



Government
of Canada

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Canada

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

Canned Vegetables

April 1, 2018

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

FQS-15 – Canned 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 Canned Vegetables](#)

Description

1. Canned Vegetables are products prepared by heat processing properly prepared fresh vegetables, with or without sugar, invert sugar, dextrose or glucose in dry or liquid form, salt, and a firming agent, according to the [Processed Products Regulations \(C.R.C., c. 291\)](#). The [Canadian Food Inspection Agency \(CFIA\)](#) administers the Act and Regulations that governs much of the activity of the vegetable canning, pickling and drying industry, including the interprovincial and international shipment of many of the industry's products as well as most of its agricultural inputs. The industry is regulated by the industry is regulated by the [Processed Products Regulations \(C.R.C., c. 291\)](#), under the [Canada Agricultural Products Act \(R.S.C., 1985, c. 20 \(4th Supp.\)\)](#).
2. Canned 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 \(R.S.C., 1985, c. F-27\)](#), [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. Canned 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 I, Interpretation](#), the [Processed Products Regulations \(C.R.C., c. 291\), Schedule II, Standards of Identity for Specified Fruit and Vegetable Products, para 23](#), the [USDA Grades and Standards for Vegetables](#) and, where appropriate, the grade indicated in [Table 1](#), for the specified canned vegetable (or the equivalent grade of the country of origin) unless otherwise specified; or
 - c. where no Canadian Grade has been established, the canned vegetable shall meet the equivalent specifications of the U.S. Grade indicated in [Table 1](#), for the specified vegetable (or the equivalent grade of the country of origin) as outlined in [USDA Grades and Standards for 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-15-01 - Table 1: Canned Vegetable Varieties

Canned Vegetable Variety	Grade to be supplied
Artichoke Hearts	U.S. Grade A
Asparagus (Tips or Spears)	Canada Fancy [Food and Drug Regulations (C.R.C., c. 870), [B11.002 [S] Vegetables]]
Asparagus (Cuts or Cuttings)	Canada Fancy [Food and Drug Regulations (C.R.C., c. 870), [B11.002 [S] Vegetables]]
Bamboo Shoots	Standard for Canned Bamboo Shoots [CODEX STAN 241-2003]
Beans, (Canned Dried Beans, Canned Pork and Beans, Canned Baked Beans)	U.S. Grade A [USDA Grades and Standards for Canned Dried Beans, Canned Pork and Beans, and Canned Baked Beans]]
Beans (Green or Wax, with or without Seasoning)	Canada Fancy [Food and Drug Regulations (C.R.C., c. 870), [B11.002 [S] Vegetables]]
Beans, Lima	Canada Fancy [Food and Drug Regulations (C.R.C., c. 870), [B11.002 [S] Vegetables]]
Beets (Whole)	Canada Fancy [Food and Drug Regulations (C.R.C., c. 870), [B11.002 [S] Vegetables]]
Beets (Sliced)	Canada Fancy [Food and Drug Regulations (C.R.C., c. 870), [B11.002 [S] Vegetables]]
Beets (Diced or Cubed)	Canada Fancy [Food and Drug Regulations (C.R.C., c. 870), [B11.002 [S] Vegetables]]
Beet (Cut or Quartered)	Canada Fancy [Food and Drug Regulations (C.R.C., c. 870), [B11.002 [S] Vegetables]]
Beets (Julienne or Shoestring)	Canada Fancy [Food and Drug Regulations (C.R.C., c. 870), [B11.002 [S] Vegetables]]
Carrots (Whole)	Canada Fancy [Food and Drug Regulations (C.R.C., c. 870), [B11.002 [S] Vegetables]]
Carrots (Sliced)	Canada Fancy [Food and Drug Regulations (C.R.C., c. 870), [B11.002 [S] Vegetables]]
Carrots (Diced or Cubed)	Canada Fancy [Food and Drug Regulations (C.R.C., c. 870), [B11.002 [S] Vegetables]]
Carrots (Julienne or Shoestring)	Canada Fancy [Food and Drug Regulations (C.R.C., c. 870), [B11.002 [S] Vegetables]]
Chili Peppers, Green	Canada Fancy [Food and Drug Regulations (C.R.C., c. 870), [B11.002 [S] Vegetables]] Codex Standard - Chili Peppers
Corn (Whole or Cut Kernel, with or without seasoning)	Canada Fancy [Food and Drug Regulations (C.R.C., c. 870), [B11.002 [S] Vegetables]]
Corn (Cream Style)	Canada Fancy [Food and Drug Regulations (C.R.C., c. 870), [B11.002 [S] Vegetables]]
Jalapeno Peppers, Red	Canada Fancy [Food and Drug Regulations (C.R.C., c. 870), [B11.002 [S] Vegetables]] Codex Standard - Chili Peppers
Mixed Vegetables, Macedoine	Canada Fancy [Food and Drug Regulations (C.R.C., c. 870), [B11.002 [S] Vegetables]]
Mushrooms, whole, button, sliced button, sliced	Canada Fancy [Food and Drug Regulations (C.R.C., c. 870), [B11.002 [S] Vegetables]]
Olives, green	U.S. Grade A [USDA Grades and Standards for Green]

Canned Vegetable Variety	Grade to be supplied
	<u>Olives</u>] (or U.S. Fancy)
Olives, ripe	U.S. Grade A [<u>USDA Grades and Standards for Canned Ripe Olives</u>]
Onions	U.S. Grade A [<u>USDA Grades and Standards for Canned Onions</u>] or U.S. Fancy
Peas	Canada Fancy [<u>Food and Drug Regulations (C.R.C., c. 870), [B11.002 [S] Vegetables]</u>]
Peas and Carrots	Canada Fancy [<u>Food and Drug Regulations (C.R.C., c. 870), [B11.002 [S] Vegetables]</u>]
Potatoes, White (Whole)	Canada Fancy [<u>Food and Drug Regulations (C.R.C., c. 870), [B11.002 [S] Vegetables]</u>]
Potatoes, White (Sliced)	Canada Fancy [<u>Food and Drug Regulations (C.R.C., c. 870), [B11.002 [S] Vegetables]</u>]
Potatoes, White (Diced or Cubed)	Canada Fancy [<u>Food and Drug Regulations (C.R.C., c. 870), [B11.002 [S] Vegetables]</u>]
Potatoes, White (Julienne, Shoestring, Regular Cut or Crinkle Cut)	Canada Fancy [<u>Food and Drug Regulations (C.R.C., c. 870), [B11.002 [S] Vegetables]</u>]
Potatoes, Sweet (Whole or Cut)	Canada Fancy [<u>Food and Drug Regulations (C.R.C., c. 870), [B11.002 [S] Vegetables]</u>]
Pumpkin	Canada Fancy [<u>Food and Drug Regulations (C.R.C., c. 870), [B11.002 [S] Vegetables]</u>]
Squash	As for Canned Pumpkin
Sauerkraut	Canada Fancy [<u>Food and Drug Regulations (C.R.C., c. 870), [B11.002 [S] Vegetables]</u>]
Spinach	Canada Fancy [<u>Food and Drug Regulations (C.R.C., c. 870), [B11.002 [S] Vegetables]</u>]
Tomatoes (Whole, Whole and Pieces, Wedges, Sliced, Diced, Crushed or Chopped, Plum)	Canada Fancy [<u>Food and Drug Regulations (C.R.C., c. 870), [B11.002 [S] Vegetables]</u>] or Canada Fancy "Whole"
Tomatoes with Green Chilies¹	Canada Fancy [<u>Food and Drug Regulations (C.R.C., c. 870), [B11.002 [S] Vegetables]</u>]
Stewed Tomatoes	As for Canned Tomatoes, except % drained solids is not a grade factor
Tomato Puree	Canada Fancy [<u>Food and Drug Regulations (C.R.C., c. 870), [B11.002 [S] Vegetables]</u>]
Tomato Chilli Sauce	As for Tomato Puree
Tomato Pulp	As for Tomato Puree
Tomato Paste, Concentrated Tomato Paste	As for Tomato Puree
Tomato Sauce	As for Tomato Puree
Water Chestnuts	

4. **Canned tomato products provided must be of the low sodium, no salt or no added salt variety, unless otherwise specified.**

5. Low sodium tomato paste must have no more than 5.4 gm of sodium per 5 ml.

6. Canned Vegetables supplied outside of Canada must:

¹ Maximum 410 milligrams (mg) of sodium (Na) per 100 grams (gms) or 98 millilitres (mls).

- a. 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 \(C.R.C., c. 291\)](#); and
- b. meet the specification of the product as outlined in the [Processed Products Regulations \(C.R.C., c. 291\), Schedule I, Table I, Interpretation](#), the [Processed Products Regulations \(C.R.C., c. 291\), Schedule II, Standards of Identity for Specified Fruit and Vegetable Products, para 23](#), and, where appropriate, the grade indicated in [Table 1](#), for the specified canned vegetable (or the equivalent grade of the country of origin) unless otherwise specified; or
- c. where no Canadian Grade has been established the canned 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 [USDA Grades and Standards for Vegetables](#), unless otherwise specified; and/or
- d. meet all the requirements of applicable [Codex Alimentarius - International Food Standards, List of Standards](#) for Canned Vegetables;
- e. meet all the requirements of applicable local food legislation whenever those requirements are stricter. All canned vegetables shall be obtained by sources approved by the applicable local and international laws, regulations, procedures and requirements; and
- f. be consistent with characteristics specified (e.g. without salt, chopped, diced, sliced, whole, cooked, added Vitamin C, etc.).

Size and Packaging

7. Containers for canned vegetable products for which grades are established shall be of the size specified according to [Processed Products Regulations \(C.R.C., c. 291\), Schedule III, Table I \[Containers for canned fruit and vegetable products\]](#).

Applicable Regulations and Resources for Canned Vegetables

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

[Food and Drug Regulations \(C.R.C., c. 870\), \[B11.002 \[S\] Vegetables\]](#)

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

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

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

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

[Processed Products Regulations \(C.R.C., c. 291\), Schedule I, Table I, Interpretation](#)

[Processed Products Regulations \(C.R.C., c. 291\), Schedule II, Standards of Identity for Specified Fruit and Vegetable Products, para 23](#)

[Processed Products Regulations \(C.R.C., c. 291\), Schedule III, Table I \[Containers for canned fruit and vegetable products\]](#)

[USDA Grades and Standards for Vegetables](#)

[USDA Grades and Standards for Green Olives](#)

[USDA Grades and Standards for Canned Ripe Olives](#)

[USDA Grades and Standards for Canned Onions](#)

[USDA Grades and Standards for Canned Dried Beans, Canned Pork and Beans, and Canned Baked Beans](#)

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

[Standard for Canned Bamboo Shoots \[CODEX STAN 241-2003\]](#)

[Canadian Food Inspection Agency \(CFIA\)](#)

[Canada Agricultural Products Act \(R.S.C., 1985, c. 20 \(4th Supp.\)\)](#)

[Codex Alimentarius – Chili Peppers](#)

[Codex Alimentarius Standard for Certain Canned Vegetables](#)