



Recommendation of the Council on
the Standardization of Packaging
for the International Transport
of Fresh or Refrigerated
Fruit and Vegetables, under
the OECD Scheme for the
Application of
International
Standards for Fruit
and Vegetables

**OECD Legal
Instruments**

This document is published under the responsibility of the Secretary-General of the OECD. It reproduces an OECD Legal Instrument and may contain additional material. The opinions expressed and arguments employed in the additional material do not necessarily reflect the official views of OECD Member countries.

This document, as well as any data and any map included herein, are without prejudice to the status of or sovereignty over any territory, to the delimitation of international frontiers and boundaries and to the name of any territory, city or area.

For access to the official and up-to-date texts of OECD Legal Instruments, as well as other related information, please consult the Compendium of OECD Legal Instruments at <http://legalinstruments.oecd.org>.

Please cite this document as:

OECD, *Recommendation of the Council on the Standardization of Packaging for the International Transport of Fresh or Refrigerated Fruit and Vegetables, under the OECD Scheme for the Application of International Standards for Fruit and Vegetables*, OECD/LEGAL/0145

Series: OECD Legal Instruments

© OECD 2025

This document is provided free of charge. It may be reproduced and distributed free of charge without requiring any further permissions, as long as it is not altered in any way. It may not be sold.

This document is available in the two OECD official languages (English and French). It may be translated into other languages, as long as the translation is labelled "unofficial translation" and includes the following disclaimer: *"This translation has been prepared by [NAME OF TRANSLATION AUTHOR] for informational purpose only and its accuracy cannot be guaranteed by the OECD. The only official versions are the English and French texts available on the OECD website <http://legalinstruments.oecd.org>"*

Background Information

The Recommendation on the Standardization of Packaging for the International Transport of Fresh or Refrigerated Fruit and Vegetables, under the OECD Scheme for the Application of International Standards for Fruit and Vegetables was adopted by the OECD Council on 26 July 1976 on proposal of the Committee for Agriculture. The Recommendation aimed at applying common standards of the labelling and identification of fresh fruits and vegetables. To this end, it required Adherents to apply general provisions concerning the labelling and identification of fresh fruits and vegetables. National representatives were required, if necessary, report on any difficulties applying the Recommendation. The Recommendation was abrogated on 12 July 2017, as since 1999 it was no longer part of the OECD Fruit and Vegetables Scheme's objectives. Labelling of fruit and vegetables is now under the responsibility of other international or regional standard setting organisation such as the FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission or the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE).

THE COUNCIL,

HAVING REGARD to Article 5 b) and c) of the Convention on the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development of 14th December 1960;

HAVING REGARD to the Decision of the Council of 4th February 1969 establishing an OECD "Scheme" for the Application of International Standards for Fruit and Vegetables, as amended [C(68)134(Final), C(69)118(Final), C(69)119(Final), C(70)119(Final), C(70)181(Final), C(73)139(Final), C(76)47(Final), C(76)48(Final), C(76)49(Final) and C(76)50(Final)];

HAVING REGARD to Resolution No. 222 by the Inland Transport Committee of the Economic Commission for Europe on the standardization of packaging for the international transport of fresh or refrigerated fruit and vegetables;

On the proposal of the Committee for Agriculture;

RECOMMENDS:

1. That countries participating in the OECD Scheme for the Application of International Standards for Fruit and Vegetables should apply, under the Scheme, the recommendation on the standardization of packaging for the international transport of fresh or refrigerated fruit and vegetables contained in Resolution No. 222, referred to above, as set out in the Annex¹ hereto².

2. The national representatives responsible for control shall report to the Secretary-General where necessary on the implementation of the present Recommendation and on any difficulties encountered in its application. The substance of this report shall be submitted by the Secretary-General to a Plenary Meeting provided for by the Decision of the Council of 23rd September 1969 [C(69)118(Final)] amending the Decision of 4th February 1969, referred to above.

¹ The present Recommendation does not apply to the long distance transport of fresh or refrigerated fruit and vegetable by sea.

² The Annex and its Appendices 1 to 4 were distributed under reference C(76)124(Final). This document can be obtained from the OECD Microfilm Library and is available at: <http://www.oecd.org/tad/code/19513299.pdf>

About the OECD

The OECD is a unique forum where governments work together to address the economic, social and environmental challenges of globalisation. The OECD is also at the forefront of efforts to understand and to help governments respond to new developments and concerns, such as corporate governance, the information economy and the challenges of an ageing population. The Organisation provides a setting where governments can compare policy experiences, seek answers to common problems, identify good practice and work to co-ordinate domestic and international policies.

The OECD Member countries are: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, the United Kingdom and the United States. The European Union takes part in the work of the OECD.

OECD Legal Instruments

Since the creation of the OECD in 1961, around 460 substantive legal instruments have been developed within its framework. These include OECD Acts (i.e. the Decisions and Recommendations adopted by the OECD Council in accordance with the OECD Convention) and other legal instruments developed within the OECD framework (e.g. Declarations, international agreements).

All substantive OECD legal instruments, whether in force or abrogated, are listed in the online Compendium of OECD Legal Instruments. They are presented in five categories:

- **Decisions** are adopted by Council and are legally binding on all Members except those which abstain at the time of adoption. They set out specific rights and obligations and may contain monitoring mechanisms.
- **Recommendations** are adopted by Council and are not legally binding. They represent a political commitment to the principles they contain and entail an expectation that Adherents will do their best to implement them.
- **Substantive Outcome Documents** are adopted by the individual listed Adherents rather than by an OECD body, as the outcome of a ministerial, high-level or other meeting within the framework of the Organisation. They usually set general principles or long-term goals and have a solemn character.
- **International Agreements** are negotiated and concluded within the framework of the Organisation. They are legally binding on the Parties.
- **Arrangement, Understanding and Others:** several other types of substantive legal instruments have been developed within the OECD framework over time, such as the Arrangement on Officially Supported Export Credits, the International Understanding on Maritime Transport Principles and the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) Recommendations.