

Editorial notes:

- The text is based on the working procedures in force. New text is underlined. Deleted text is struck out. Notes have been added in italics about points of discussion.
- Changes made at the third session of the Working Group on procedures held in Geneva on 13 November 2001 have been put in bold.

**WORKING PROCEDURES OF THE WORKING PARTY
ON STANDARDIZATION OF PERISHABLE PRODUCE ~~AND QUALITY DEVELOPMENT~~
AND ITS SUBSIDIARY [SPECIALIZED SECTIONS]**

Note by the secretariat: *These working procedures have been agreed by the session of the Working Party on Standardization of Perishable Produce ~~and Quality Development~~.*

They describe:

- *History and purpose of the work.*
- *Structure of intergovernmental bodies*
- *Role of the secretariat*
- *Rules for participants and observers*
- *Steps to be followed by the Secretariat and delegations in the preparation, holding and follow-up of sessions of the Working Party and its [specialized sections]*
- *Procedure for developing a UNECE Standard.*

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 Goals of the work

The UNECE Working Party on Standardization of Perishable Produce ~~and Quality Development~~ has responsibility for the elaboration of **internationally** harmonized, agricultural, commercial quality standards for perishable produce **on the basis of existing national standards or trade practices to:**

~~The purpose of this work is to facilitate international trade through the establishment and maintenance of commercial quality criteria in the form of standards which are indicative of actual commercial practice. The UNECE standards on perishable produce represent a harmonization of existing national commercial standards to take into account common commercial quality and trade practices. It is not the aim of the Working Party to create new principles of commercial standardization. (text was replaced with the remaining text in 1.1)~~

~~The standards establish the definition of the produce, levels of quality by means of minimum characteristics and quality classes, size classifications, marking, packaging and presentation requirements for the purpose of promoting orderly and efficient trade by providing a common trading language. The standards are intended for application at the point of export/dispatching control. (text was moved to 1.3)~~

UNECE standards harmonize existing national commercial quality standards for perishable produce to: —

= Facilitate fair international trade and prevent technical barriers to trade:

The standards are indicative of actual commercial practice and define a common trading language for sellers and buyers. Negotiations and the establishment of a contract become easier and more transparent. In case of conflict, standards can be used as a reference point for international arbitration.

= Improve producers' profitability and encourage production of high quality produce:

The standards allow producers and their organizations to reduce costs at the production and sales levels and simplify their inventories because they have only one standard to comply with. The standards give them an indication of what is acceptable on international markets and they can produce, sort, pack and label their products accordingly.

= Protect consumers' interest:

Consumers profit from an increased quality of the produce and transparency of the market. The presentation, packaging and marking requirements ensure that they receive relevant information on the produce.

The UNECE groups provide a forum where countries can discuss all issues of commercial quality that may arise from their domestic markets and which have an implication on international trade. The groups aim at filling the gap between food safety regulations and marketing. The groups also offer assistance to countries in transition by organizing workshops on the harmonization of national standards with international commercial standards.

1.2 History

The activities began in 1949 and have led to the elaboration of a wide range of UNECE standards for fresh fruit and vegetables, dry and dried fruit, seed potatoes, eggs and egg products, meat (porcine, bovine and poultry) and cut flowers. ~~World-wide Codex~~ Standards for fruit juices and quick frozen foods have been elaborated ~~in co-operation with the Codex Alimentarius Commission~~ in Joint ECE/Codex Alimentarius Groups of Experts and are now further developed in the relevant Codex bodies.

1.3 Work achieved

Close to 100 standards have been adopted in the different areas:

= Fresh Fruit and Vegetables (46)

= Dry and Dried Fruit (17)

= Early and Ware Potatoes (2)

= Seed Potatoes (1)

= Eggs and Egg Products (5)

= Meat (3)

= Cut Flowers (8)

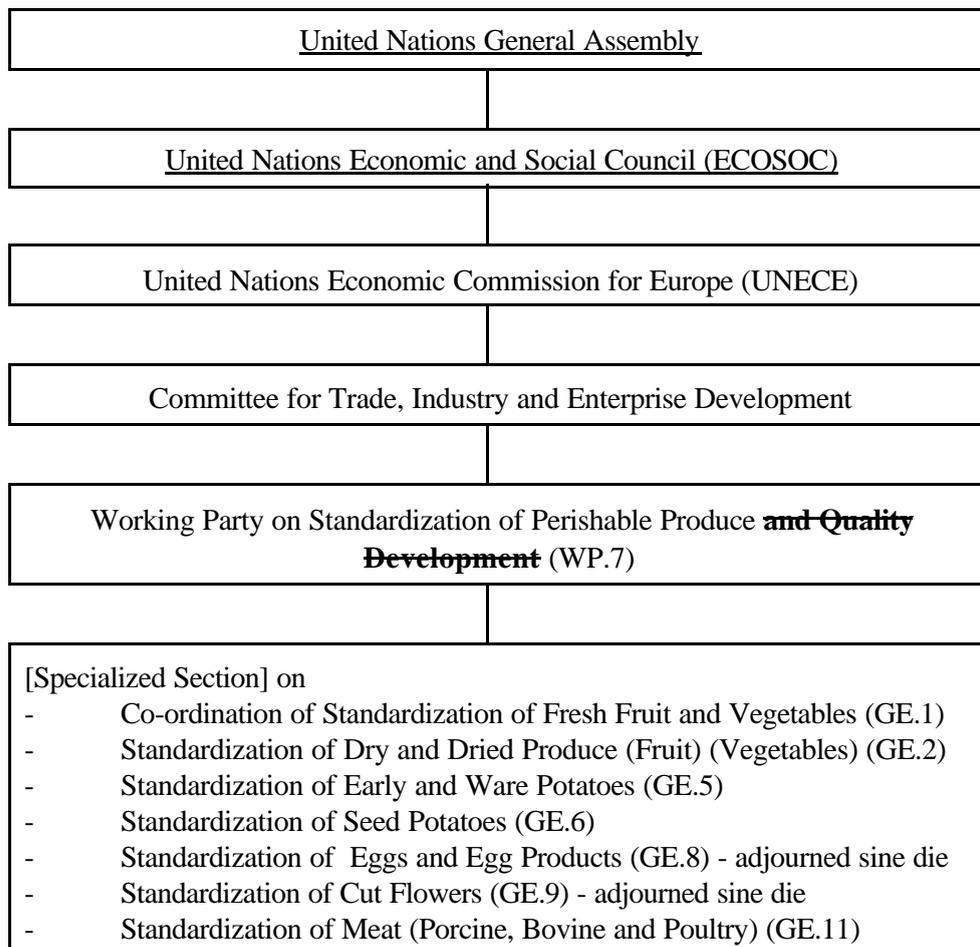
~~= Fruit Juices (?)~~

~~= Quick frozen Foods (?)~~

2. ORGANIZATION

2.1 Structure of the subsidiary bodies

The following chart presents the various subsidiary bodies which participate in the elaboration of UNECE Standards for Perishable Produce:



~~The Chair or Vice-Chair of each Specialized Section will be invited to participate in the Working Party to present the work of their group. They will receive an official invitation from the secretariat to participate in their capacity as Chair/Vice-Chair.~~

~~The Chair of the Working Party will be invited to participate in the Committee for Trade Industry and Enterprise Development to present the work of the Working Party and its Specialized Sections.~~

2.2 Geneva Protocol and Standard Layout

The framework and basis of the standardization activities work is the Revised Geneva Protocol for the Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables and Dry and Dried ~~Fruit Produce~~ (1954, revised 1964 and 1985) (see Annex I). Two standard layouts (one for fresh fruit and vegetables and one for dry and dried produce (fruit) have been developed on the basis of the Geneva Protocol (see Annex II).

The standards establish the definition of the produce, levels of quality by means of minimum characteristics and quality classes, size classifications, **tolerances**, marking, packaging and presentation requirements. ~~for the purpose of promoting orderly and efficient trade by providing a common trading language. (already contained in 1.1)~~

The standards are intended for application at the point of export/dispatching control.

2.3 Secretariat

The secretariat is responsible in particular for:

- Preparing draft agendas for the meetings of the [specialized sections] and the Working Party in cooperation with the chairperson.
- Preparing pre-meeting documentation on request and ensuring that proposals from participants and observers are translated and distributed (if received on time).
- Preparing draft reports during the sessions of the [specialized sections] and the Working Party.
- Preparing the final report and its annexes.
- Maintaining a database of contacts for the Working Party and each [specialized section]
- Maintaining the home page with up-to-date information on meetings, meeting documentation and the text of all standards and related texts.
- Ensuring cooperation with other international organizations by attending their meetings and presenting the views of Working Party.
- Promoting the work of the Working Party and its [specialized sections].

Address of the secretariat:

<u>UNECE Trade Division</u>	<u>Phone:</u>	<u>+41 22 917 2450</u>
<u>Agricultural Standards</u>	<u>Fax:</u>	<u>+41 22 917 0041</u>
<u>Palais des Nations</u>	<u>Email:</u>	<u>agristandards@unece.org</u>
<u>Room 432</u>	<u>Home page:</u>	<u>http://www.unece.org/trade/agr/</u>
<u>1211 Geneva 10</u>		
<u>Switzerland</u>		

2.4 Cooperation with other organizations

2.4.1 World Trade Organization

UNECE participates as an observer in several WTO committees among them the Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT).

2.4.2 FAO/WHO Joint Food Standards Programme (Codex Alimentarius)

The ~~UNECE~~ Working Party ~~cooperates closely with and~~ the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme (Codex Alimentarius) especially ~~with~~ the Codex Committee on Fresh Fruit and Vegetables ~~cooperate~~ to achieve harmonization of standards and to avoid duplication of work.

The terms of reference of this Committee concerning the cooperation with UNECE, are reproduced in Annex III for information.

2.4.3 Cooperation with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

The OECD Scheme for the Application of International Standards for Fruit and Vegetables has adopted the UNECE standards and elaborates explanatory brochures material based on them. Their explanatory The brochures include color photographs illustrating specific defects and serve as a tool for interpreting the provisions of the standards as well as promoting their international uniform application.

~~The work of the OECD Scheme for the Application of International Standards for Fruit and Vegetables on occasion leads to the need to revise or update a UNECE standard to align it more closely with current marketing practices.~~

~~The OECD Scheme elaborates explanatory brochures to interpret and illustrate the standards with the aim of uniform application of the standards.~~

2.4.4 Cooperation with the European Commission

The Working Party and its subsidiary [specialized sections] ~~also~~ work in cooperation with the European Commission Community (Meeting of Governmental Experts on Standardization) to ~~maintain~~ achieve the closest harmonization possible of UNECE and EC standards to promote trade facilitation. The UNECE standards are taken into account when drafting ~~in many instances have served as the basis of~~ European Community standards which are mandatory at all levels of marketing from producer to the retail level. ~~The European Commission Community proposes regularly has in the past proposed revisions of UNECE Standards. to maintain a close harmonization of commercial quality requirements within Europe.~~

3. MEETINGS

3.1 Attendance

~~As the purpose of commercial standardization is trade facilitation, the work has been greatly benefitted by the active participation of a wide range of member, including the European Union (Commission) representative, and non-member countries representing producers, exporters and importers of perishable produce. It should be noted that any member country of the United Nations may participate in the standardization activities of the UNECE under Article II of the Commission's Terms of Reference.~~

~~Non-member governments participating under Article II may~~

- ~~— fully participate in all discussions without prejudice to their Article II status;~~
- ~~— propose amendments for the revision of existing standards, according to their needs or interests;~~
- ~~— propose the elaboration of commercial quality standards for items of economic importance to them or their region;~~
- ~~— serve as expert rapporteurs for the elaboration or revision of UNECE standards;~~
- ~~— objections to the decisions of the Working Party or in the same manner as member countries, its Specialized Sections by non-member delegations may be expressed by formal reservations, or as~~

~~viewpoints noted in the reports of the Specialized Sections, the Working Party or the Committee on Agriculture.~~

~~International and regional trade organizations also actively participate, such as the Confederation of Importers and Marketing Organization in Europe of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables (CIMO).~~

~~Specialized agencies of the UN as Food and Agriculture Organization, Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme, are normally represented. (Close cooperation is maintained between the two Standards setting bodies)~~

~~Also, representatives of non-governmental organizations, such as CLAM (Comité de Liaison de l'Agrumiculture Méditerranéenne) and COLEACP (Comité de Liaison – Europe – Africa – Caraïbes – Pacifique – pour la promotion des fruits tropicaux, légumes de contre-saison, fleurs, plantes ornementales et épices), usually participate.~~

~~At the invitation of the secretariat, a representative of the OECD Scheme for the Application of International Standards for Fruit and Vegetables, regularly participates in the session; and others can be invited.~~

As the purpose of commercial standardization is trade facilitation, the work greatly benefits from the attendance a wide range of importing and exporting countries as well as regional and international organizations. The rules for attendance and the work procedure for the elaboration of a new UNECE standard or the revision of an existing standard are designed to give a wide range of opportunities to consult all interested parties and come to a generally accepted compromise.

3.1.1 Participants

The following can attend the meeting as participants if they so wish:

- **members of the United Nations Economic Commissions for Europe and Africa;**
- **members of the the United Nations Economic and Social Commissions for Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Carribean, Western Asia;**
- **members of the United Nations or its Specialized Agencies**
- **members of the the World Trade Organizaton;**

Participants may

- propose amendments for the revision of existing standards, according to their needs or interests;
- propose the elaboration of commercial quality standards for items of economic importance to them or their region;
- **propose guidelines on issues related to standards;**
- serve as members of the bureau (Chairperson/Vice-Chairperson)
- serve as expert rapporteurs for the elaboration or revision of UNECE standards;
- express objections to the decisions of the Working Party by formal reservations included in the texts of the standards, or noted in the reports of the [specialized section] or the Working Party.

Composition of participants delegations

Each participant will appoint **through its administration (government(s))** a **government** representative

to be the head of the delegation who may be accompanied by ~~The head of the delegation will be responsible for selecting government and/or non-government~~ other representatives as members of the delegation. to participate serve on the delegation.

A ~~non-government~~ member of a delegation may not serve concurrently during a session as a member of any other delegation.

Normally the head of delegation will speak during the sessions. Other members of the delegation may be ~~Non-government members can speak during the sessions if~~ authorized to speak by the head of the delegation for the purpose of explaining a technical or factual point under discussion.

3.1.2 Observers

The following international organizations currently may attend as observers:

Observers may be either intergovernmental organizations or non-governmental organizations.

- Intergovernmental organizations e.g.,
 - EPPO (European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization)
 - FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization)
 - CODEX (Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme)
 - OECD (Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development)
 - WTO (World Trade Organization)

Any other intergovernmental organisations can attend if they wish. They should address a letter to the secretariat informing about their attendance.

- Non-governmental organizations, e.g.,
 - EAN International,
 - CLAM (Comité de Liaison de l'Agrumiculture Méditerranéenne),
 - COLEACP (Comité de Liaison - Europe - Africa - Caraïbes - Pacifique - pour la promotion des fruits tropicaux, légumes de contre-saison, fleurs, plantes ornementales et épices),
 - EUROPATAT (European Union of the Potato Trade)
 - CIMO (Confederation of Importers and Marketing Organization in Europe of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables)
 - EUCOFEL (European Union of the Fruit and Vegetable Wholesale Import and Export Trade)
 - INC (International Nut Council)

Any other Non-governmental organisation having an interest in the standardization activities can apply for observer status to sessions of the Working Party and/or [specialized sections]. This status can be granted by the chairperson of the relevant body.

Observers may:

- propose amendments for the revision of existing standards, according to their needs or interests;

- propose the elaboration of commercial quality standards for items of economic importance to them or their region;
- serve as ~~expert~~ rapporteurs for the elaboration or revision of UNECE standards;

3.2 Rules for decision taking ~~adoption of agreements~~

The rule for decision taking ~~adoption of agreements~~ in the Working Party and its subsidiary [specialized sections] is the unanimous consensus among the participants present at the session. ~~For this reason some technical discussions in the Specialized Sections are long and difficult, in order to reach compromise solutions which can be valid for all interested parties.~~

Unanimous consensus does not prevent the possibility of any delegations disagreeing with the group.

~~which~~ This disagreement can be reflected: ~~in the standard or the reports by means of reservations.~~

- either in the report,
- or in the standard by means of reservations which should be restricted to specific technical points.

~~Reserved positions are not compulsory for the country(ies) affected, as regards the particular requirement of the standard.~~

3.3 Preparation of sessions of the Working Party and the [specialized sections]

3.3.1 Pre-session timetable

The following timetable ensures timely publication and translation of documents as well as an orderly preparation of the meetings.

- 14 weeks before the session: the secretariat will prepare a draft agenda (in coordination with the Chairperson) and send out a call for documents by email/fax to participants and observers
- 12 weeks before the session: authors inform the secretariat of the
subject,
length,
language, and
expected date of submission
of documents they intend to send. This is important for the translation forecast and for the timely preparation of the agenda.
- 12 -10 weeks before the session: the secretariat prepares the detailed agenda (in coordination with the chairperson and send it out by email/fax to regular participants and observers accompanied by an invitation.

- 10 weeks before the session: documentation received by this date will be translated and distributed by the secretariat.
- 6 weeks before the session: documentation received by this date will be distributed in the original language only. Any document received later will be made available by the secretariat in the form received.
- 2 weeks before the session: delegations should submit registration forms to the secretariat.

3.3.2 Documentation

Documents for sessions should be sent to the secretariat in electronic format (e-mail or diskette).

All proposals ~~must include a written justification~~ ~~be justified and concerning standards should be~~ ~~change commands to the standard/recommendation in force. Each change should be justified in a proposal. The documents should have the format:~~

<Introduction>

<change 1>
<justification 1>

<change 2>
<justification 2>

...

In case of a major revision of a standard the original file for the standard should be obtained from the secretariat and deletions should be marked with a strike out (~~strike out~~) and additions or modifications either grey-shaded or underlined (grey-shaded or underlined).

3.4 Methods of work during the sessions

Opening of the session

Each session **held in Geneva** will be opened by an official from UNECE outlining events within the organization that have an influence on the work of the Working Party and its [specialized sections].

Adoption of the agenda

At the beginning of the session the secretariat will give the status of the documentation **indicating** what documents were received. Documents that arrived too late for translation or informal documents can only be discussed if the participants agree.

Discussions and decisions

At the close of discussion of each agenda item or sub-item the decision(s) taken by the meeting will be identified by the Chairperson ~~or the Secretariat~~.

Adopted texts

~~On the basis of the decisions taken by the Meeting and identified by the Chairperson or the secretariat, the secretariat prepares a revised version of the working documents during the Specialized Sections, distributed to delegations at the end of the meeting and annexed to the final report.~~

Report

Based on the Chairperson's summaries of each item, the secretariat prepares a short concise summary report reflecting the decisions taken, including revised versions of the working documents. This report is distributed to delegates for formal adoption by the Specialized Section before the end of the Meeting.

Elections

The bureau (Chairperson and up to two Vice-chairpersons) of the Working Party/[specialized section] will be elected at the end of the session. Following a proposal from a participant and seconded by another participant If there are no further proposals or objections - the new bureau is elected. If there is no agreement the existing bureau remains in office until the beginning of the next session where new elections will be held.

3.5 Follow-up to the sessions

The secretariat will prepare the final version of the report and its addenda.

For the reports of the [specialized sections] ~~in~~ the addenda **will contain** the texts agreed **by the [specialized section] will be reproduced** for transmission to the Working Party.

Each [specialized section] will present their work and agreements for adoption to the Working Party. The Chair and Vice-Chair will receive a official invitation to present the report and proposals for adoption. The chairperson can delegate this responsibility to another participant or to the secretariat.

A list of follow-up actions as well as an executive summary of the results of the session will be added to **each the report.**

The addenda to the Working Party report contain the standards/recommendations adopted. **These documents contain the official texts of the standards. They can normally only be changed through the procedure of revising the standard except in the case of minor editorial amendments and corrections which will be documented in a yearly corrigendum produced by the secretariat for the Working Party.**

Every two years the work programme for the new biennium is updated and added as an addendum.

3.6 Schedule of formal meetings

<u>Working Party (WP.7)</u>	<u>3 days</u>	<u>annually</u>
<u>Fresh Fruit and Vegetables (GE.1)</u>	<u>4-5 days</u>	<u>annually</u>
<u>Dry and Dried Fruit (GE.2)</u>	<u>4-5 days</u>	<u>annually</u>
<u>Early and Ware Potatoes (GE.5)</u>	<u>2-3 days</u>	<u>biannually</u>
<u>Seed Potatoes (GE.6)</u>	<u>3-4 days</u>	<u>biannually</u>
<u>Meat (GE.11)</u>	<u>3 days</u>	<u>annually</u>

Eggs (GE.8)
Cut flowers (GE.9)

adjourned sine die
adjourned sine die

Official languages: English, French and Russian.

Formal sessions of the [specialized sections] and the Working Party usually take place in Geneva.. They can also be held in a different place at the invitation of a host country. In this case no additional cost may occur to UNECE which means that the inviting country has to bear the cost for the meeting room and interpretation services as well as the travel and per diem of the Secretary of the group.

3.7 Informal meetings

In addition to their official meetings, the working party and the specialized sections, as parent bodies can delegate tasks to informal groups which can take the form of:

- **bureau meetings: meetings of the secretary, chairperson and vice-chairperson and eventually other participants or observers. These meetings have as main task to prepare the next official session.**
- **meetings of rapporteurs: groups working according to terms of reference given by their parent body in a field of expertise of their members. These groups are usually of a standing nature.**
- **working groups: groups formed to achieve a specific task given by the parent body (usually within 1-3 years)**

The meetings are held in Geneva or at the invitation of a host country. This offers the possibility for other experts to attend who would not normally attend the formal sessions and also for technical visits which help the groups to achieve their goals. The UN secretariat will service these meetings provided that adequate travel funds are available.

4. PROCESS OF ELABORATING UNECE STANDARDS FOR PERISHABLE PRODUCE

Work on a **commercial** standard for a product is initiated by a **request from an interested party such as: a country interested in production, export or import of the item; an international or intra-governmental organization; or, an international trade organization delegation (participant or observer)** having a particular interest in the quality, marketing and standardization of the particular perishable item. A request to elaborate a standard should include information on the commercial importance of the item in import or export trade or both. ~~The secretariat may be requested to provide further background information on this aspect of trade to assist the Working Party in reaching a decision on whether an international commercial standard would be warranted.~~

~~Any country participating in the work of the Working Party can propose a product for which it feels a UNECE Standard should be elaborated.~~

In reaching a decision as to whether to proceed with this work, the Working Party ~~would~~ **takes** into account the commercial importance of the commodity for one or several countries on the basis of import and export

volume, or both; the importance of one or several national commercial standards among; and, the quality characteristics of the item.

The following outline illustrates the steps necessary in the elaboration or revision of a standard.

Step 1 *Process in the [specialized sections]*

Step 1.1 A proposal is made by a delegation to a [specialized section]

~~an interested party, or selection by the [specialized section] of a commodity of commercial importance to exporters, importers or both,~~

- = to develop a new UNECE Standard for a commodity, or
- = to update an existing UNECE Standard

The proposal must contain a justification as to why a new standard or the updating of an existing standard is deemed necessary.

Step 1.1.1 If the [specialized section] agrees, the proposal is transmitted to the Working Party for approval.

Step 1.1.2 This process can be shortened by making the proposal directly to the Working Party.

Step 1.1.3 If the Working Party does not approve the proposal, it will transmit a justification of the decision of the [specialized section] and the process ends here.

Step 1.2 The task for drafting or re-drafting is assigned to an informal meeting (which can be established for this purpose) or to an individual rapporteur. ~~for is Volunteer rapporteur (if necessary) selected by the [specialized section] or an informal Meeting of Rapporteurs is established.~~

Step 1.3 The working group or rapporteur work on the text seeking and taking into account comments from other delegations.

Step 1.4 The new text (draft standard or draft revision) is presented by Rapporteur(s) or an interested party to the [specialized section] for consideration.

The texts/~~revisions~~ accepted by the [specialized section] are published as addenda to the report of the session. ~~the rapporteur or interested party revises after each session to reflect discussions and to request further technical data provided by experts.~~

Step 1.5 ~~Countries'~~ Proposals for amendments or comments on the drafts should be sent in writing to the Secretariat and to the rapporteur;

Step 1.6 If during discussions of the new text ~~Draft Standard or Draft Revision~~ participants ~~countries~~ do not agree with ~~may enter reservations against one~~ specific technical points ~~tolerances, etc.~~, including they may enter reservations ad referendum to allow

further consultation with their national experts.

NOTE: Steps 1.3 to 1.6 can be repeated several times.

Step 1.7 **The new text ~~Draft Standard or Draft Revision~~, is accepted by the ~~once accepted by~~ [specialized section] and can be forwarded to the Working Party for consideration either:**

- to adopt **it** as a UNECE Recommendation with a trial period **of one or two years** for testing in actual application; **for revisions of existing standards this means that the existing standard remains in force but the revision can be tested in trade.**
- or **to adopt it directly** as a **new or revised** UNECE Standard **or Revision**.

NOTE: In practice a trial period will always be proposed for a new standard and a major revision of an existing standard. Minor revisions will be proposed for direct adoption as a UNECE Standard.

Step 2 **PROCESS IN THE WORKING PARTY ~~STUDIES THE PROPOSAL OF THE [SPECIALIZED SECTION] AND MAY:~~**

The Working party studies the proposal of the [specialized section] **and will either:**

Step 2.1. Adopt the proposal as it was made by the [specialized section] In case of adoption as a UNECE Standard existing reservations have to be confirmed at the session or in writing by participants or will be considered as withdrawn.

Step 2.2 Reject adoption of a text as a UNECE Standard but adopt it as a UNECE recommendation for a one or two-year trial period.

Step 2.3 Reject adoption of the proposal by the specialized section and refer the text back it for further discussion.

In this case the process begins again at step 1.3.

~~Draft Standard as a Recommendation for a trial application or as a UNECE Standard or Revision:~~

Step 2.4 In all cases (2.1, 2.2, 2.3) participants may enter new reservations ~~may be entered~~ against ~~the standard~~ all or specific provisions ~~by countries not in full~~ if they are not in agreement with the text. ~~Draft Standard or Revision:~~

~~2.2 Working Party may decide to return the Draft Standard or Revision to the [specialized section] for further study. Reservations may be entered by countries having specific or general reservations: [specialized section] would study the returned draft and address reservations to the extent possible. Once the [specialized section] completes its review and revision of the Draft Standard, it would re-submit it for the consideration of the Working Party for adoption as a Recommendation:~~

Step 3 **PROCESS IN THE SPECIALIZED SECTION AFTER THE TRIAL PERIOD**

~~Recommendation completes its trial period(s) and is considered by the [specialized section]~~

If a Recommendation completes its trial period it is again considered in the [specialized section] who will either:

Step 3.1 **Agree that the Recommendation performed successfully in its trial period and recommends adoption by the Working Party as a new/revised UNECE Standard.**

Step 3.2 **Agree in general with the text but make minor amendments and adjustments and recommends adoption by the Working Party as a new/revised UNECE Standard. ~~to the standard may be necessary in light of findings without extending the trial period.~~**

Step 3.3 **Agrees that the Recommendation needs further study. It recommends to the the Working Party of its view that the trial period should be extended.**

Step 3.4 **In all cases (3.1.1, 3.1.2, 3.1.3) participants are requested to consider whether any remaining reservations might be lifted. may also enter new reservations.**

Step 4. **PROCESS IN THE WORKING PARTY AFTER THE TRIAL PERIOD CONSIDERS THE PROPOSAL OF THE [SPECIALIZED SECTION]. IT MAY**
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The Working Party studies the proposal from the specialized section and will either

Step 4.1 **Agree the proposal and adopt the Recommendation as a new or revised UNECE Standard. In this case existing reservations in the text have to be confirmed by a participant or will be considered as withdrawn.**

~~(further reservations may be entered)~~

Step 4.2 **Agree the proposal ~~of the [specialized section]~~ to extend the trial period of the Recommendation to allow further study ~~by experts.~~**

Step 4.3 **Refuse the proposal ~~of the [specialized section] to adopt and instead~~ and reject the Recommendation noting the reasons for rejection. The Recommendation then returns for further consideration in the [specialized section] at step 1.3.**

Step 4.4 **In all cases (4.1, 4.2, 4.3), participants may enter new reservations.**

NOTE: ~~The Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development and~~ *The Working Party does not discuss technical aspects of the proposed standards, revisions of standards or Recommendations. Whenever a proposal or Recommendation reaches the Working Party which requires further technical discussion, it must be referred to the appropriate [specialized section]. Minor technical points and changes may be considered and agreed to by the Working Party upon the agreement of delegations without returning the document to the [specialized section]. This approach is acceptable as a means of avoiding lengthy delays over minor technical details. The Working Party may tentatively agree to such*

adjustments and request, through the secretariat, that the ~~experts concerned~~ (delegates to the appropriate [specialized section]) confirm the decisions to accept the Recommendation or Revised Standard.

Annex I
Geneva Protocol

Annex II
Standard Layout (Fresh)

Standard Layout (Dry)