UNECE
Trade Subprogramme

Work on Trade Facilitation and e-Business under the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards

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UNECE Trade: 3 Priorities

- Facilitating trade flows
- Simplifying and harmonizing regulations
- Implementing standards-based agricultural trade
UNECE Trade: How we work

**Technical Assistance**
- Evidence-based research
- Advisory services
- Training
- Supporting institution-building in cooperation with other organizations (UNCTAD, ITC, WB and others)

**Recommendations & Standards**
- Trade Facilitation
- Regulatory Cooperation
- Agricultural Standards

**Partnerships**
- Broad based participatory approaches
- Involving private sector trade support and research institutions in implementation
- Continuous support beyond the international funding cycle

**Multilateral Trading System**
Transparency, Consumer and Environmental Safety, Equal Treatment & Simplified Procedures
UNECE Trade Expert Groups

- UN/CEFACT
  United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business

- WP.6
  Regulatory Cooperation and Standardisation

- WP.7
  Agricultural Quality Standards

Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards
Agricultural Quality Standards (WP 7)

- **Fresh Fruit and Vegetables** (51 standards; explanatory brochures)
- **Meat** (15 illustrated standards) & **Eggs** (2 standards)
- **Seed Potatoes** (1 standard; inspection guide)
- **Dry and Dried Produce** (27 standards; explanatory brochures; colour scales)
Why Agricultural Quality Standards?

- To provide a common trading language
- To create market transparency and facilitate fair international trade
- To guide producers, improve and ensure the level of product quality
- To increase profitability of the sector (Profitability depends on trading volume and price which are influenced by quality)
- To protect consumers’ interests

UNECE STANDARDS ensure consistent quality and help establish lasting trade relations.
Discussion group on Traceability of Agricultural Produce under WP.7

- The UNECE Conference on Traceability in Agricultural Produce as part of WP.7 session in November 2015 recommended establishing a discussion group.

- Discussion in 2016 on UNECE labelling provisions:
  - Explore the possibility of harmonized code marks or the use of alternative internationally agreed codes
  - Possible ways to support control agencies in verifying traceability claims/deterring wrong labelling of consignments and unidentifiable control marks, e.g. through exchange of information

- Collecting good practices on the better integration of small scale farmers and small agri enterprises into traceability information flows (especially in transition and developing countries)
Discussion on new work items

- Mapping of processes and actors along a sample fresh fruit supply chain to identify opportunities for governments to get better traceability data (may be even in cross-border context)

- Electronic Quality Certificates
  - Initial discussions but no firm decisions yet (idea will be presented to the Specialized Section on Fresh Fruit and Vegetables on 18 to 21 April 2016)
## Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies (WP 6)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Initiative</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Forum for Dialogue between UN &amp; Standards Community</td>
<td>• Enable and empower both Governments and UN initiatives with a knowledge base as regards standards</td>
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<td>Sectoral Initiatives</td>
<td>• Remove technical barriers to trade</td>
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<td>Market Surveillance</td>
<td>• Fight proliferation of counterfeit and non-compliant goods on the markets</td>
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<td>Risk Management in Regulatory Frameworks</td>
<td>• Safer and more resilient communities and eco-systems</td>
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<td>Education on Standards-related Issues</td>
<td>• Bring toolbox of standards to the lay person</td>
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WP 6 Deliverables

Regulatory Harmonization/Sectoral Initiatives:
• A common regulatory framework for Equipment Used in Environments with Explosive Atmospheres
• Model is being used worldwide (US Coast Guards)
• Cooperation with EEC in the development of recommendations for regulatory harmonization with EU

Market surveillance:
• Common terminology/glossary
• Database of market surveillance authorities
• Recommendation on Market Surveillance best practice

Risk Management:
• Recommendations on effective regulatory frameworks & contingency planning
• Publication «Risk Management in Regulatory Frameworks»
• A panel on «Disaster Risk Management Standards» at the Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction (Geneva 23 May)
• Participation in the development of ISO 31004 guidelines for authorities
Cooperation between UN/CEFACT and WP.6

1) In February 2016, WP.6 briefed the Bureau on the “Template for exchanging information on non-conformity products between Market Surveillance Authority”.

2) UN/CEFACT Bureau
- asked WP.6 to submit a formal project proposal
- discussed potential cooperation on conformity assessment.

3) The secretariat sent the findings of the UN/CEFACT Conformance project to WP.6.
Studies on Regulatory and Procedural Barriers to Trade

- **Completed:** Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. Follow-up ongoing

- **Ongoing:** Albania and Moldova

- **Plans:** Turkmenistan and the Customs Union
Comprehensive Evaluation Methodology

Impact on behind and at the borders regulations and procedures

Cost of trade (financial and time wise)
Evidence based

Desk research and face-to-face interviews

**Desk study**
- Previous studies
- Laws, policy documents and government decisions
- Development plans

**Face-to-face interviews: representatives of Government & trade support institutions**
- Officials from the National Advisory Working Group
- Logistics service providers, transport operations, trade and enterprise support associations

**Face-to-Face interviews: traders**
- 30 traders from priority sectors