A. Minimum requirements for data supporting a request to prepare or to modify a reference guideline

AIM: In order to guarantee sufficient scientific evidence for adding a new reference guideline or to change the range and/or min/max values and/or commentary notes, appropriate data are necessary. This document specifies what "appropriate" means.

1. Requirements for a new Reference Guideline (RG) and/or new parameters:

In order to introduce a new RG the following data have to be provided:

- Min. 50 analyses per season for each parameter in category A and for descriptive parameters under B
- Min. 3 seasons
- Min. covering the main producing countries/areas

2. Requirements for changing min/max values and/or ranges

In order to change min/max values and/or ranges the following data have to be provided:

- Min. 25 analyses per season for each parameter
- Min. 3 seasons
- Min. covering the main producing countries/areas

3. Requirements for changing commentary notes

In order to change the commentary notes related to deviations for a specific geographical area or a specific climatic condition, etc., the following data has to be provided:

- Min. 25 analyses for the parameter per season
- Min. 3 seasons

4. General requirements

For all provided data the following requirements have to be considered:

- Data to be established on authentic samples and at known Brix values (for single strength the Brix as it is and for juice from concentrate the min. Brix value as specified in the reference guideline)
- For this purpose samples can only be considered to be authentic if taken by a competent, independent and identified body (e.g., SGF/IRMA). Commercial samples (i.e. not sampled by an independent body) can be used to support data from authentic samples but they will not be considered to have the same significance;
- The analytical data must have been produced by a competent laboratory employing recognised analytical methods (see COP);
- Data have to be presented in the following manner:

n: number of analyses
min.: minimum value found
max.: maximum value found

mean: calculated mean value
S.D.: standard deviation

Furthermore all raw data have to be provided.

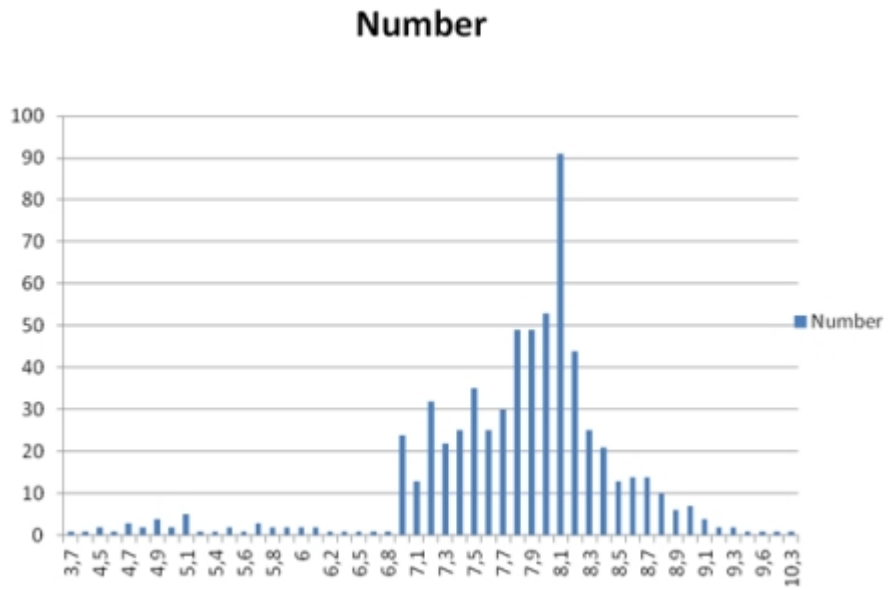
It is strongly recommended that advice is sought from the AIJN COP Expert Group before embarking upon appropriate schemes of sampling and analysis.

B. Procedure for calculation of minimum Brix-values for NFC and FC juices in Code of Practice Reference Guidelines

1. Collection of data

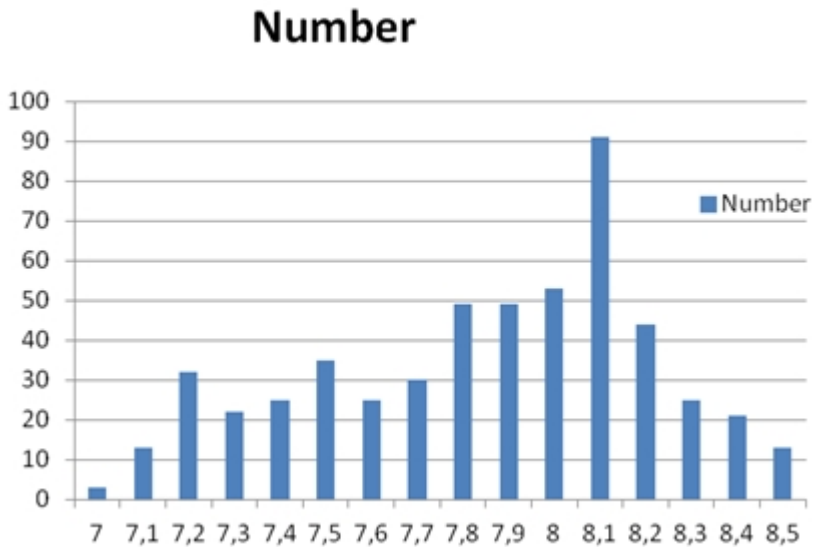
At least 50 authentic samples, from a minimum of three seasons, should be taken for evaluation. The origin of the samples should be known and cover the most common commercial sources of the fruit/vegetable. Where different origins are available the data should be presented accordingly. However, an overall dataset, for all regions, should be used for the evaluation of the minimum Brix for not from concentrate (NFC) and from concentrate (FC) juices.

Example: Brix data from red pepper direct juice are collected. The figures are then tabulated from minimum to maximum, with the numbers of samples at each Brix-value determined.



2. First evaluation

Mean: 7.7 Brix
Standard deviation: 0.84
Minimum: 3.7
Maximum: 10.3
Number of samples: 628



3. Further evaluation of data

The data should be "topped and tailed" by removal of the bottom and top 10% of the samples (reduced dataset) and the mean, standard deviation, etc. recalculated. This process allows for the outlying samples to be removed from the dataset.

Mean: 7.8 (1)
Standard deviation: 0.39
Minimum: 7.0
Maximum: 8.5
Number of samples: 503
Mean – (2 x std dev): 7.0 (2)
The Brix values for **juice from concentrate** will be 7.8 (this is taken as the mean of the reduced dataset shown in (1)).
The Brix value for **direct juice** will be 7.0 (This is taken as the mean value, of the reduced dataset after exclusion of the top and bottom 10% of the samples, less twice the standard deviation of this dataset, as shown in (2)).

C. Procedure for modifying the AIJN Code of Practice for the evaluation of Fruit and Vegetable Juices

Step 1: Request for adjustment of an existing RG

Requests for adjustment of existing guidelines must be addressed to the AIJN Secretariat (f.a.o. Mr. J. Hermans). Requests can be made by worldwide located national associations (by preference), companies, laboratories and experts (sender). Requests should be ideally accompanied by sufficient supporting data. Sufficiently supporting data is considered data from different crops in at least one but preferably more areas.

Step 2: Handling requests by the Secretariat

The AIJN Secretariat registers incoming requests and distributes the requests to the members of the AIJN COP Expert Group. The sender will receive a confirmation of receipt together with the meeting date of the next COP meeting where the request will be discussed.

Step 3: Handling requests by the AIJN COP Expert Group

The Expert Group consists of a Core Group and a Support Group. In both Groups well respected experts from the EU and outside of the EU are active. In one or more meetings they will examine the request on justification by comparing:

- Existing experience (incl. SGF/IRMA authentic material)
- Literature

If not sufficient own experience/literature is available the request can still be honoured in case sufficient scientific evidence is supplied and/or confirmed by authentic sampling via SGF/IRMA. The Expert Group will handle the request in one or more meetings.

Step 4: Feedback from Secretariat

After each Expert Group meeting the secretariat will provide feedback on the status of the request to the sender.

Step 5: Preparing an adjustment for discussion in the AIJN Technical Committee (TC).

After having carefully studied the request within the Expert Group (meets 2 times a year) the Expert Group prepares a proposal for an initial discussion in the TC meeting (twice a year).

Step 6: Discussion within the AIJN TC

Proposals will be submitted to the members of the Committee at least 4 weeks prior to the meeting. In most cases the TC will need two discussion rounds. Between two meetings the national associations have sufficient time to discuss the proposal in their own association and (national) expert groups.

Step 7: Decision in AIJN TC

The aim is to come to a consensus decision on the proposal in the second TC meeting. If consensus cannot be obtained, a decision can be taken by a qualified majority as defined in the by-laws of the Association. In case no majority decision can be taken at all the proposal will be sent back to the Expert Group for reconsideration and preparing an adjusted proposal.

Step 8: Final Decision AIJN TC and proposal to the AIJN General Assembly (GA)

Taking into consideration all aspects the AIJN TC will make a final decision. After the final approval of a proposal from the Expert Group the proposal will be transferred to the AIJN GA for final approval.

Step 9: Decision of the AIJN GA

Within the GA the proposal from the Technical Committee will in principle not be discussed again (just rubber stamped). A decision will be taken with at least a qualified majority as defined in the by-laws of the Association. In case no qualified majority is reached the proposal will be returned to the AIJN Expert Group for reconsideration at step 5. After approval of the AIJN GA the proposed changes are released for publication at the earliest possibility.

Changes made in the A-criteria of a RG become applicable 12 months after the date of publication of the adopted change(s) on the Code of Practice website.

RGs are produced incorporating all the currently available data. It is recognised however that more data may be forthcoming. For this reason new RGs are issued as ‘Provisional’.

Provisional Reference Guidelines

During a 2-year time period more data can be submitted to the COPEG and will form part of the final consideration of the values and comments to be incorporated in the new reference guide. After this 2 year period has elapsed the reference guideline is published in its final, established form. All the established reference guidelines are subject to regular examination and revision in the light of new significant data.