UNECE commercial quality standards for nuts and dried produce

Liliana Annovazzi-Jakab
Izmir, Turkey, July 2015
Five Regional Commissions of the United Nations

UNECE is the only Regional Commission to develop agricultural quality standards

All UN Member states participate in the work
Four Specialized Sections:

- Fresh Fruit and Vegetables (58 standards; Explanatory brochures for Sweet Peppers, Pineapples, Chilli Peppers)
- Dry and Dried Produce (28 standards; Explanatory brochures for Whole Dried Chilli Peppers and Walnuts)
- Seed Potatoes (1 standard)
- Meat (16 standards, plus 2 egg standards)
UNECE Agricultural Quality Standards

United Nations General Assembly

United Nations Economic and Social Council

United Nations ECE
(and all other Regional Commissions)

UNECE Committee on Trade

UNECE Working Party of Agricultural Quality Standards (WP.7)

UNECE Specialized Sections

Fresh Fruit and vegetables
Dry and dried Produce
Seed potatoes
Meat
HOW WE DEVELOP STANDARDS:

Demand-driven, inclusive and open development and adoption process
- All UN member countries participate with the same rights
- Input comes from all parties involved (public and private; producing and importing countries) at all stages (development and evaluation before standards are adopted).
- Cooperation with all other international organizations (such as FAO, OECD, EU) and NGOs (observers)

Flexible, inter-active, responsive process (revisions when needed)
- Standards are adapted to reflect emerging new varieties or changing producing, marketing, trading and regulatory conditions
- Standards can be revised at any moment per request
- Decisions are taken on a consensus basis
Specialized Section and Working Party agree to create/revise a standard

Rapporteurs prepare/amend text

Specialized Section discusses text in detail

Developing a standard

Working Party adopts the final text as a standard

Working Party adopts the proposed text for trial

UNECE Standard

UNECE Recommendation trial period (1-2 years)

Specialized Section recommends adoption or trial

Text for adoption or revision
The Scope of UNECE standards

UNECE Standards have a simple structure with produce-specific tolerances.

Since 2002 new Standard Format (aim: ALIGN all standards)

SCOPE:
Standards apply to produce intended for direct consumption or for food when intended to be mixed with other products for direct consumption without further processing. NOT to produce for industrial processing.

PURPOSE:
define the quality requirements at the export-control stage, after preparation and packaging.
UNECE’s cooperation partners

- Cooperates extensively with many international governmental organizations (such as OECD, Codex, FAO, EU) and NGOs
- Works with professional organizations and the private sector

UNECE draft standards go through an important trial phase and consultative process

Result:
- Including industry concerns helps develop standards that reflect trading practices, rather than normative ideals of what the product requirements should be.
- Increased use of standards by industry
UNECE standards are voluntary marketing standards for international trade

incorporated into national legislation
- As export requirements to ensure that the produce have a certain quality level
- As a requirement for the domestic, export and import markets

incorporated into commercial contracts
## UNECE DRY AND DRIED PRODUCE Standards (28)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Published/Last revised</th>
<th>REVISION SCHEDULE</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Standard Layout</td>
<td>2011</td>
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<tr>
<td>Almonds, inshell</td>
<td>2007</td>
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<tr>
<td>Almond kernels, blanched</td>
<td>2009</td>
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<tr>
<td>Almond kernels</td>
<td>1986/2003</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apples, dried</td>
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<td>Apricots, dried</td>
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<tr>
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<td>2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cashew kernels</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chilli peppers, whole dried</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Pears, dried</td>
<td>1996/2012</td>
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<td>Pineapples, dried</td>
<td>2014</td>
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<td>Pine nut kernels</td>
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<td>Pistachio kernels and peeled</td>
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<td>Pistachio nuts, inshell</td>
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<td>Prunes</td>
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<td>Tomatoes, dried</td>
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<td>Walnut kernels</td>
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</table>
Implementing UNECE Standards

- Government
  - National Standard
- EU
  - EU Regulation
- FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius
- OECD
  - Explanatory Brochures
- Private Sector
  - Reference in Contracts
Production, export and standards
Arrival at destination, inspection (import), and standards
Over the years UNECE has evolved into a platform for the development of agreed trading language/standards for global trade in agricultural produce.
CHALLENGES

Today, the UNECE, national, regional, international regulators and the private sector have to:

• take into account **new import and export markets** beyond the traditional

• Deal with **more, and diverse players, more complex international supply chains** and retailers that operate globally

• **Address concerns of consumers** about the origin of their food, its safety and quality
UNECE’s approach:

WIDER SCOPE
UNECE has become networking platform linking experts and expertise from different areas: trade facilitation; electronic business; risk management and risk assessment; environmental concerns; supply chain management; transport issues; promotion and capacity-building.

AIM: increase competitiveness, inclusive sustainable development, link issues and actors and create jobs
Examples – WIDENING THE SCOPE:

New capacity-building projects, guides, assessment studies, policy advise and train-the trainer seminars

• “Information management in agrifood chains for trade facilitation”
• “Participation in cross-border agricultural food supply chains”
  – Scheduled events:
    • Training material (with ESCAP, FAO, OECD, ITC, national authorities)
    • Workshops Individual country focus (trade facilitation and agri-food roadmap)
PROMOTING THE WORK OF THE UNECE
Specialized Section on Dry and Dried Produce - 2013
PROMOTING THE WORK OF THE UNECE Specialized Section on Dry and Dried Produce

Lectures on nutrition and health benefits; production and processing

Go nuts for health
Nuts, nutrition and health
18 June 2013
14:00
Salle VIII

Prof. Jordi Salas-Salvadó,
Director, Human Nutrition Unit,
Rovira i Virgili University, Reus, Spain

From trees to your table
Behind the scenes - production, science and processing
19 June 2013
14:00
Salle VIII

Mr. Sam Keiper
Dried Fruit Association California, USA
Mr. Lothar Boers
Eurofins Laboratories, Germany
Dried Fruit and Nuts Expo
UNECE Commission session
April 2015
Dried Fruit and Nuts Expo
UNECE Commission session April 2015
Dried Fruit and Nuts Expo April 2015
UNECE standards are recommendations used on a **voluntary** basis to make trading easier.

UNECE standards for Dry and Dried Produce have become standards for use in international trade.
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe UNECE covers the largest dried fruit and nut market in the world (based on per capita consumption & expenditure) source INC
Global nature of trade in nuts and dried fruit require standards reflecting this

UNECE’s strengths

• simple structure of UNECE standards,

• open development and adoption process

• many years of experience (close to 30 standards)

• large pool of international experts (public and private sector)

• strong public and private sector support and use
THANK YOU

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