
GOVERNMENT NOTICES GOEWERMENTSKENNISGEWINGS

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE DEPARTEMENT VAN LANDBOU

No. R. 621

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AGRICULTURAL PRODUCT STANDARDS ACT, 1990
(ACT No. 119 of 1990)

REGULATIONS RELATING TO THE GRADING, PACKING AND MARKING OF ONIONS AND SHALLOTS INTENDED FOR SALE IN THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

The Minister of Agriculture has, under section 15 of the Agricultural Product Standards Act, 1990 (Act No. 119 of 1990) --

- (a) made the regulations in the Schedule; and
- (b) determined that the said regulations shall come into operation on date of publication.

SCHEDULE

Definitions

1. In these regulations, unless inconsistent with the context, a word or expression to which a meaning has been assigned in the Act, shall have a corresponding meaning, and --

"**consignment**" means a quantity of onions or shallots of the same class which belongs to the same owner, delivered at any one time under cover of the same delivery note, consignment note or receipt note or delivered by the same vehicle, or if any such quantity is subdivided into different size groups or cultivars, each quantity of each of the different size groups or cultivars;

"**diameter**" means the largest diameter of an onion or shallot, measured at right angles to a line running from the stem end to the root base;

"**decay**" means a state of decomposition, fungus development or internal insect infestation, that partly or completely detrimentally affects the quality of the onions and shallots;

"**double bulb**" means an onion or a shallot which clearly consists of more than one bulb when adjudicated on external appearance;

"**foreign matter**" means any material not normally present in, on or among the onions or shallots;

"**inspector**" means the Executive Officer or an officer under his control or an Assignee or a trained employee of an Assignee;

"**malformed**" means that the shape of an onion or shallot of any cultivar is not typical of that cultivar;

"**onion and shallot**" means the bulb of any cultivar of the plant *Allium cepa*, excluding onions and shallots intended for processing in a factory;

"**the Act**" means the Agricultural Product Standards Act, 1990 (Act No. 119 of 1990); and

"**thick neck bulb**" means an onion or shallot whose neck in proportion to the bulb thereof, is abnormally thick.

Restrictions on the sale of onions and shallots

2. (1) No person shall sell onions or shallots in the Republic of South Africa --
- (a) unless the onions or shallots are sold according to the classes as referred to in regulation 3;

- (b) unless the onions or shallots comply with the standards regarding quality as referred to in regulations 4 and 5;
- (c) unless such onions or shallots are packed in a container and in the manner as prescribed in regulations 6, 7 and 8;
- (d) unless such onions or shallots are marked with the particulars and in the manner as prescribed in regulations 9, 10 and 11; and
- (e) unless such onions or shallots are sampled in the manner as prescribed in regulation 12.

(2) The Executive Officer may grant written exemption, entirely or partially, to any person on such conditions as he deems necessary, from the provisions of subregulation (1): Provided that such exemption is done in terms of section 3(1)(c) of the Act.

QUALITY STANDARDS

Classes for onions and shallots

3. There are four classes of onions and shallots, namely Class 1, Class 2, Class 3 and Lowest Class.

Standards for classes

4. (a) The classes mentioned in regulation 3 shall comply with the quality standards as set out in Table 1.
- (b) Be fit for human consumption as prescribed in terms of the Foodstuffs, Cosmetics and Disinfectants Act, 1972 (Act No. 54 of 1972).

Deviations

5. The classes mentioned in regulation 3 may deviate (m/m) from the standards prescribed in regulation 4, to the extent as set out in Table 2.

CONTAINERS

Requirements for containers

6. Containers in which onions or shallots are packed shall –
- (a) be intact, clean, suitable and strong enough for the packing and normal handling of onions or shallots;
 - (b) not impart a taste or odour to onions or shallots; and
 - (c) in case of containers that are re-used, be of such materials that the container can be cleaned and disinfected prior to re-use.

Closing of containers

7. Containers shall be closed in any suitable manner.

PACKING REQUIREMENTS

8. (1) Onions or shallots shall, in the same consignment, in the case of Class 1, Class 2 and Class 3 correspond in cultivar, class, size group and maturity.

(2) Each container of a type as prescribed in regulation 6 shall be packed as firmly as possible with onions or shallots without damaging the container or the onions or shallots concerned.

MARKING REQUIREMENTS

9. (1) Each container of onions or shallots destined for sale shall be marked clearly, legible, indelibly and not untidy, or askew in block letters and numerals by printing, stamping or by means of specially designed labels described in subregulation (4) with the following particulars: Provided that all particulars shall be grouped on the same side:

- (a) the name or trademark and physical or postal address of either the producer or owner or importer or packer of the onions or shallots packed in that container;
- (b) the producers' code or packhouse code (with the exception of imported onions or shallots), which is registered with the Executive Officer by the producer or packhouse as the case may be: Provided that --
 - (aa) the packhouse code shall only be used if the origin of the fresh vegetables cannot be traced back to the producer;
 - (bb) if a producer has more than one farm, each farm shall be registered separately;
 - (cc) such code shall be preceded by the expression "Producer:", "Packhouse:", "Packer:" or any other suitable term having a similar meaning; and
 - (dd) the producer has a system in place to enable him/her to track a specific consignment of onions or shallots down to field level.
- (c) The expression "Class 1", "Class 2", "Class 3" and "Lowest Class", as the case may be.
- (d) In the case of Class 1 and Class 2, the size group namely "Extra Large", "Large", "Medium", "Small" or "Pickles" as the case may be.
- (e) The net mass of the contents as prescribed in terms of the Trade Metrology Act, 1973 (Act No. 77 of 1973).
- (f) The name of the type of onions or shallots in the case of containers when the contents of which are not visible from outside.
- (g) The applicable date/date code on at least 90% of the containers: Provided that if a packing date is expressed in a code, it shall be registered with the Executive Officer.

(2) The particulars prescribed in subregulation (1) shall be indicated on the container by stamping, printing or by affixing a label thereon.

(3) If at any stage the class or size designation should change the labels shall be replaced unless the new class or size designation is stamped across the old class or size designation, in clear legible block letters of at least 2 mm larger than the previous marks, with a suitable stamp.

(4) Each container containing onions or shallots shall be provided with only one or more labels that shall be --

- (a) intact, clean and neat;
- (b) manufactured from suitable material; and

- (c) affixed firmly to the container and in such a manner that re-stamping is possible without opening or damaging the container.

Display

10. Wherever onions or shallots are displayed for sale in loose quantities --
- (a) any quantity of a particular class, or a particular size group or cultivar shall not be displayed mixed with onions or shallots of any other class, size group or cultivar; and
- (b) adherence to the marking requirements is optional: Provided that if marked, the class, and in the case of Class 1 and Class 2 also the size group of such quantity of onions or shallots, shall be indicated in clear legible block letters of at least 10 mm in height on a notice board prominently placed at such a quantity of onions or shallots.

Prohibited particulars

11. No wording, illustration or other means of expression which constitutes a misrepresentation or which directly or by implication, creates a misleading impression of the contents, or of the quality or the class thereof, shall appear on a container containing onions or shallots or on a label attached thereto.

SAMPLING

12. An inspector shall draw, at random for inspection purposes, a number of containers and satisfied himself that the containers so drawn are representative of the consignment concerned.

OFFENCE AND PENALTIES

13. Any person who contravenes or fails to comply with any provision of these regulations shall be guilty of an offence and upon conviction be liable to a fine or imprisonment in terms of section 11 of the Act.

TABEL 1/TABLE 1

GEHALTESTANDAARDE/QUALITY STANDARDS

GEHALTEFAKTOR/ QUALITY FACTOR	KLAS 1/ CLASS 1	KLAS 2/ CLASS 2	KLAS 3/ CLASS 3	LAAGSTE KLAS/LOWEST CLASS
(a) Saadstele en uit- loopsels/Seed stems and sprouts	Mag nie voor- kom nie/ Shall not occur	Mag nie voor- kom nie/ Shall not occur	Mag nie voor- kom nie/ Shall not occur	*
(b) Voorkoms/ Appearance	Droog, ferm, skoon en goed ontwikkel/ Dry, firm, clean and well developed	Feitlik droog, ferm, skoon en goed ontwikkel/ Practically dry, firm, clean and well developed	Taamlik droog, ferm, skoon en goed ontwikkel/ Fairly dry, firm, clean and well developed	*
(c) Insekbeskadig- ing/Insect damage	Mag nie voor- kom nie/ Shall not occur	Beskadiging met 'n maksimum diepte van twee vlesige skut blare is toelaat- baar: Met dien verstande dat hoogstens 15% van die bol met reguit snitte weg- gesny moet word om die beska- digde dele te verwyder/ Damage with a maximum depth of two fleshy bracts is per- missible: Provi- ded that not more than 15% of the bulb shall be cut away with straight cuts to remove the da- maged portions	Beskadiging met 'n maksimum diepte van twee vlesige skutblare is toelaatbaar: Met dien ver- stande dat hoog- stens 25% van die bol met reguit snitte weggesny moet word om die beskadigde dele te verwyder/ Damage with a maximum depth of two fleshy bracts is per- missible: Provi- ded that not more than 25% of the bulb shall be cut away with straight cuts to remove the damaged portions	*
(d) Insekbesmet- ting/Insect infestation	Mag nie voor- kom nie/ Shall not occur	Mag nie voor- kom nie/ Shall not occur	Mag nie voor- kom nie/ Shall not occur	*
(e) Vorm/Shape			*	*
(i) Onions/ Uie	Kenmerkend vir die betrokke kultivar/ Typical of the cultivar concerned	Soos vir Klas 1/As for Class 1		
(ii) Shallots/ Salote	Hulle mag	Soos vir Klas 1/		

	klusters of verbonde klusters hê groot en klein in spesifiek grootereeks./ May have cluster or connected clusters large and small in a specific size range	As for Class 1		
(f) Diknekbole/ Thick necks				*
(i) Onions/ Uie	Dik nekke met 'n maksimum deursnee van 10 mm is toelaatbaar/ Thick necks with a maximum diameter of 10 mm is permissible	Dik nekke met 'n maksimum deursnee van 20 mm is toelaatbaar/ Thick necks with a maximum diameter of 20 mm is permissible	Geen spesifikasie: Met dien verstande dat 'n bol gevorm het/ No specification: Provided that a bulb has been formed	
(ii) Shallots/ Salotte Nie toepaslik/Not applicable	*	*	*	*
(g) Kleur/Colour				
(i) Onions/Uie	Moet van dieselfde kleur wees/ Shall be of the same colour	Soos vir Klas 1/As for Class 1	*	*
(ii) Salotte/Shallots	Karakteristiek van die betrokke kultivar: Metdien verstande dat purper en bruin Salotte mag saamlik verpak, met uitsondering van Wit Salotte. / Characteristically of the cultivar concerned: Provided that purple and brown shallots maybe packed together, with exception of white shallots.	Soos vir Klas 1/As for Class 1	*	*
(h) Hitte- of koue- beskadiging/ Heat or cold damage	Mag nie voorkom nie/ Shall not occur	Mag nie voorkom nie/ Shall not occur	Feitlik vry: Met dien verstande dat die beskadiging nie dieper as drie vlesige	*

			skutblare is nie/ Practically free: Provided that the damage is not deeper than three fleshy bracts	
(i) Wortels/Roots	Geen wortels langer as 20 mm nie/No roots longer than 20 mm	Geen wortels langer as 30 mm nie/No roots longer than 30 mm	*	*
(j) Skutblare/Bracts	Moet feitlik vry van los skutblare wees/ Shall be practically free from loose bracts	Moet taamlik vry van los skutblare wees/ Shall be fairly free from loose bracts	*	*
(k) Lowwe/Tops	Moet afgesny of afgeknip wees en mag nie langer as 40 mm wees nie/ Shall be cut or clipped off and may not be longer than 40 mm	Soos vir Klas 1/ As for Class 1	Moet afgesny of afgeknip wees en mag nie langer as 50 mm wees nie/ Shall be cut or clipped off and may not be longer than 50 mm	*
(l) Dubbelbolle/ Double bulbs	Mag nie voor- kom nie/ Shall not occur	Dubbelbolle wat volledig met dieselfde droë skutblaar bedek is, is toelaatbaar/ Double bulbs which are entirely covered	Dubbelbolle wat bedek is met droë los skut- blare/ Double bulbs which are covered with loose dry bract	*
		with the same dry bract are permissible		
(m) Kneusings/ Bruises	Mag nie voor- kom nie/ Shall not occur	'n Maksimum van 10% van die oppervlak van die bol mag 'n ligte intensiteit kneusings ver- toon/ A maximum of 10% of the surface of the bulb may show as light intensity of bruises	Toelaatbaar: Met dien verstande dat die ui nie voos en waterig is nie/ Permis- sible: Provided that the onions are not spongy and watery	*
(n) Meganiese beska- diging/ Mechanical	Mag nie voor- kom nie/ Shall not	Beskadiging met 'n maksimum	Beskadiging met 'n maksimum	*

damage	occur	diepte van twee vlesige skutblare is toelaatbaar: Met dien verstande dat hoogstens 15% van die bol met reguit snitte weggesny word om die beskadigde dele te verwyder/Damage with a maximum depth of two fleshy bracts is permissible: Provided that not more than 25% of the bulb shall be cut away with straight cuts to remove the damaged portions	diepte van twee vlesige skutblare is toelaatbaar: Met dien verstande dat hoogstens 25% van die bol met reguit snitte weggesny word om die beskadigde dele te verwyder/Damage with a maximum depth of two fleshy bracts is permissible: Provided that not more than 25% of the bulb shall be cut away with straight cuts to remove the damaged portions	
(o) Swartskimmel (swartbas)/Black mould	Vry van sigbare swartskimmel/ Shall be free from visual black mould	(i) Hoogstens 20% van die oppervlak van die bol mag met swartskimmel van 'n ligte intensiteit aangetas wees/ Not more than 20% of the surface of the bulb may be	(i) Hoogstens 50% van die oppervlak an die bol mag met swartskimmel van 'n ligte intensiteit aangetas wees/Not more than 50% of the surface of the bulb may be affected with a slight	*
		affected with a slight intensity of black mould (ii) Hoogstens 10% van die oppervlak van die bol mag met swartskimmel van 'n ernstige intensiteit aangetas wees/Not more than 10% of the surface of	intensity of black mould (ii) Hoogstens 20% van die oppervlak van die bol mag met swartskimmel van 'n ernstige intensiteit aangetas wees/Not more than 20% of the surface of	

		the bulb may be affected with a serious intensity of black mould	the bulb may be affected with a serious intensity of black mould	
(p) Vergroening/ Greening	Ligte vergroening van die hele ui of salot is toelaatbaar: Met dien verstande dat die vergroening nie dieper as twee vlesige skut-blare strek nie/Light greening on not more than 50% of total area of the bulb is permissible: Provided that the greening is not deeper than one fleshy bract	Ligte vergroening is onbeperk toelaatbaar terwyl donker vergroening van nie dieper as twee vlesige skutblare nie, toelaatbaar is/Light greening unlimited and dark greening not deeper than two fleshy bracts is permissible	Donker vergroening wat nie dieper as drie vlesige skutblare strek nie, is toelaatbaar/Dark greening not deeper than three fleshy bracts is permissible	*
(q) Enige ander uitwendige of inwendige gehaltegebreke/Any other external or internal quality defects	Mag nie voorkom nie/ Shall not occur	Feitlik vry/Practically free	Taamlik vry/ Fairly free	*
(r) Vreemde stowwe/ Foreign matter	Mag nie voorkom nie/ Shall not occur	Mag nie voorkom nie/ Shall not occur	Mag nie voorkom nie/ Shall not occur	*
(s) Groottegroepe/ Size groups: Onions/Uie				
(i) Ekstra groot/ Extra large	Minstens 90 mm in deursnee/At least 90 mm in diameter	Soos vir Klas 1/ As for Class 1	*	*
(ii) Groot/Large	Minstens 70 mm maar hoogstens 90 mm in deursnee/At least 70 mm but not more than 90 mm in diameter	Soos vir Klas 1/ As for Class 1	*	*
(iii) Medium	Minstens 40 mm maar hoogstens	Soos vir Klas 1/ As for Class 1	*	*

		70 mm in deursnee/At least 40 mm but not more than 70 mm in diameter			
(iv)	Klein/ Small	Minstens 35 mm maar hoogstens 50 mm in deursnee/At least 35 mm but not more than 50 mm in diameter	Soos vir Klas 1/ As for Class 1	*	*
(v)	Atjar/ Pickles	Minstens 10 mm maar hoogstens 35 mm in deursnee/At least 10 mm but not more than 35 mm in diameter	Soos vir Klas 1/ As for Class 1	*	*
Shallots/ Salotte					
(i)	Ekstra groot/ Extra large	Minster 66mm in deursnee/At least 66 mm in diameter	Soos vir Klas 1/ As for Class	*	*
(ii)	Groot/Large	Minstens 46 mm maar hoogstens 65mm in deursnee/At least 46 mm but not more than 65 mm in diameter	Soos vir Klas 1/ As for Class	*	*
(iii)	Medium/Small	Minstens 15 mm maar hoogstens 45mm in deursnee/At least 15 mm but not more than 45 mm in diameter	Soos vir Klas 1/ As for Class	*	*

* Geen spesifikasies nie/No specifications

TABEL 2/TABLE 2

TOELAATBARE AFWYKINGS (m/m)/PERMISSIBLE DEVIATIONS (m/m)

Gehaltefaktor/Quality factor	Klas 1/Class 1	Klas 2/Class 2	Klas 3/Class 3	Laagste Klas/Lowest class
(a) Bederf/Decay				
(i) Droë tipe bederf/ Dry type decay	3%	5%	8%	*
(ii) Nat tipe bederf/ Wet type decay	1%	2%	4%	*
(iii) (i) en (ii) gesamentlik, mits die individuele perke nie oorskry word nie/(i) and (ii) collectively, provided that the individual limits are not exceeded	3%	5%	8%	*
(b) Swartskimmel (#)/Black mould (#)	3%	5%	8%	*
(c) Uitwendige en inwendige gehaltegebreke uitgesonderd bederf en swartskimmel/External and internal quality defects with the exception of decay and black mould	10%	15%	25%	*
(d) (a), (b) en (c) gesamentlik, mits die individuele perke hierbo gespesifiseer nie oorskry word nie/(a), (b) and (c) collectively, provided that the individual limits specified above are not exceeded	10%	15%	25%	*
(e) Groottegroepafwykings/Size group deviations:				
(i) Te groot of te klein/ Too large or too small	10%	15%	*	*
(ii) Te groot en te klein gesamentlik/ Too large and too small collectively	10%	15%	*	*

* Geen spesifikasies nie/No specifications.

Indien die swartskimmel nat of smetterig is, sal dit as "nat bederf" beskou en as sulks getel word/in the case where black mould is wet or smutty, it shall be seen as wet type decay and be counted as such.