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Programme of work – Trade subprogramme's programme of work for 2024 and outline of key components of the programme of work for 2025

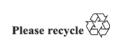
Trade subprogramme's draft programme of work for 2024

Note by the secretariat

I. Introduction

- 1. The present document sets out the draft programme of work of the Trade subprogramme ("the subprogramme") for 2024. The Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards ("the Committee") is invited to adopt it and recommend to the Executive Committee for approval. Any subsequent additional, carried over or terminated deliverables will be reflected in the United Nations Umoja system used by the Secretariat for planning, monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the programme.
- 2. The draft programme of work applies a results-based management (RBM) approach, a broad management approach which establishes logical relationship between the hierarchical results (deliverables results objectives impact) known as 'results chain', the resources (human and financial) known as 'inputs' and the external factors (strategic, governance, operational, financial) which can prevent from achieving the objective.
- 3. The objective, the strategy, the planned results and the deliverables in the draft programme of work correspond to those contained in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) proposed programme budget for 2024 (A/78/6 (Sect.20)). The work of the subprogramme is aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In attaining its objective, the subprogramme builds on cross-sectoral collaboration with other subprogrammes in relevant ECE areas where multiple SDGs converge¹. This type of collaboration enables the subprogramme to maximize existing synergies, increase the efficiency of its work and have a multiplying effect on the impact of its actions to support countries to implement SDGs. The deliverables of the subprogramme fall into the following main categories: (a) facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies; (b) generation and transfer of knowledge, including technical cooperation projects, training

The ECE cross-sectoral collaboration areas are as follows: 1) Digital and green transformations for sustainable development in the ECE region; 2) Circular economy and the sustainable use of natural Resources; 3) Sustainable and smart cities for all ages; 4) Sustainable mobility and smart connectivity; and 5) Measuring and monitoring progress towards achieving the SDGs.





events, seminars, workshops, and publications; (c) other substantive deliverables, and (d) communication deliverables.

4. The details of the proposed publications are provided in Annex I. The overall ECE legislative mandates and those specific for the subprogramme are listed in Annex II.

II. Objective

5. The objective, to which the subprogramme contributes, is to strengthen trade facilitation and electronic business, regulatory cooperation and standardization policies, agricultural quality standards and trade-related economic cooperation in the ECE region and beyond.

III. Strategy

- 6. The responsibility for the subprogramme is vested in the Economic Cooperation and Trade Division of ECE.
- 7. The strategy of the subprogramme is to support international policy dialogue on reducing regulatory and procedural barriers to trade, including those caused by cumbersome trade procedures and paperwork, by differences in trade procedures, standards and documents, or by divergent regulatory approaches and product standards; to facilitate the development of standards and recommendations in the areas of trade facilitation and e-business, agricultural quality standards and regulatory cooperation; and to provide capacity-building and enable the sharing of best practices and lessons learned.
- 8. To contribute to the objective, the subprogramme will:
 - (a) Promote simple, transparent and effective processes for global trade through its normative work to develop standards and recommendations in the areas of trade facilitation and electronic business;
 - (b) Facilitate international policy dialogue on establishing digital trading environments and on compliance with the multilateral trading system requirements, including the dissemination of standards, recommendations and guidelines;
 - (c) Promote the circular economy and the sustainable use of natural resources, sustainable and resilient value chains and the enhanced traceability of supply chains, e.g. minimizing waste and maximizing the use of natural resources towards circular economy through studies, policy dialogues and technology-based pilot initiatives such as blockchain-based traceability for textile value chains. This work will help member States make progress towards achieving Goals 8 and 12;
 - (d) Strengthen regulatory cooperation and promote standards and best practices in regulatory frameworks, risk management, conformity assessment and market surveillance to facilitate a predictable and harmonized regulatory environment;
 - (e) Provide practical ways forward for standards bodies wishing to mainstream a gender perspective in standards. The subprogramme will further support capacitybuilding and dissemination on the use of standards and regulatory cooperation, notably with its Standards for SDGs Portal (https://standards4sdgs.unece.org/) and its initiative on education on standards (https://learnqi.unece/org). This work will support member States in making progress towards achieving Goals 5 and 17;
 - (f) Promote up-to-date agricultural quality standards and explanatory guidelines through its normative work and promote awareness of food loss reduction through policy dialogues, partnerships with international organizations and technologybased initiatives to address food loss and waste to support the progress of member States towards achieving Goals 2 and 12;
 - (g) Identify regulatory and procedural barriers to trade and assist Governments in setting action-oriented recommendations for implementing the instruments

- developed by the subprogramme through analytical evidence-based studies, to support member States in making progress towards achieving Goals 12 and 17;
- (h) Deepen its international policy dialogue, normative, technical assistance and capacity-building activities on the digitalization of trade processes in order to support a sustainable and resilient recovery to support member States in making progress towards achieving Goals 8 and 9.
- 9. The above-mentioned work is expected to result in:
 - (a) Increased implementation of simplified trade processes, and the digitalization of member States' trading environments, leading to greater productivity;
 - (b) Increased transparency and traceability of the value chains and reduction of waste, promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns;
 - (c) Increased uptake of international standards by countries to enable the implementation of internationally harmonized regulatory processes;
 - (d) Improved gender equality in trade through the increased participation of women traders;
 - (e) Enhanced digitalization of trade procedures (e.g. progress towards adoption of trade-related digital services like Single Window) to support the public and private sectors' efforts in member States to facilitate trade.

IV. Planned results for 2024

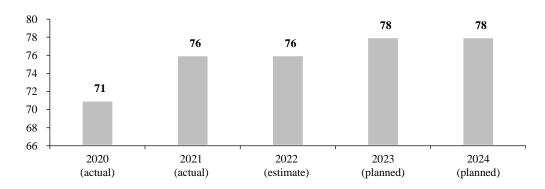
Result 1: Enhanced digitalization of trade in ECE member States

Programme performance in 2022 and target for 2024

- 10. The subprogramme's work contributed to 76 percent average implementation rate of digital trade facilitation measures of ECE member States, which exceeded the planned target of 75 percent.
- 11. Progress towards the objective and the target for 2024 are presented in the performance measure below (see Figure 1).

Figure I
Performance measure: average implementation rate of digital trade facilitation measures of ECE member States^a

(percentage)



^a The data for 2022 is based on past progress as reflected in the last survey conducted in 2021 as the data is captured every two years through the United Nations Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation.

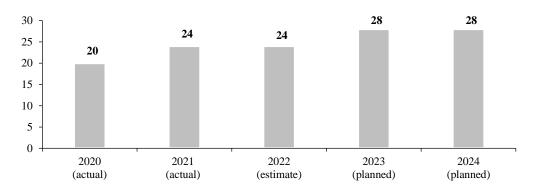
Result 2: Increased facilitation of agricultural trade through the adoption of agricultural quality and electronic business standards in ECE member States

Programme performance in 2022 and target for 2024

- 12. The subprogramme's work contributed to 24 ECE member States fully or partially implementing the Commission's standard for "electronic application and issuance of electronic sanitary and phytosanitary certificates", which did not meet the planned target of 26 member States. The target was not met because the data for 2022 was based on past progress as reflected in the biennial United Nations Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation conducted last time in 2021. The next Global Survey will be conducted in 2023.
- 13. Progress towards the objective and the target for 2024 are presented in the performance measure below (see Figure II).

Figure II

Performance measure: number of ECE member States fully or partially implementing the Commission's standard for "electronic application and issuance of electronic sanitary and phytosanitary certificates" a (cumulative)



^a The data for 2022 is based on past progress as reflected in the last survey conducted in 2021 as the data is captured every two years through the United Nations Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation.

Result 3: Mainstreaming a gender perspective in standards development organizations

Proposed programme plan for 2024

14. International standards can help efforts to advance gender equality and the empowerment of women and ensure that the needs of women are integrated into product design. The ECE initiative to mainstream a gender perspective in standards and the newly formed Team of Specialists² aim to guide standards development organizations on mainstreaming a gender perspective, ensuring among others, that women participate in the design of standards. Initial guidance has been developed and several webinars and conferences held, with a number of participating standard development organizations committing to mainstream a gender perspective in standard setting and to establish respective focal points.

Lessons learned and planned change

15. The lesson for the subprogramme, as indicated in recent surveys, was that there was an increasing need for stakeholder buy-in to support the development of action plans for

² ECE Team of Specialists on Gender-responsive Standards established by the 124th meeting of the ECE Executive Committee (30 September 2022).

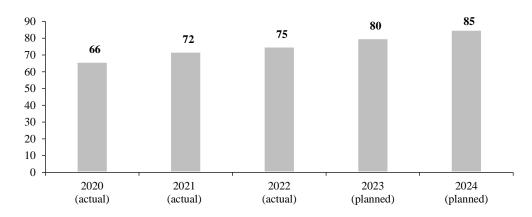
mainstreaming a gender perspective and to build awareness of stakeholders on these issues with regards to standards setting. In applying the lesson, the subprogramme will expand its work with the ECE Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies to increase awareness and capacity to mainstream a gender perspective in standards.

16. Expected progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see Figure III).

Figure III

Performance measure: number of standards development organizations that have committed to implement the ECE Declaration for Gender Responsive Standards and Standards Development³

(cumulative)



V. External factors

17. The subprogramme is expected to achieve its objective on the assumption that: (a) Member States continue to guide ECE intergovernmental processes, support the work of ECE and give high priority to regional and subregional cooperation and integration, with a view to achieving sustainable development; (b) all relevant stakeholders at the national level have the political will to cooperate in implementing the ECE legal instruments, norms and standards; and (c) voluntary resources continue to be available.

VI. Deliverables to be implemented in 2024

18. The table below lists all deliverables of the subprogramme.

Cate	gory and subcategory	2024 planned
Α.	Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies	
	Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	107
Doc	eumentation for:	
1.	The Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards	13
2.	The Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization	
Poli	cies	14
3.	The Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards	60
4.	The United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic	
Bus	iness	20
Sub	stantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	99

³ https://unece.org/DAM/trade/wp6/AreasOfWork/GenderInitiative/UNECEGenderDeclaration_English.pdf

Category and subcategory	2024 planned
Meetings of:	
5. The Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards and its Bureau	7
6. The Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies, its Bureau and related expert bodies	13
7. The Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards and its specialized sections	26
8. The United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business	53
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge	
Field and technical cooperation projects (number of projects)	5
9. On enhancing usage and uptake of standards for sustainable development, gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls	1
10. On food loss and agriculture	_
11. On food loss reduction in agriculture supply chains	1
12. On trade facilitation	3
Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days)	18
13. Workshops for policymakers and experts in low- and middle-income countries in the ECE region on trade procedures, supply chain management,	
conformity assessment and market surveillance, and women's entrepreneurship	6
14. Seminars for standardization and inspection agencies and other stakeholders in transition economies and developing countries in the ECE region or beyond on ECE agricultural quality standards	3
15. Seminars for policymakers and experts in countries with economies transition and developing countries in the ECE region or beyond on support for the implementation of trade-related standards, recommendations and	
guidelines Publications (number of publications)	9
Publications (number of publications) 16 On resolutions and proceedings bearings to trade in a country to be	11
16. On regulatory and procedural barriers to trade in a country to be decided	1
17. On trade standard guidance in the following areas: quality infrastructure, risk management, education, sustainable development	2
18. On mainstream a gender perspective in standards	2
19. On risk-based inspections and disaster and sustainable development	_
20. On agricultural trade and supply chains	1
21. On trade facilitation recommendations, standards and strategies	5
22. On ECE trade facilitation best practice and recommendations	-
Technical materials (number of materials)	8
23. Guidelines on cross-border trade	1
24. Training material and guidelines on trade standards and/or regulatory cooperation	2
25. Standards and guidelines on agricultural quality	4
26. Training material on trade facilitation and electronic business	1
Fact-finding, monitoring and investigating missions (number of missions) 3
27. Fact-finding missions on trade facilitation and electronic business, agricultural quality standards, regulatory cooperation and standardization, a regulatory and procedural barriers to trade	
C. Substantive deliverables	

6

D.

Communication deliverables

Details of proposed publications and information materials for 2024

A. Publications

PP item No.	Title	Mandate	Print and /or electronic	Trim size	No. of pages	Original language	Translated language(s) and source of funding (RB or XB)	No. of copies and language
1	Regulatory and Procedural barriers to Trade in XX country (country to be decided)	ECE/CTCS/2018/4 para 3 – "Review the results of demand-driven studies (financed by extrabudgetary resources) that identify procedural and regulatory barriers to trade in member States in coordination and cooperation with other relevant international organizations".	Print and electronic	A4	180	Е	R (RB)	50E, 50R
2	Gender-Responsive Standards	ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2022/12 foresees the development of material to promote the adoption of gender-responsive standards. In support of previously published materials, this publication will provide further clarity on gender-action plans and / or the dissemination of gender-responsive standards This publication will reflect the work of one of these areas under the Gender-Responsive Standards (see document ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2022/8, section II) and support the Team of Specialists on Gender-Responsive Standards (see ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2021/2/ADD.1).	Print and electronic	A4	50	E, F, R		100E, 50F, 50R
3	Gender-Responsive Standards	ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2022/12 foresees the development of material to promote the adoption of gender-responsive standards. In support of previously published materials, this publication will provide further clarity on gender-action plans and / or the dissemination of gender-responsive standards This publication will reflect	Print and electronic	A4	50	Е	F, R (RB)	100E, 50F, 50R

PP item	Title	Mandate	Print and /or electronic	Trim size	No. of pages	Original language	Translated language(s) and source of funding (RB or XB)	No. of copies and language
		the work of one of these areas under the Gender-Responsive Standards (see document ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2022/8, section II) and support the Team of Specialists on Gender-Responsive Standards (see ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2021/2/ADD.1).						
4	Trade standard guidance in the following areas: quality infrastructure, risk management, education, sustainable development	ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2022/12 foresees the development of material to promote circular economy, digital green transformations, disaster risk reduction and gender-responsive standards. This publication will reflect the work of one of these areas.	Electronic		60	Е		
5	Trade standard guidance in the following areas: quality infrastructure, risk management, education, sustainable development.	ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2022/12 foresees the development of material to promote circular economy, digital green transformations, disaster risk reduction and gender-responsive standards. This publication will reflect the work of one of these areas.	Electronic	A4	60	E, F, R		
6	Agricultural trade and supply chains	The specific mandate for this publication will be provided by the 8th session of the ECE Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards.	Print and electronic	A4	60	E, F, R		50E, 50F, 50R
7	Trade facilitation recommendations, standards and strategies	Report of the Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) on its twenty-eighth session (ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2022/2), Plenary Decision 22-15 approved the UN/CEFACT Programme of Work 2023 - 2024 (ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2022/21/Rev.1), including the list of proposed publications contained in Annex II	Print and electronic	A4	60	E, F, R		200E, 100F, 100R

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PP item	Title	Mandate	Print and /or electronic	Trim size	No. of pages	Original language	Translated language(s) and source of funding (RB or XB)	No. of copies and language
8	Trade facilitation recommendations, standards and strategies	Report of the Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) on its twenty-eighth session (ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2022/2), Plenary Decision 22-15 approved the UN/CEFACT Programme of Work 2023 - 2024 (ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2022/21/Rev.1), including the list of proposed publications contained in Annex II	Print and electronic	A4	40	E, F, R		200E, 100F, 100R
9	Trade facilitation recommendations, standards and strategies	Report of the Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) on its twenty-eighth session (ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2022/2), Plenary Decision 22-15 approved the UN/CEFACT Programme of Work 2023 - 2024 (ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2022/21/Rev.1), including the list of proposed publications contained in Annex II	Print and electronic	A4	40	E, F, R		200E, 100F, 100R
10	Trade facilitation recommendations, standards and strategies	Report of the Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) on its twenty-eighth session (ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2022/2), Plenary Decision 22-15 approved the UN/CEFACT Programme of Work 2023 - 2024 (ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2022/21/Rev.1), including the list of proposed publications contained in Annex II	Electronic		40	E, F, R		
11	Trade facilitation recommendations, standards and strategies	Report of the Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) on its twenty-eighth session (ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2022/2), Plenary Decision 22-15 approved the UN/CEFACT Programme of Work 2023 - 2024 (ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2022/21/Rev.1),	Electronic		40	E, F, R		

PP item No. Title	Mandate	Print and /or electronic	Trim size	No. of pages	Original language	Translated language(s) and source of funding (RB or XB)	
	including the list of proposed publications contained in Annex II						_

${\bf B.} \quad {\bf Information/promotional\ materials}$

Item no.	Title	Mandate	Print and /or electronic	Trim size	No. of pages	Original language(s)	Translated language(s) and source of funding (RB or XB)	No. of copies and language(s)
1	Information brochure on the work of the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards	To be provided by the Committee	Print and electronic	A4	6	Е	F and R (RB)	300-E 100-F 100-R
2	Information brochure on Regulatory Cooperation	To be provided by the Committee	Print and electronic	A4	6	E	F and R (RB)	300-E 100-F 100-R
3	Information brochure on Agricultural quality standards	To be provided by the Committee	Print and electronic	A4	6	E	F and R (RB)	300-E 100-F 100-R
4	Information kit on e- business standards	Report of the Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) on its twenty-eighth session (ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2022/2), Plenary Decision 22-15 approved the UN/CEFACT Programme of Work 2023 - 2024 (ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2022/21/Rev.1), including the list of proposed publications contained in Annex II	Electronic	A4	6	E		
5	Information brochure on Trade facilitation and electronic business	Report of the Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) on its twenty-eighth session (ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2022/2), Plenary	Electronic	A4	6	Е		

Decision 22-15 approved the UN/CEFACT Programme of Work 2023 - 2024 (ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2022/21/Rev.1), including the list of proposed publications contained in Annex II	Item no. Title	Mandate	Print and /or electronic	Trim size	No. of pages	Original language(s)	Translated language(s) and source of funding (RB or XB)	No. of copies and language(s)
Contained in 7 miles II		Programme of Work 2023 - 2024 (ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2022/21/Rev.1),						

Annex II

Legislative mandates

A. Overall ECE legislative mandates

1. Resolutions of the General Assembly

Res No.	Title
66/288	The future we want
67/10	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Eurasian Economic Community
67/290	Format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development
69/277	Political declaration on strengthening cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations
69/283	Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030
69/313	Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa Action Agenda)
70/1	Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
71/16	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization
71/256	New Urban Agenda
72/279	Repositioning of the United Nations development system in the context of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system
73/10	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Central European Initiative
73/195	Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration
74/122	Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly
74/128	Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly
74/144	Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto: accessibility
74/216	Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development
74/231, 76/215	Development cooperation with middle-income countries
74/235	Women in development

Res No.	Title
74/271	Progress towards an accountability system in the United Nations Secretariat
74/297	Progress in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 71/243 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system
75/8, 77/15	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development - GUAM
75/9, 77/16	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Commonwealth of Independent States
75/12	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization
75/216, 76/204	Disaster risk reduction
75/221	Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
75/233	Quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system
75/290 B	Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 72/305 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 67/290 on the format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development and 70/299 on the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level High-level political forum on sustainable development
75/324	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization
77/185	South-South cooperation

2. Economic and Social Council resolutions

Res No.	Title
1998/46	Further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields
2006/38	Workplan on reform of the Economic Commission for Europe and revised terms of reference of the Commission
2013/1	Outcome of the review of the 2005 Reform of the Economic Commission for Europe
2022/18	Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system

3. Economic Commission for Europe decisions

Res No.	Title
A (64)	The Work of the Economic Commission for Europe
A (65)	Outcome of the review of the 2005 reform of ECE

Res No.	Title
A (66)	Endorsement of the High-level statement on the post-2015 development agenda and expected sustainable development goals in the ECE region
A (69)	High-level statement
B (69)	Circular economy and the sustainable use of natural resources
C (69)	Extension of the mandate of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

B. Legislative mandates specific to the subprogramme

1. Resolutions of the General Assembly

Res No.	Title
69/137	Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024
69/213	Role of transport and transit corridors in ensuring international cooperation for sustainable development
75/231	Industrial development cooperation
76/217	Follow-up to the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries
76/222	Agriculture development, food security and nutrition
75/211	Entrepreneurship for development
76/200	Agricultural technology for sustainable development
76/202	Promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, building on Agenda 21

2. Economic and Social Council resolutions

Res No.	Title
1991/76	Promotion of interregional cooperation in the area of international trade facilitation

3. Economic and Social Council decisions

Res No.	Title
1997/225	Economic Commission for Europe Recommendation 25, entitled "Use of the UN/EDIFACT Standard"