



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

TRADE/WP.7/GE.2/2004/2
1 April 2004

ORIGINAL : ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND
ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards

Specialized Section on Standardization of
Dry and Dried Produce (Fruit)
51st session, 15 - 18 June 2004, Geneva

Item 2 of the Provisional Agenda

MATTERS OF INTEREST ARISING SINCE THE FIFTIETH SESSION

Note by the secretariat

This document sums up the relevant outcome of the seventh session of the Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development and the fifty-ninth session of the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards.

1. SEVENTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

The following excerpt is taken from the report of the Committee (ECE/TRADE/306, paragraphs 33 to 40):

Item 8 – Agricultural quality standards

Documentation:

TRADE/2003/6	Recent developments under the Working Party on Perishable Produce and Quality Development (WP.7)
TRADE/WP.7/2002/9	Report of the 58 th session of the Working Party Agricultural Quality Standards (WP.7)

33. In the absence of the Chairman of the Working Party, Mr. David Priester (United States), who could not attend the session, the Secretary of the Working Party presented documents TRADE/WP.7/2002/9 and TRADE/2003/6, in which the Working Party asked the Committee to approve the decision to change its name from “Working Party on Perishable Produce and Quality Development” to “Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards”.

34. At the last Committee session, some delegations had raised the issue of cooperation with the OECD Scheme for the Application of International Standards for Fruit and Vegetables and the secretariat was pleased to report that this cooperation continued to function very well. He assured the Committee that within the existing resources of both the UNECE and the OECD, everything was being done to ensure a speedy completion of the standards and their explanatory brochures. Further ideas for closer cooperation would be discussed between the secretariats and in the relevant Specialized Sections in the near future.

35. He said that the secretariat was currently more involved in capacity-building work, such as training courses. Upcoming activities in this area included the organization of two events in Moscow, co-organized with the Russian Federation (one on implementation of the UNECE bovine standard and one on the draft UNECE standard for chicken meat), from 22-26 September 2003. A request had also been received from Lithuania for a training course on implementation of the UNECE bovine standard. Cooperation had also been initiated with the other United Nations regional commissions and EAN International, as well as with the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization (BSEC).

36. The delegation of the European Community noted what had been said by the secretariat regarding cooperation with the OECD. Both the delegations of the European Community and the Russian Federation stressed the importance of this work and called for resources in this work area to be increased

37. The Chairman noted that the Bureau of the Committee was open to discussing well-documented requests for additional resources in order to determine what follow-up, if any, could be undertaken.

Further information about the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards can be found on the Internet at: <http://www.unece.org/trade/agr/welcome.htm>

Decisions taken

38. The Committee endorsed the report (TRADE/WP.7/2002/9) of the fifty-eighth session of the Working Party on Perishable Produce and Quality Development.

39. The Committee noted document TRADE/2003/6 for information.

40. The Committee approved the change of name from the “Working Party on Standardization of Perishable Produce and Quality Development” to the “Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards”.

2. FIFTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE WORKING PARTY

The following excerpt is taken from the report of the Working Party (TRADE/WP.7/2003/6, paragraphs 70 – 91):

Item 4: Specialized Section on Standardization of Dry and Dried Produce (Fruit)

Document: *TRADE/WP.7/GE.2/2003/15 (Report of the 50th session)*

70. The Chairman of the Specialized Section, Mr. Bruno Cauquil (France), introduced the report of the 50th session held in Geneva from 24 to 27 June 2003 (see TRADE/WP.7/GE.2/2003/15). The session was attended by 14 delegations.

Items 4(a): Texts recommended for adoption as revised UNECE standards

71. **Almond Kernels:** The text contained in document TRADE/WP.7/GE.2/2003/15/Add.1 was adopted as a revised UNECE Standard and will be published on the UNECE homepage. Poland entered a reservation concerning the tolerance for mould in class II. In their opinion mould is not only a quality issue but a quality and health issue and they would thus prefer 0.5 tolerance in all classes.

72. **Prunes:** The amendments contained in TRADE/WP.7/GE.2/2003/15/Add.6 were adopted. The revised standard will be published on the UNECE website.

Item 4 (b) Texts recommended for adoption as UNECE recommendations

73. **Inshell Almonds:** The text contained in document TRADE/WP.7/GE.2/2003/15/Add.3 was adopted as a UNECE Recommendation for a one-year trial period and will be published on the UNECE homepage.

74. Poland entered the same reservation concerning the tolerances for mould (this time concerning classes I and II).

75. **Pistachio Kernels and Peeled Pistachio Kernels:** The text contained in document TRADE/WP.7/GE.2/2003/15/Add.4 was adopted as a UNECE Recommendation for a one-year trial period and will be published on the UNECE homepage.

76. The delegation of Turkey said that the colour classification should, in their opinion, be moved from the definition of produce back to the provisions concerning quality.

77. As the move had been done in accordance with the report of the Specialized Section (see TRADE/WP.7/GE.2/2003/15 para.53) and the Working Party cannot discuss technical issues, the delegation of Turkey was asked to make their proposal to the next meeting of the Specialized Section.

78. The delegation of Switzerland withdrew their reservation concerning mould after having discussed it with the relevant authorities. The reservations of other delegations were maintained.

79. **Inshell Pistachio Nuts:** The text contained in document TRADE/WP.7/GE.2/2003/15/Add.5 was adopted as a UNECE Recommendation for a one-year trial period and will be published on the UNECE homepage.

80. All existing reservations were maintained.

Item 4 (c) Future work

81. The proposals to create new UNECE Standards for Dried Peaches, Inshell Peanuts and Peanut Kernels, Inshell Pecans and Pecan Kernels, Inshell Macademia Nuts and Macademia Kernels, Blanched Almonds, Dried Tomatoes and Dried Peppers – with the possibility to include annexes on dried pepper powder were adopted as well as the proposal to revise the UNECE Standard for Dates

82. Hungary expressed the wish to join the working group on dried peppers.

Item 4 (d) Revision of the standard layout

83. The revised texts for Annexes I and III of the standard layout as contained in TRADE/WP.7/GE.2/2003/15/Add.7 (Annex I: Determination of the moisture content for dried fruit) and TRADE/WP.7/GE.2/2003/15/Add.8 (Annex III: Terms recommended and definition of defects) were adopted and will be published on the UNECE homepage.

84. It was clarified that the inclusion of these new texts in the individual standards would be decided on a standard by standard basis.

Item 4 (e) Colour chart for walnut kernels

85. The Working Party was informed of the progress made on the development of the colour chart for Walnut Kernels.

86. There was still some disagreement about the exact colour for the yellow kernel. It was decided that the delegation of France would make a new proposal for the colour. If no agreement is reached on this question by the end of the year, the secretariat will proceed with the publication of the chart without the image of the yellow kernel.

Item 4 (f) Dictionary of defects

87. The dictionary created by Italy had been completed with terms in Turkish and will be published on the UNECE homepage with a notice that this is not a legislative text but for information only.

Item 4 (g) Sampling plan

88. The Working Party was informed that the draft prepared by the working group (see TRADE/WP.7/GE.2/2003/15/Add.2) had been transmitted to the OECD Plenary Meeting together with the opinion of the Specialized Section that it is important to have harmonized inspection and sampling procedures for dry and dried fruit. All delegations were invited to transmit relevant comments either directly to the OECD Scheme or through the UNECE secretariat in case of non-members. The OECD plenary has, at its recent session, started work on this document and will inform the Specialized Section on the results.

Item 4 (h) Explanatory brochures for Hazelnuts

89. The delegation of Germany, speaking for the OECD Scheme, said that the relevant produce working group had reviewed a complete set of slides of good quality for this brochure. The work had shown that the text of the standard is difficult to apply because the classification criteria are defined mainly by the tolerances and the terms for defects but not in the quality classes. The provisions concerning quality are contradictory to the provisions concerning tolerances and difficult to illustrate. Turkey as rapporteur for the brochure, agreed with the statement from Germany.

90. These problems in application might have their origin in the standard layout. The delegations working on the hazelnuts brochure will inform the Specialized Section of this problem and make suggestions on how to solve it.

91. The Working Party felt that in the light of this information it would be appropriate to add an extra half-day to the next session of GE.2.