

caudal fin and internal organs other than the ova, milt and kidneys, and, according to the market presentation concerned, backbone and skin.

#### Article 4

Preserved sardines may be marketed in any of the following presentations:

1. sardines: the basic product, fish from which the head, gills, internal organs and caudal fin have been appropriately removed. The head must be removed by making a cut perpendicular to the backbone, close to the gills;
2. sardines without bones: as the basic product referred to in point 1, but with the additional removal of backbone;
3. sardines without skin or bones: as the basic product referred to in point 1, but with the additional removal of the backbone and skin;
4. sardine fillets: portions of flesh obtained by cuts parallel to the backbone, along the entire length of the fish, or a part thereof, after removal of the backbone, fins and edge of the stomach lining. Fillets may be presented with or without skin;
5. sardine trunks: sardine portions adjacent to the head, measuring at least 3 cm in length, obtained from the basic product referred to in point 1 by making transverse cuts across the backbone;
6. any other form of presentation, on condition that it is clearly distinguished from the presentations defined in points 1 to 5.

#### Article 5

For the purposes of the trade description laid down in Article 7, a distinction shall be drawn between the following covering media, with or without the addition of other ingredients:

1. olive oil;
2. other refined vegetable oils, including olive-residue oil used singly or in mixtures;
3. tomato sauce;
4. natural juice (liquid exuding from the fish during cooking), saline solution or water;
5. marinade, with or without wine;
6. any other covering medium, on condition that it is clearly distinguished from the other covering media defined in points 1 to 5.

These covering media may be mixed, but olive oil may not be mixed with other oils.

#### Article 6

1. After sterilization, the products in the container must satisfy the following minimum criteria:

- (a) for the presentations defined in points 1 to 5 of Article 4, the sardines or parts of sardine must:
  - be reasonably uniform in size and arranged in an orderly manner in the container,
  - be readily separable from each other,
  - present no significant breaks in the abdominal wall,
  - present no breaks or tears in the flesh,
  - present no yellowing of tissues, with the exception of slight traces,
  - comprise flesh of normal consistency. The flesh must not be excessively fibrous, soft or spongy,
  - comprise flesh of a light or pinkish colour, with no reddening round the backbone, with the exception of slight traces;
- (b) the covering medium must have the colour and consistency characteristic of its description and the ingredients used. In the case of an oil medium, the oil may not contain aqueous exudate in excess of 8 % of net weight;
- (c) the product must retain the odour and flavour characteristics of the species *Sardina pilchardus* Walbaum and the type of covering medium, and must be free of any disagreeable odour or taste, in particular bitterness, or taste of oxidation or rancidity;
- (c) the product must be free of any foreign bodies;
- (e) in the case of products with bones, the backbone must be readily separable from the flesh and friable;
- (f) products without skin and without bones must present no significant residues thereof.

2. The container may not present external oxidation or deformation affecting good commercial presentation.

#### Article 7

Without prejudice to Directives 79/112/EEC and 76/211/EEC, the trade description on the pre-packaging of preserved sardines must correspond to the ratio between the weight of sardines in the container after sterilization and the net weight, both expressed in grams.

- (a) For the presentations defined in points 1 to 5 of Article 4, the ratio shall be not less than the following values:
  - 70 % for the covering media listed in points 1, 2, 4 and 5 of Article 5,
  - 65 % for the covering medium described in point 3 of Article 5;
  - 50 % for the covering media referred to in point 6 of Article 5.