

## **POTATOES - Main Requirements for Sale**

### **A. Bag Markings**

- (i) The word “Potatoes”
- (ii) Name and Address (Producer, Packer or Seller)
- (iii) Variety
- (iv) Size range
- (v) Net weight
- (vi) Packer’s registration number
- (vii) Grower’s registration number

### **B. Sizing**

Minimum size 25mm  
Maximum permissible size range 35mm

### **C. Quality**

A person shall not sell potatoes:

- (a) unless they are –
  - (i) whole, clean, sound and wholesome,
  - (ii) practically unsprouted (i.e. free from sprouts or having sprouts of 5 mm in length or less),
  - (iii) free from foreign smell
  - (iv) free from external and internal defects detrimental to the quality of the potato, including damage caused by pests, cracks, cuts, bites and bruises of a depth of more than 5mm, greening, rust stains, hollow heart, deep common potato scab and powdery potato scab affecting more than 25 per cent of the surface of the potato
  - (v) free from soil, detached growth shoots and other extraneous material
- (b) unless they are free from soft rots (including frost damage and waterlogging damage) and dry rots (including blight and gangrene).
- (c) unless each variety is presented separately.

Tolerances: The individual tolerance level for “(a)” is 5%, for “(b)” is 2% and for “(c)” is 3%. Overall tolerance of 8% for combined defects under “(a)”, “(b)” and “(c)”. Tolerance determined by weight.

### **D. Registration**

A person who produces/packs potatoes for sale must be registered with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. An Application Form to register under the Potato Growers and Packers Acts 1984 and 2004 is available from the local Potato Inspector. This Application Form and The Register of Potato Growers and Potato Packers, are also available at:

<http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/farmingsectors/crops/potatoes/>

### **Footnote**

The information in this summary gives general guidance on the quality, grading and labelling requirements for potatoes. It does not purport to be a comprehensive statement of the legal requirements. The labelling requirements at “A (iii)” and “A (iv)” above, the sizing requirements at “B” and the quality requirements at “C” are prescribed by the Food Standards (Potatoes) Regulations, 1977 and 1996. The labelling requirement at “A (vi)” and “A (vii)” is prescribed under the Registration of Potato Growers and Potato Packers Acts 1984 and 2004 and there is no exemption for small packs or for new potatoes. The registration requirements at “D” are prescribed under the Registration of Potato Growers and Potato Packers Acts 1984 and 2004.