The OECD Fruit Vegetables Scheme
Focus on the
Explanatory Brochures

Marie Russel
OECD Trade and Agriculture

UNECE Nuts and Dried Fruit Workshop
1-3 July 2015, Izmir, Turkey
OUTLINE OF THE PRESENTATION

• General overview
• Mandate
• Activities
GENERAL OVERVIEW

• One of the four programmes within the Codes & Schemes

• Established in 1962

• Part II programme – self financing

• Voluntary – currently 25 Members

• Membership open to all UN & WTO members
Trade facilitation...

..Through the harmonised application & interpretation of international F&V Standards
<table>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Core work</strong></th>
<th><strong>Supporting activities</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Provides framework for the export quality inspection system:</td>
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<td>• International Standards</td>
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<td>• Inspection Methods</td>
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<td>• Conformity Certificates</td>
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<td>• Meetings of the Heads of National Inspection Services</td>
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<td>• Capacity building</td>
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<td>• Guidelines</td>
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<td>• Market Analysis</td>
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<td>• Peer reviews</td>
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<td>• Explanatory Materials</td>
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</table>
Until 1998, the OECD developed fruit and vegetables standards.

Today, the Scheme applies international standards adopted from:

• UNECE

• Codex Alimentarius Commission

(Annex I to the Council Decision on the Scheme [C(2006)95])
The basis of the Scheme’s activities
Unique in international trade
Applied by many countries and EU Member States and recommended by the UNECE
Revised Inspection Methods (2013)
Development of OECD Guidelines on Quality Inspection (ongoing)
(Annex II to C(2006)95)
OECD Conformity Certificate

- It attests that the consignment is conform with the standard applied under the Scheme
- Verified by the official control service. Certificate of the final product – (vs. private quality assurance systems)
- It is applied by many countries (e.g. EU members)

(Appendix I to [C(2006)95])
OECD Meeting of Heads of National Inspection Services

Objectives:

• To facilitate discussions between inspection services on major problems, developments and challenges in the fruit and vegetables sector and quality inspection system

• To provide an update on the latest developments in inspection techniques and tools, and to harmonise the application of the OECD Scheme

• To present developments in the fruit and vegetables sector and quality inspection system in the Host Country

• Recommendations to the Plenary Meeting
CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES (TRAINING COURSES, WORKSHOPS...)

• Cooperation with other international organisations (UNECE and Codex Alimentarius Commission)

• For inspectors

• On voluntary basis of the organising country

• OECD provides in-kind support

• East-Africa: OECD Workshops in Kenya, KEPHIS (2010-)

• South-Eastern Europe: OECD Workshop in Montenegro, OECD/Slovakia (2012)
OECD Guidelines

- Guidelines on Objective tests to determine quality of Fruit and Vegetables
- Guidelines on Notification of Non-conformity
- Guidelines on Risk Analysis
- Guidelines on Inspector’s trainings
- Guidelines on Quality Inspection (under development)
MARKET ANALYSIS

- Helps to evaluate/re-evaluate the importance of the produce
- Identify need for explanatory materials
- **Content:**
  - Overview on the product (varieties, production methods etc.)
  - Statistics on consumptions, trade, etc.
  - Trends in the market
OECD Peer Reviews

- Systematic examination and assessment of the performance of the F&V quality inspection system by experts from other countries under the auspices of the OECD Secretariat

- Conducted on a non-adversarial basis, relies on mutual trust amongst the reviewers

- Goal: improve policy making, adopt best practices and comply with internationally established standards

- 7 OECD Peer Reviews (Hungary, Slovakia, Morocco, Turkey, Netherlands, Spain and Finland), upcoming France
OECD EXPLANATORY BROCHURES
GENERAL OVERVIEW & VALUES

• Reference guidelines in the OECD quality inspection system
• 50 years experience
• Approval by consensus
• Pragmatic approach (trade facilitation)
• Uniform content and high quality
  • OECD Layout for Explanatory Brochures
  • OECD Guidelines on Development Explanatory Brochures
• Currently available for 28 products
• Hard copies + E-Versions
Structure of the Brochure

Text
• *Follows the Standard layout*
• *Standard + OECD interpretation*
• *Classification table*

Illustrations
• *Follow the Standard layout*
• *Illustrate all quality parameters (as far as possible)*
OECD BROCHURE ON FRESH FIGS

• Prepared by Turkey
• Based on a UNECE standard [FFV-17: Fresh Figs (2014)]
• Issued in July 2015
• E-version available for free
On the following pages, the official text of the standard UNECE FFV-17: Fresh Figs (2014) is indicated in **blue bold**, the OECD interpretative text of the Standard is indicated in *black italic*.

- Free from damage caused by pests affecting the flesh;

  Pest damage affecting the flesh makes the produce unfit for consumption. Any pest damage affecting the skin only is restricted within the limits allowed for skin damage in the respective classes.

  The picnic beetle (Carpophilus spp.) feeds on figs and transmits mould and bacteria to the fig. There is damage to the flesh.

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<thead>
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<th>Illustration No.</th>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Pest damage – (Picnic Beetle - “Carpophilus spp.”)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
• Quality parameters and defects are determined at export stage after preparation and packaging
• All defects are shown on the visible part of the product – other side is perfect
• 1 type of defect per photo
• Minimum requirements – ‘not allowed’ photos (‘limit for practically free – allowed in all classes)
• Classifications – Limit allowed photos
Illustrations - Principles

• Quality parameters and defects are determined at export stage after preparation and packaging

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Parts of the illustrations

Title of the illustration

Classification lines

Reference to the Standard text

Explanatory table

Photos

Reference number
Parts of the illustrations

- **Title of the illustration**
- **Reference to the Standard text**
- **Photos**
- **Classification lines**
- **Explanatory table**
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International Standards for Fruit and Vegetables: Pomegranate

Scars / Cicatrices

Limit allowed
Extra Class
Limit admise
Cat. "Extra"

Limit allowed
Class I
Limit admise
Cat. I

Limit allowed
Class II
Limit admise
Cat. II

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Pomegranate Grenade</th>
<th>Extra Class Cat. Extra</th>
<th>Class I Cat. I</th>
<th>Class II Cat. II</th>
<th>Not allowed Exclu</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Scars Cicatrices</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2, 3, 4</td>
<td>5, 6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Scars are a superficial defect. / Une cicatrice est un défaut superficiel.</td>
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On the following pages, the official text of the Pomegranate Standard [CODEX STAN 310-2013, version 2013] is indicated in **blue bold**, the OECD interpretative text of the Standard is indicated in *black italic*.

**2.1 Minimum Requirements**

In all classes, subject to the special provisions for each class and the tolerances allowed, the pomegranates must be:

- whole;

*Pomegranates must not have any damage or injury affecting the integrity of the produce.*

However, removed or broken crown is permitted, provided the cut or the break is clean and the adjacent skin is not damaged.

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<td>4</td>
<td>Defects of the crown</td>
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<td>Damage exposing the interior of the fruit (arils)</td>
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Photos

OECD Trade & Agriculture
Illustrations - Principles

- **Quality parameters and defects are determined at export stage after preparation and packaging;**
- ‘2D interpretation’ – all defects are shown on the visible part of the product – other side is perfect;
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OECD BROCHURE ON POMEGRANATE

• First international Standard on Pomegranate [CODEX STAN 310-2013] – 2013;

• First OECD Explanatory Brochure on Pomegranate – 2013/2014;

• First OECD Brochure based on a Codex Standard;

• First time when an OECD Brochure was developed in collaboration with Codex countries.
Illustrations - Principles

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