



agriculture, forestry & fisheries

Department:
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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

TO: 1. ALL PROCESSORS, PACKERS, IMPORTERS, EXPORTERS AND RETAILERS OF CANNED VEGETABLES
2. SOUTH AFRICAN FRUIT AND VEGETABLE CANNERS' ASSOCIATION
3. APPOINTED ASSIGNEES – IMPUMELELO AGRIBUSINESS SOLUTIONS & PPECB

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Subject

DISPENSATION: SIZE GROUPS AND STANDARDS FOR SIZE GROUPS OF CANNED FRESH PEAS

Background

The regulation 27 of the canned vegetables regulations (No. R. 1532 of 24 October 2003) as well as item 11 of part II of the export standards and requirements for canned vegetables (Notice 1925 of 10 September 2004) pertaining to canned fresh peas prescribes the size groups and standards for size groups. However, the current size specifications prescribed for the size groups small, medium and large are not aligned with the latest international standards which is restrictive to the growers supplying fresh peas for the canning industry.

In view of the above, the department has therefore decided to issue the following dispensation to all canners of canned fresh peas destined for sale on the local market and export as well as the importers of this product:

Dispensation

Permission is hereby granted by the Executive Officer: Agricultural Product Standards, in terms of section 3(1)(c) and 4(4) of the Agricultural Product Standards Act, 1990 (Act No.119 of 1990), to all processors, packers, importers, exporters and retailers of canned vegetables products to deviate from the requirements in regulation 27(1) and item 11(1) of the above-mentioned regulations and export standards and requirements for canned vegetables by applying the following size groups and standards for size groups in the case of canned fresh peas:

- “(1) (a) Canned fresh peas shall be presented as one of the following size groups:
- (i) Small
 - (ii) Medium
 - (iii) Large
 - (iv) Mixed
- (b) (i) Small peas shall pass through a screen of 9,0 mm mesh.
- (ii) Medium peas shall pass through a screen of 10,7 mm mesh but not through a screen of 9,0 mm.
- (iii) Large peas shall pass through a screen mesh of larger than 10,8 mm.
- (iv) Mixed peas shall pass through a screen of 10,8 mm mesh: Provided that the container shall be marked according to sub-regulation (5) or sub-item (5), as the case may be.
- (c) Large peas and mixed peas may not be presented as Fancy Grade.
- (d) No size range is applicable when presenting fresh peas as Standard grade.”

This permission is subjected to the following conditions:

- (a) All other conditions of relevant local regulation as well as the export standards and requirements shall be complied with.
- (b) It may be withdrawn at any time should a valid complaint be received.
- (c) All processors, packers, importers, exporters and retailers of canned vegetables indemnify this Directorate and the Department from any detrimental effect, financially or otherwise, which may emanate as a result of this permission.
- (d) **Termination date:**
 - (i) Local regulation: When the amendment to the relevant local regulations are published in the Government Gazette.
 - (ii) Export Standards and Requirements: Seven days after notice has been given in the Government Gazette that the relevant export standards and requirements have been amended.

**EXECUTIVE OFFICER:
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCT STANDARDS**

