

The Association of Wholesalers of Christmas Trees and Greenery

GUIDELINES FOR POST HARVEST HANDLING

The present Directive concerns post harvest handling of Nordmann Fir Christmas trees and constitutes the standard of trees delivered to members of The Association of Wholesalers, valid from August 1st, 2003.

Conditions:

Cutting	The cut must be horizontal
Cutting height	Treeheight 80-150 cm: cutting height max 5 cm above ground level Treeheight 150-250 cm: cutting height max 10 cm above ground level
Length of handle	10 % of tree height
Cleaning of handle	Clean, straight, well shaped, no swelling of the root collar
Dragging	The trees should not be soiled during dragging
Netting	Type of netting by agreement Hydraulic netting machine min 350 kg pressure Netting of the smallest possible diameter Netting must be done in such a manner that the netting will not be removed during further handling
Milling	Milling must be performed lengthways
Palletising	Pallet width including boards max 123 cm Total pallet height max 240 cm The pallet must be firm and able to withstand loading and reloading without affecting dimensions or stability The pallets should not be soiled during transport from the plantation An agreement must be made concerning size and amount of trees per pallet Each pallet must have a waterproof label showing sizes and amounts of trees
Miscellaneous	At dispatch the trees must be clean and free from weeds Trees with needle loss or discolouration are not to be harvested.

Exceptions from the above Directive must be explicitly mentioned in the contract.

August 1st 2003

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