



ASEAN STANDARD FOR ONION

(ASEAN Stan 23:2011)

1. DEFINITION OF PRODUCE

This standard applies to commercial varieties of onion grown from *Allium cepa* L. of the *Alliaceae* family, to be supplied fresh to the consumer. Onion for industrial processing are excluded.

2. PROVISIONS CONCERNING QUALITY

2.1 MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

In all classes, subject to the special provisions for each class and the tolerances allowed, the onion must be:

- whole and firm bulb with properly dried outer skin;
- dried leaves above the bulb should not be more than 2cm from the shoulder of the bulb;
- sound; produce affected by rotting or deterioration such as to make it unfit for consumption is excluded;
- clean, practically free of any visible foreign matter;
- practically free of pests and diseases and damage caused by them affecting the general appearance of the produce;
- practically free of mechanical and/or physiological damage;
- free of any foreign smell and/or taste;
- having a shape, colour and taste characteristic of the variety and/or commercial type;
- free of visible sprouts and roots;
- practically free of twin bulbs and/or visibly abnormal characteristics;

2.1.1 The onion should be harvested and have reached an appropriate degree of development and in accordance with criteria proper to the variety and to the area in which they are grown. The onion should be cured after harvest.

The development and condition of the onion must be such as to enable them:

- to withstand transport and handling; and
- to arrive in satisfactory condition at the place of destination

2.2 CLASSIFICATION

Onion is classified in three classes defined below:

2.2.1 "Extra" Class

Onion in this class must be of superior quality. It must be practically free of defects provided these do not affect the general appearance of the produce, the quality, the keeping quality and presentation in the package.

2.2.2 Class I

This class includes onion, which do not qualify for inclusion in the higher class, but satisfy the minimum requirements specified in Section 2.1 above. Onion in this class must be of good quality. Slight defects of shape, colour, firmness and tears in the outer skin of the bulb may be allowed provided these do not affect the general appearance of the produce, the quality, the keeping quality and presentation in the package.

2.2.3 Class II

This class includes onion, which do not qualify for inclusion in the higher classes, but satisfy the minimum requirements specified in Section 2.1 above. Onion in this class must be of good quality. Defects of shape, colour, firmness and tears in the outer skin of the bulb may be allowed provided these do not affect the general appearance of the produce, the quality, the keeping quality and presentation in the package.

3. PROVISIONS CONCERNING SIZING

Size is determined by the diameter of the equatorial section of the bulb, in accordance with the following table:

Size Code	Diameter of bulb (cm)
1	>9
2	>7-9
3	>5-7
4	3-5

4. PROVISIONS CONCERNING TOLERANCES

Tolerances in respect of quality and size shall be allowed in each package (or in each lot for produce presented in bulk) for produce not satisfying the requirements of the class indicated.

4.1 QUALITY TOLERANCES

4.1.1 "Extra" Class

Five percent by number of onion is not satisfying the requirements of the class, but meeting those of Class I or, exceptionally, coming within the tolerances of that class.

4.1.2 Class I

Ten percent by number or weight of onion not satisfying the requirements of the class, but meeting those of Class II or, exceptionally, coming within the tolerances of that class.

4.1.3 Class II

Ten percent by number or weight of onion satisfying neither the requirements of the class nor the minimum requirements, with the exception of produce affected by rotting or any other deterioration rendering it unfit for consumption.

4.2 SIZE TOLERANCES

For all classes, 10% by number of onion not satisfying the requirements as regards sizing, but falling within the size immediately above or below those indicated in Section 3.

5. PROVISIONS CONCERNING PRESENTATION

5.1 UNIFORMITY

The contents of each package (or lot for produce presented in bulk) must be uniform and contain only onion of the same variety, origin, quality and size. The visible part of the contents of the package (or lot for produce presented in bulk) must be representative of the entire contents.

5.2 PACKAGING

Onion must be packed in such a way as to protect the produce properly. The materials used inside the package must be clean and of good quality such as to avoid causing any external or internal damage to the produce. The use of materials, particularly of paper or stamps bearing trade specifications is allowed, provided the printing or labeling has been done with non-toxic ink or glue.

Onion shall be packed in each container in compliance with the *Recommended International Code of Practice for Packaging and Transport of Tropical Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (CAC/RCP 44-1995, Amd. 1-2004)*.

5.2.1 Description of Containers

The containers shall meet the quality, hygiene, ventilation and resistance characteristics to ensure suitable handling, shipping and preserving of the onion. Packages (or lot for produce presented in bulk) must be practically free of foreign matter and smell.

6. MARKING OR LABELING

6.1 CONSUMER PACKAGES

In addition to the requirements of the Codex General Standard for the Labeling of Prepackaged Foods (CODEX STAN 1-1985, Rev. 1-1991), the following specific provisions apply:

6.1.1 Nature of Produce

If the produce is not visible from the outside, each package shall be labeled as to the name of the produce and may be labeled as to the name of the variety and/or commercial type.

6.2 NON-RETAIL CONTAINERS

Each package must bear the following particulars, in letters grouped on the same side, legibly and indelibly marked, and visible from the outside, or in the documents accompanying the shipment. For produce transported in bulk these particulars must appear on a document accompanying the goods.

6.2.1 Identification

Name and address of Exporter, Packer and/or Dispatcher. Identification code (optional).

6.2.2 Nature of Produce

Name of produce if the contents are not visible from the outside. Name of variety and/or commercial type.

6.2.3 Origin of Produce

Country of origin and, optionally, district where grown or national, regional or local place name.

6.2.4 Commercial Identification

- Class;
- Size (size code or average weight in grams);
- Number of units (optional);
- Net weight (optional).

6.2.5 Official Inspection Mark (optional)

6.2.6 Onion which has been treated with ionizing radiation shall be labeled as such according to Codex General Standard for the Labeling of Prepackaged Foods (CODEX STAN 1-1985, Rev. 1-1991).

7. CONTAMINANTS

7.1 PESTICIDE RESIDUES

Onion shall comply with those maximum residue limits established by the Codex Alimentarius Commission and/or by authority for this commodity.

7.2 OTHER CONTAMINANTS

Onion shall comply with those maximum levels for heavy metals established by the Codex Alimentarius Commission and/or by authority for this commodity.

8. HYGIENE

8.1 It is recommended that the product covered by the provisions of this Standard be prepared and handled in accordance with the appropriate sections of the Recommended International Code of Practice – General Principles of Food Hygiene (CAC/RCP 1-1969, Rev. 3-1997), and other relevant Codex texts such as Codes of Hygienic Practice and Codes of Practice.

8.2 The product should comply with any microbiological criteria established in accordance with the Principles for the Establishment and Application of Microbiological Criteria for Foods (CAC/GL 21-1997).

9. METHODS OF ANALYSIS AND SAMPLING

Analytical and sampling methods to be used for ascertaining conformance to the requirements of this specification shall be in accordance with relevant text in Codex Methods of Analysis and Sampling.

References:

Philippine National Standard for Onion (PNS/BAFPS 14:2004 ICS 065.020.20)

Thai Agricultural Standard: Onion (TAS 1510-2008)

Myanmar Specifications for Onion. 2009

VERNACULAR NAMES OF ONION

Country	Vernacular names
Brunei Darussalam	Bawang Besar
Cambodia	Khatem Barang
Indonesia	Bawang Bombay
Lao PDR	Phak Boa Yae
Malaysia	Bawang Besar
Myanmar	Kyet Thun Ni
Philippines	Sibuyas
Thailand	Hom huayai Hom yai
Vietnam	Hanh Tay