



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

TRADE/WP.7/GE.2/2003/2
15 April 2003

Original: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND
ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards

Specialized Section on Standardization of
Dry and Dried Produce (Fruit)
50th session, 24 - 27 June 2003, Geneva

Item 2 of the Provisional Agenda

MATTERS OF INTEREST ARISING SINCE THE FORTY-NINTH SESSION

Note by the secretariat

This document sums up the relevant outcome of the sixth session of the Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development and the fifty-eighth session of the Working Party on Standardization of Perishable Produce and Quality Development.

1. SIXTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

The following excerpt is taken from the report of the Committee (ECE/TRADE/300, paragraphs 46 to 52):

Item 10 – Agricultural quality standards

Documentation:

TRADE/2002/8

Summary of WP.7 progress achieved since the November 2001 session

TRADE/WP.7/2001/9

Report of the fifty-seventh session of the Working Party on Standardization of Perishable Produce and Quality Development (WP.7)

46. The Secretary to the Working Party on Standardization of Perishable Produce and Quality Development (WP.7) presented documents TRADE/2002/8 and TRADE/WP.7/2001/9. As additional information to the revised and new standards listed in these documents, he reported that during the last year a number of standards had been updated to adapt them to new trade practices. New standards for pineapples and ovine carcasses and cuts were close to completion. A solution to the mentioning of trade marks in UNECE Standards had been adopted and work on the review of the Geneva Protocol (which defines the context of the Standards) and the harmonization of produce coding had started.

47. The Committee had, at previous sessions, discussed possible support by UNECE for the work on explanatory brochures which is currently done under the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Scheme. The secretariat reported that, at present, the UNECE was not able to allocate the additional resources necessary for undertaking this work to the Agricultural Standards Unit, but that the cooperation with the OECD Scheme functioned very well.

48. A seminar on Safe and High-quality Food for International Trade had been co-organized on 4 and 5 April 2002 in New Delhi by the UNECE with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and EAN India, at the invitation of the Government of India. The seminar had focused on building the capacity of small and medium-sized enterprises to apply international standards and participate in international supply chains. The seminar was well received and it is planned to organize a follow-up event in 2003 in Bangkok together with ESCAP and, possibly, further seminars, one of which could be in a central Asian member State of the UNECE.

49. The delegation of the European Community said that it continued to consider the UNECE work on agricultural standards as very important and relevant. Many EC standards within the framework of the Common Agricultural Policy are based on these UNECE standards. The delegation also indicated its encouragement for making the standards better known in other parts of the world. It noted the excellent cooperation with the FAO and the OECD Scheme. However, it hoped that it would be possible for UNECE to support the development of explanatory brochures to speed up this work in the future.

50. The delegation of Switzerland said that the work of WP.7 and its specialized sections was a positive example of how the UNECE and the Committee could make a contribution that was recognized in international trade.

51. The delegation of the Russian Federation thanked the Chairman of WP.7, Mr. Vilchez-Barros, for his contribution to UNECE work on agricultural standards, which had helped WP.7 become a global forum in this area, with participation of experts from all continents. He particularly stressed the importance for his country of the standards for seed potatoes and meat and the use of UNECE agricultural standards in negotiations with trading partners. He also expressed the wish to see more operational work by the UNECE secretariat, i.e. the organization of training courses on how to apply the standards.

52. The Committee **endorsed** TRADE/WP.7/2001/9 and **noted** TRADE/2002/8. The points raised by the European Community and the Russian Federation would be discussed by the WP.7 bureau.

B. 58TH SESSION OF THE WORKING PARTY ON STANDARDIZATION OF PERISHABLE PRODUCE AND QUALITY DEVELOPMENT

Note by the secretariat: Please note that the Working Party decided to change its name to “Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards”.

The following excerpt is taken from the report of the Working Party (see TRADE/WP.7/2002/9, paras. 58 to 65).

ITEM 4: Specialized Section on Standardization of Dry and Dried Produce (Fruit)

Document: *TRADE/WP.7/GE.2/2002/14 (Report of the 49th session)*

58. The former Chairman of the Specialized Section, Mr. Wilfried Staub (Germany), informed the Working Party of the outcome of the forty-ninth session of the Specialized Section.

59. He said that he was very pleased with the progress made in the group and especially the good cooperation of delegations in the preparation of a complicated document on the determination of the moisture content for dry fruit, which was proposed for adoption as a revised annex to the standard layout.

60. He recalled that at its last session, the Working Party had decided that all amendments to the standard layout would automatically be included in all relevant standards.

61. The Chairman expressed his appreciation for the work done by Mr. Staub during his chairmanship and said that he would be missed. On behalf of the Working Party he wished him all the best for the future.

Items 4(a) and (b): Decisions concerning texts recommended for adoption

62. Inshell Walnuts: The amendments contained in document TRADE/WP.7/GE.2/2002/3 were adopted. The text of the revised UNECE Standard for Inshell Walnuts will be published in Addendum 14 to this report (TRADE/WP.7/2002/9/Add.14).

63 Annex on determination of the moisture content for dry fruit (nuts): The text contained in document TRADE/WP.7/GE.2/2002/14/Add.1 was adopted. It was pointed out that the term “(nuts)” should remain in the English version but be deleted from the French version. The text will be published in Addendum 15 to this report (TRADE/WP.7/2002/9/Add.15) and automatically included in all relevant standards.

Item 4 (c): Information on the publication of the colour chart for walnut kernels

64. The secretariat informed the Working Party of the progress made on this issue. Following discussions in the Specialized Section and an informal meeting with OECD and the delegation of France, a new layout was prepared by the secretariat including a lemon-coloured kernel and a trilingual publication which was reviewed by the meeting. The document will be printed by the UN printing services and distributed through the relevant services of the OECD and the UN. The final checking of the colours will be done by the secretariat, together with interested delegations.

65. UNECE and OECD will jointly hold the copyright of the publication to allow OECD to eventually include the chart in their explanatory material.

The Working Party adopted the following revised standard for Inshell Walnuts and the changes to the annex on determination of the moisture content for dry fruit (nuts):

TRADE/WP.7/2002/9/Add.14	Revised UNECE Standard for Inshell Walnuts
TRADE/WP.7/2002/9/Add.15	Annex on determination of the moisture content for dry fruit (nuts)