



Government
of Canada

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du Canada

Canada

**FOOD QUALITY SPECIFICATIONS -
FOOD PURCHASED BY FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
DEPARTMENTS**

Frozen Vegetables

April 1, 2018

The following specifications are used by federal government departments purchasing the items listed below for their departmental food requirements

FQS-13 – Frozen Vegetables

Any items listed in all Food Quality Specification that are **bolded and in brown** are part of the current National Standard Cycle Menu (NSCM) Standing Offer. Other items that are not on the NSCM but are on the Standing Offer may not be listed in **brown**.

[Applicable Regulations and Resources for Frozen Vegetables](#)

Description

1. As per the [Processed Products Regulations \(C.R.C., c. 291\)](#), frozen vegetables shall be the product obtained by freezing properly prepared fresh vegetables; and may contain salt, a firming agent, any natural flavouring ingredient and, in the case of any particular vegetable, any other substance (the addition of which to that vegetable is authorized by these regulations).
2. Frozen vegetables supplied must be in compliance with:
 - a. the [Food and Drugs Act \(R.S.C., 1985, c. F-27\)](#) and the [Food and Drug Regulations \(C.R.C., c. 870\)](#); and
 - b. comply with food packaging and labelling requirements specified by the [Food and Drugs Act \(R.S.C., 1985, c. F-27\)](#) and the [Food and Drug Regulations \(C.R.C., c. 870\)](#), the [Consumer Packaging and Labelling Act \(R.S.C., 1985, c. C-38\)](#), and the [Consumer Packaging and Labelling Regulations \(C.R.C., c. 417\)](#).
3. Frozen vegetables supplied shall:
 - a. meet the specifications as outlined in the [Processed Products Regulations \(C.R.C., c. 291\)](#);
 - b. meet the specification of the product as outlined in the [Processed Products Regulations \(C.R.C., c. 291\)](#), [Schedule I, Table II: Grades for Frozen Fruits and Vegetables](#) and [US Standards for Grades of Frozen Vegetables](#) and, where appropriate, the grade indicated in [Table 1](#), for the specified vegetable (or the equivalent grade of the country of origin) unless otherwise specified; or
 - c. where no Canadian Grade has been established the frozen vegetable shall meet the equivalent specifications of the product and the U.S. Grade indicated in [Table 1](#), for the specified vegetable (or the equivalent grade of the country of origin) as outlined in [US Standards for Grades of Frozen Vegetables](#), unless otherwise specified; and
 - d. be consistent with characteristics specified (e.g. without salt, unsweetened, chopped, diced, sliced, whole, cooked, added Vitamin C, etc.).

FQS-13-01-01 - Table 1: Frozen Vegetable Varieties

Frozen Vegetable Varieties	Grade to be supplied
Asparagus (Tips, Spears)	Canada A
Asparagus (Cuts or Cuttings)	Canada A
Asparagus (Whole)	Canada A
Beans (Green or Wax)	Canada A
Beans, Lima	Canada A
Broccoli (Spears, Cut or Chopped)	Canada A
Brussels Sprouts	Canada A
Carrots (Cut Carrots, Baby Whole Style, Cut carrots, Diced, Sliced)	Canada A
Cauliflower	Canada A
Celery	U.S. Grade A - <i>USDA Grades and Standards for Frozen Celery</i>
Corn, Baby	Canada A or US Fancy or equivalent
Corn, Whole Kernel	Canada A
Corn on the Cob	Canada A
Mixed Vegetables	Canada A
Mixed Vegetables, Special Blends	Canada A
Okra	U.S. Grade A or U.S. Fancy - <i>USDA Grades and Standards for Frozen Okra</i>
Onions, Pearl, White	Canada A or U.S No 1 Picklers
Onion Rings	U.S. Grade A or U.S. Fancy - <i>USDA Grades and Standards for Frozen Breaded Onion Rings</i>
Peas	Canada A
Peas and Carrots (Diced, Sliced, or Whole")	Canada A
Peppers	U.S. Grade A or U.S. Fancy - <i>USDA Grades and Standards for Frozen Sweet Peppers</i>
Potatoes, (French Fried) (Straight cut or Regular Cut, Shoestring or Julienne, Crinkle Cut, Crinkle Cut Shoestring or Crinkle Cut Julienne)	Canada A
Potatoes, Hash browns	U.S. Grade A - <i>USDA Grades and Standards for Frozen Hash Brown Potatoes</i>
Potatoes, Sweet	U.S. Grade A or U.S. Fancy
Squash, Cooked	Canada A
Squash, Uncooked (Diced or Cubed)	Canada A
Spinach (Whole Leaf, Cut or Chopped)	Canada A

4. Frozen vegetables supplied outside of Canada must:
- meet all the requirements of the [Food and Drugs Act \(R.S.C., 1985, c. F-27\)](#) and the [Food and Drug Regulations \(C.R.C., c. 870\)](#);
 - have originated in a country that has grade requirements and a system substantially equivalent to those prescribed by the [Processed Products Regulations \(C.R.C., c. 291\), Schedule I, Table II: Grades for Frozen Fruits and Vegetables](#) and/or;
 - meet the equivalent specifications of the product as outlined in the [Processed Products Regulations \(C.R.C., c. 291\), Schedule I, Table II: Grades for Frozen Fruits and Vegetables](#), [US Standards for](#)

[Grades of Frozen Vegetables](#) and, where appropriate, the grade indicated in [Table 1](#) for the specified vegetable (or the equivalent grade of the country of origin) unless otherwise specified or;

- d. where no Canadian Grade has been established the frozen vegetables shall meet the equivalent specifications of the product and the U.S. Grade indicated in [Table 1](#), for the specified vegetable (or the equivalent grade of the country of origin) as outlined in [US Standards for Grades of Frozen Vegetables](#), unless otherwise specified; and/or
- e. meet all the requirements of applicable [Codex Alimentarius - International Food Standards, List of Standards](#) for frozen vegetables;
- f. meet all the requirements of applicable local food legislation whenever those requirements are stricter. All frozen vegetables shall be obtained by sources approved by the applicable local and international laws, regulations, procedures and requirements; and
- g. be consistent with characteristics specified (e.g. without salt, unsweetened, chopped, diced, sliced, whole, cooked, added Vitamin C, etc.)

Size and Packaging

- 5. Containers for frozen vegetable products for which grades are established shall be of the size specified according to the [Processed Products Regulations \(C.R.C., c. 291\), Schedule III, Table II: Containers for Frozen Fruit and Vegetable Products \(for which grades are established\)](#).

Applicable Regulations and Resources for Frozen Vegetables

[Food and Drug Regulations \(C.R.C., c. 870\)](#)

[Food and Drug Regulations \(C.R.C., c. 870\) \[B.11.004. \[S\]. Frozen \(naming the vegetable\)\]](#)

[Food and Drugs Act \(R.S.C., 1985, c. F-27\)](#)

[Processed Products Regulations \(C.R.C., c. 291\)](#)

[Processed Products Regulations \(C.R.C., c. 291\), Schedule I, Table II: Grades for Frozen Fruits and Vegetables](#)

[Processed Products Regulations \(C.R.C., c. 291\), Schedule II, Standards of Identity for Specified Fruit and Vegetable Products, para 25](#)

[Processed Products Regulations \(C.R.C., c. 291\), Schedule III, Table II: Containers for Frozen Fruit and Vegetable Products \(for which grades are established\)](#)

[Consumer Packaging and Labelling Act \(R.S.C., 1985, c. C-38\)](#)

[Consumer Packaging and Labelling Regulations \(C.R.C., c. 417\)](#)

[US Standards for Grades of Frozen Vegetables](#)

[USDA Grades and Standards for Frozen Celery](#)

[USDA Grades and Standards for Frozen Okra](#)

[USDA Grades and Standards for Frozen Breaded Onion Rings](#)

[USDA Grades and Standards for Frozen Sweet Peppers](#)

[USDA Grades and Standards for Frozen Hash Brown Potatoes](#)

[Codex Alimentarius - International Food Standards, List of Standards](#)

[Codex Alimentarius - Standard for Quick Frozen Vegetables](#)