

Decree No. 2-20-422 of Rabii 2nd 10, 1442 (November 26, 2020) relating to the Quality and Health Safety of Marketed Canned and Semi-preserved Vegetables.

OG No 6944 of the 12/17/2020, page 1990)

The Head of Government,

Having regard to Law No. 28-07 relating to the safety of food products, promulgated by Dahir No. 1-10-08 of Safar 26, 1431 (February 11, 2010), especially its articles 5 and 8;

Having regard to Law No 13-83 relative to the repression of frauds on goods, promulgated by Dahir No 1-83-108 of Moharrem 9, 1405 (October 5, 1984), in particular its article 16;

Having regard to Decree No 2-10-473 of Chaoual 7, 1432 (September 6, 2011) taken for the application of certain provisions of Law No. 28-07 relating to the safety of food products, in particular its articles 4, 5, 48, 53 and 75;

Having regard to Decree No 2-12-389 of Jumada 2nd 11, 1434 (April 22, 2013) setting the terms and conditions for the labeling of food products, as amended and completed;

After deliberation in the Government Council at its meeting of Rabii 1st 22, 1442 (November 12, 2020),

DECREES:

ARTICLE 1. - In accordance with the provisions of Articles 5 and 8 of the aforementioned Law No. 28-07 relating to the health safety of food products, this decree shall set the conditions likely to ensure the quality and health safety of the marketed canned and semi-preserved vegetable products.

ARTICLE 2. - For the purposes of this decree, the following terms shall mean :

- 1) **“Canned Vegetable”**: Food products of vegetable origin the preservation of which is ensured by heat treatment or by any means or method of treatment authorized by the regulations in force, before or after their packaging in a hermetically sealed container in order to prevent its alteration;
- 2) **“Semi-preserved Vegetables”**: Food products of plant origin which have undergone pasteurization and/or pickling and/or the addition of acids and/or preservatives in order to ensure their preservation. They are packaged in hermetically sealed containers.

ARTICLE 3. - Canned and semi-preserved vegetables can only be marketed:

- under the names fixed by orders of the governmental authority in charge of agriculture. They shall meet the corresponding characteristics set out in the said decrees;
- under the denominations fixed by the Codex Alimentarius when these denominations are not provided for by the orders referred to above. They shall meet the corresponding characteristics set out in said Codex Alimentarius.

However, for canned and semi-preserved vegetables whose names and characteristics are not provided for either by the above-mentioned orders or by the Codex Alimentarius, their names and characteristics shall comply with the information posted on their labeling.

ARTICLE 4. - In accordance with the provisions of Articles 4 and 5 of the aforementioned Decree No. 2-10-473, establishments and companies for the production, processing, packaging, distribution, transport, storage or conservation of canned and semi-preserved vegetables shall, as the case may be, be approved or authorized in terms of health in accordance with the regulations in force.

The operators of these establishments and companies shall ensure the traceability of their products in accordance with the provisions of article 75 of said decree 2-10-473.

ARTICLE 5. - Importers of canned and semi-preserved vegetables shall ensure that the imported products meet the requirements provided for by this decree and by article 48 of the decree No 2-10-473 referred to above.

ARTICLE 6. - Operators of establishments and companies producing canned and semi-preserved vegetables shall ensure that the levels of residues of phytosanitary products and contaminants in the canned and semi-preserved vegetables placed on the market are compliant with the applicable regulations.

ARTICLE 7. - Only the additives authorized by the regulations in force for the categories to which canned and semi-preserved vegetables belong shall be used in the manufacture of the said canned and semi-preserved.

ARTICLE 8. - The permissible operations in the sense of article 16 of the Law No 13-83, to which canned and semi-preserved vegetables can be subject, if necessary, shall be fixed by the orders provided for in article 3 above.

ARTICLE 9. - Canned and semi-preserved vegetables shall be wrapped or packaged in suitable, watertight, hermetically sealed, clean and dry containers, to preserve their quality and ensure their health safety.

These containers shall be made of materials that meet the specifications and requirements as set by article 53 of the aforementioned Decree No. 2-10-473.

ARTICLE 10. - The labeling of canned and semi-preserved vegetables shall comply with the

provisions of Decree No. 2-12-389, referred to above in full respect of the special labeling specifications indicated, where applicable, in the orders provided for in Article 3 above.

ARTICLE 11. - The provisions of this decree shall enter into force as from the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

As from this date, the decree of November 04, 1935 regulating the trade in tomatoes, fruits and vegetables and their preserves shall be repealed.

However, the provisions of the aforementioned decree of November 04, 1935 shall continue to apply for canned tomatoes until the entry into effect of the decree provided for in article 3 above.

ARTICLE 12.- The Minister of Agriculture, Maritime Fisheries, Rural Development and Waters and Forests and the Minister of Industry, Trade and the Green and Digital Economy shall be responsible, each within the scope of his competence, for the implementation of this decree which shall be published in the Official Gazette.

Done in Rabat, on Rabii 2nd 10, 1442 (November 26, 2020)

The Head of Government, SAAD DINE EL OTMANI

FOR COUNTERSIGNATURE:

The Minister of Agriculture, Maritime Fisheries, Rural Development and Water and Forests, Aziz AKHANNOUCH

**The Minister of Industry, Trade and the Green and Digital Economy,
MLY HFID ELALAMY**