is subject to the following conditions:

- (a) All other conditions of the relevant local regulations and export standards and requirements shall be complied with.
- (b) It may be withdrawn at any time should a valid complaint be received.
- (c) All manufacturers, packers, importers, exporters and retailers of frozen vegetables indemnify this Directorate and this Department from any detrimental effect, financially or otherwise, which may emanate as a result of this permission.
- (d) Termination date: When the amendment to the relevant local regulations and notice of the amendment to the relevant export standards and requirements are published in the Government Gazette.



EXECUTIVE OFFICER:

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCT STANDARDS ACT, 1990 (ACT 119 OF 1990)