

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL STANDARD

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**Fresh cut flowers – Orchid (Spray type) –
Specification**



BUREAU OF PRODUCT STANDARDS

Foreword

This Philippine National Standard for Fresh Orchid ('Orchidaceae') spray type was initially undertaken by the Sub-Committee on Ornamentals of the Technical Committee on Standards organized by the Bureau of Plant Industry in 1997.

In 2001, the Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Product Standards (BAFPS) conducted series of technical reviews and public consultations on the draft standards of fresh orchid spray type prior to its approval.

The Technical Committee and Sub-Committees of BAFPS organized through the Special Order No. 411, series of 2001 set the classification of fresh orchid spray type based on their physical characteristics and current practices existing in the sectors concerned.

Fresh cut flowers– Orchid (Spray type) – Specification

1 Scope

This standard specifies requirements and establishes a system of grading and classifying fresh orchids (spray type) of the '*Orchidaceae*' family of all genera and varieties for ornamental purposes.

2 References

Titles of the standards published and other references of this standard are listed on the inside back cover.

3 Definitions

For the purpose of this standard, the following definitions apply:

3.1**appropriate stage of development**

stage of harvesting or maturity index of fresh orchid cut flower that will ensure normal flower opening after subsequent handling and/or storage

3.2**axillary growth**

secondary growth on the main stem with flowers and buds

3.3**defects of development**

abnormalities in the flower or stem occurring during growth and development which may impair the quality and keeping quality of the fresh cut flower

3.4**extraneous matter**

soil, pesticide residues and other adhering dirt on the fresh cut flower that impairs its quality

3.5**fresh orchid cut flower (spray type)**

a fresh flower complete with stem, flowers and buds, if any; the fresh cut flower shall be referred to as the "orchid"

3.6**malformation**

abnormality in the shape of the flower or stem of the orchids that materially detract from the appearance of the fresh cut flower

3.7

package

the smallest master carton with marking (as specified in the section labeling) that contains the orchid

3.8

pests of animal or plant origin

insects whether adult, larvae or eggs, signs of pathogenic invasion and parasitic plants present on the fresh cut flower

3.9

unit presentation

the smallest unit is sold as a bundle or consumer pack

4 Minimum requirements

In all classes subject to the special provisions for each class and tolerances allowed, the orchid shall meet the following requirements:

4.1 Orchids shall have reached an appropriate stage of development; generally, the minimum requirement for maturity is 75% open flowers.

4.2 Orchids shall be fresh, of a form typical of the variety (Annex A) and free of visible pests of animal or plant origin.

4.3 The condition of the orchid shall be such as to enable it to withstand normal handling and transport until it arrives in satisfactory condition at the place of destination.

NOTE Orchids may have signs of disbudding and removal of axillary growth which are operations carried out during cultivation or after harvesting in order to improve its visual quality.

5 Classification

Orchids shall be classified according to their general appearance and physical characteristics as follows:

5.1 Extra class – Orchids shall be of superior quality. They shall have all the characteristics of the genus and of the variety. All parts of the flower shall be:

- free from damage caused by pests of animal or plant origin;
- free of visible extraneous matter affecting the appearance,
- free of discoloration;
- free of defects of development, malformation and other defects;
- free of bruising and other damage associated with postharvest handling and treatments.

The stem shall be sufficiently rigid and strong to support the flowers and buds, if present.

5.2 Class I – Orchids shall be of good quality. They shall have the characteristics of the genus and of the variety. All parts of the flower shall be:

- practically free from damage caused by pests of animal or plant origin;
- practically free of visible extraneous matter affecting appearance;
- practically free of malformation and other defects of development;
- practically free of discoloration; and
- practically free from bruising and other damage associated with postharvest handling and treatments.

The stem shall be sufficiently rigid and strong to support the flowers and buds, if present.

5.3 Class II – Orchids shall satisfy the minimum requirements specified. The defects permitted shall not impair the keeping quality and appearance of the flowers. All parts of the flower may have the following defects:

- slight damage caused by pests;
- slight visible extraneous matter;
- slight discoloration;
- slight malformation that does not prevent them from opening; and
- slight bruising and other damage associated with handling and treatment.

The stem may be less rigid and strong.

6 Size classification

6.1 Size classification shall be based on the length of the inflorescence. The length shall be measured from the base of the main stem to the tip of the terminal flower/bud.

The codes for the length shall be designated on the basis of the length range within a unit presentation:

Code	Length (cm)
10	10-20
20	20-30
30	30-40
40	40-50
50	50-60
60	60-70
70	70-80
80	80-90
90	90-100
100	100-120
120	120-140
140	>140

6.2 The difference between the maximum and minimum length of the orchid in a unit presentation shall be as follows:

Length code	Length difference (cm)
10 to 90	5
100 to 140	10

6.3 The grade categories based on length shall be short, medium, long and extra long. The specifications for each category within genera/cultivar are defined in Annex B.

7 Tolerances

7.1 Quality tolerances

7.1.1 Extra Class – Five percent of the orchid, by number, may have slight defects on condition that the uniformity of the flowers in a package is not affected.

7.1.2 Class I and II – Ten percent of the orchid, by number may have slight defects on condition that the uniformity of the flowers in a package is not affected. The defects in question may not impair the utility of the flowers.

7.2 Length tolerance

Length tolerance shall be permitted in each unit presentation as follows:

7.2.1 In all classes, ten percent of the orchid, by number, may vary from the length requirements of the length code, but shall not exceed 10 cm provided that the length does not fall below the lower limit of the length code.

8 Packaging

8.1 A unit presentation shall consist of 1,2,3,4 or a multiple of 5 spikes and each package shall consist of a multiple of 10 spikes.

However, the above provisions shall not apply if seller and buyer have expressly agreed to derogate from these.

8.2 A unit presentation shall contain the orchid of the same genus and variety, and of the same class and length codes.

8.3 Each package may contain the orchid of all genera and their cultivars and of various length codes but shall be of the same quality classification.

8.4 Orchids shall be packed in such a way as to be properly protected. The materials used for the inside of the package in contact with the flowers shall be clean and of such quality as to avoid external and internal damage of the flowers.

9 Labeling

The label of each package shall have the following information:

- 9.1 Name of product, cultivar and color
- 9.2 Quality classification and length code
- 9.3 Number of spikes
- 9.4 Name and address or registered code of supplier and/or exporter
- 9.5 Country of origin

10 Sampling

Sampling size for certification purposes shall be based on the accepted statistical sampling scheme as agreed upon between the certifying agency and the supplier and/or exporter.

11 Compliance with specification

When found to comply with the requirements specified in this Philippine Standard Specification, the lot, the batch or the consignment from which the samples have been drawn, shall be deemed to comply with this Philippine Standard Specification and shall be provided with the Philippine Standard (**PS**) mark.

Annex A

Genera and cultivars of fresh orchid cut flowers (Spray type)



Orchid genera grown as cutflowers from left to right. Top row: Cymbidium, Vanda
Middle row: Paphiopedilium, Cattleya ; Lower row: Dendrobium, Oncidium, Phalaenopsis

Annex B

Length specification for each size category of different orchid genera/cultivar

Size Category	Stem length (cm)/Genera			
	Dendrobium	Vanda	Oncidium	Mokara
Extra Short	31 – 33	16 – 20	None	31 - 35
Long	52 – 56	32 – 36	None	46 - 50
Extra Long	57 – up	37 – up	None	51 - up

References

PNS/BAFPS 06:2003

Malaysian Standards: Specification for Fresh Orchid Cut Flowers (Spray type): MS 1280: 1992; Standard and Industrial Research Institute of Malaysia (SIRIM)

Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCARRD). The Philippines Recommends for Orchids: PCARRD Philippines Recommends Series No. 31-A. Rev. Ed. Los Baños, Laguna. 1994.

EEC Quality Standards for Fresh Cut Flowers (Annex 1 of EEC Regulation No. 316/68).

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