

Metcash Produce Specification

A. Product Description	
Product	Cucumber - Continental
Variety	Various
Pack Type	Overwrapped product. Loose carton pack or prepacked bag. 12 pieces per carton or 15 pieces per bag.

Product supplied to MF&G Fresh Branches must satisfy the Metcash Supplier Delivery Standards & the following requirements:

B. Basic Quality Parameters	
General Appearance	Bright and fresh bloom. Smooth to slightly ribbed skin completely over wrapped with food grade protective shrink wrap. Remaining stem < 4mm;
Colour	Uniform dark green skin; whitish to pale green flesh; small white seeds; Nil with yellow colour or with green-yellow mottling
Shape	Long and slender; straight with slight banana shape (> or equal to 30mm gap to straight edge) with rounded blossom end, slightly narrowed taper at stem end, relatively even thickness along main length. Bottle neck shape allowed (main length of cucumber below bottle neck equivalent to standard. Nil constricted cucumbers (pinched middles)
Size	40 – 45mm girth and 300 - 350mm in length. Uniform size within bag / carton
Sensory / Eating Quality	Uniformly firm; smooth, thin skin; slightly ridged skin with rough texture along ridges; crisp, juicy flesh with mild flavour; no 'off' odours or tastes.
Distribution Receipt Temperature	7 – 12°C

C. FOOD SAFETY PARAMETERS	
Foreign Matter	Free from foreign matter / contamination /mould or surface residues. No foreign or off odours indicating breakdown.
Infestation	No evidence of insect infestation, alive or dead.
Chemicals and Contaminants	Produce shall comply with FSANZ Food Standards Code Standard 1.4.2 – Maximum Residue Limits and Standard 1.4.1 – Contaminants and Natural Toxicants.

D. Major Defects	
Diseases	Evidence of fungal or bacterial rots (e.g. bacterial spot, Alternaria, Fusarium, Rhizopus soft rot). Evidence of yellow spots or skin blistering (mosaic viruses).
Physical or Pest Damage	Evidence of cuts, splits, holes, cracks or wounds that break the skin. Evidence of obvious bruises or soft damaged areas. Evidence of chewed / scarred areas > 2mm deep (insect damage).
Physiological Disorders	Evidence of yellowed skin (ethylene damage / senescence). Evidence of growth cracks, splits or hollow centres. Evidence of wrinkled, softened or shrivelled skin, or 'pinching' at blossom end (dehydration).
Temperature Injury	Evidence of pitted or discoloured skin, water soaked lesions in flesh (chilling injury). Evidence of bleached, dry areas (sunburn).

E. Minor Defects	
Physical or Pest Damage	Evidence of shallow (< 2mm deep) pest damage, e.g. chewed, scarred areas affecting > 0.5 sq. cm.
Skin marks or blemish	Evidence of dark coloured rub or weather marks affecting in aggregate > 0.5 sq. cm. Evidence of silver or light beige scuff marks affecting in aggregate > 2 sq. cm of surface area.

F. Labelling & Packaging Requirements (Packaging must be clean & sturdy – no damaged / recycled packaging accepted)	
Packaging / Trade Measurement	Overwrapped product. Loose carton pack or prepacked bag. 12 pieces per carton or 15 pieces per bag.
Labelling	Each carton or sale unit of stock must be labelled, with the following details: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grower's name & address. Packer's name & address (if different from grower details) Supplier name (if different) Product description Count, size & grade Net pack weight (where applicable) Lot identification (packed on date etc.) Country Of Origin DC delivery date (all bulk items)

Assessment Summary		Tray Packed & Bulk Carton Items
B.	Basic Quality Parameters	Product outside spec must not exceed 5%
D.	Major Defects	Product outside spec must not exceed 1%
E.	Minor Defects	Product outside spec must not exceed 5%
Total	B+D+E Combined	Total product outside spec must not exceed 8%
This specification may be revised in consideration of seasonal / climatic conditions. In that instance a Variance To Specification must be issued for a specified period of time, as per procedure HA11-11.		

Product Image

