

**Report on the seventieth session of
UNECE Specialized Section on Standardization
of
Dry and Dried Produce**



Dorian A. LaFond
Chairperson

Opening:

- Mr. Geoffrey Hamilton, Officer-in-charge of the Economic Development, Trade and Land Management Division addressed the meeting. He emphasized the importance of private sector involvement in the development of trade-relevant standards.
- Ms. Lorenza Jachia, Officer-in-charge of the Trade Policy and Governmental Cooperation Section, officially opened the meeting. She noted the importance of the Specialized Section work, and indicated that the activities of the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards and its Specialized Sections had been highly appreciated by countries during the recent review process.



UNECE DDP's Gratitude

The UNECE secretariat thanked delegates who retired last year or will retire this year and those the 70th session will be their last:

Mr. Joaquim Belmont (Vice Chair, Spain),

Mr. Sam Keiper (USA- DDP industry)

Mr. Lothar Boers (Germany), and

Ms. Catherine Ballandras (France) – Job change.



The Specialized Section expressed its gratitude and appreciation for their valuable contributions to its work over the many years and wishes them the best in their future endeavors.

**As chair: I take this opportunity to specially welcome
Ms. Matlou Setati (South Africa) as Vice-Chair.**

Review of UNECE Recommendations

- a. **Dried Apricots:** Discussions included proposals made and the outcome of discussions from the working group meetings (November 2013 and during the current session). Amended were sections on Moisture Content, Sizing- sizing by diameter introduced and sizing tolerances revised.

Decision: *The Specialized Section recommended to the Working Party to extend the trial period of the revised Recommendation for Dried Apricots for another year until 2015.*



- b. **Dried Figs:** This Recommendation was reviewed and changes made to moisture content for high moisture dried fruit; new sizing tables for sizing by weight i.e. number of fruit /kg and by diameter; Total Tolerances for defects in all classes was set at 20% and color distinction between black and white fig varieties made.

Decision: *The Specialized Section recommends that the Working Party extend the trial period for this recommendation for one more year.*

- c. **Dried Pineapples:** This Recommendation was reviewed amendments made included to the Definition of Produce- the style “crushed” removed; Tolerances for defects allowed- tolerances for foreign matter of mineral origin reduced

Decision: *The Specialized Section recommends that the Working Party adopt the revised Recommendation as a new UNECE Standard for Dried Pineapples (DDP-28)*

Review of existing UNECE Standards and alignment with the 2011 Standard Layout



The Specialized Section reviewed the following revised draft Standard for:

- a. **Dried Grapes and currants:** Moisture Content; tables of tolerances(cap stems, mold, damaged and underdeveloped berries).

Decision: *The Specialized Section recommends that the Working Party adopt the revised draft Standard as a UNECE Recommendation for a one-year trial period.*

- b. **Dates:** increase in tolerances for “pest damage” was requested due to reduced pesticide use, and changes in climatic conditions.

Decision: *An electronic working group (Germany, Saudi Arabia, United States, other producing countries and the INC) will review this issue and report to the 2015 session of the Specialized Section.*

- c. **Almond Kernels:** In the absence of national proposals to revise this standard, but request made to revise the table of tolerances, the Specialized Section agreed to undertake a complete revision of the 1997 standard it on its 2015 meeting agenda.

Decision:- *Members were asked to contact industry groups and other interested parties on the revision.*

Draft UNECE Explanatory Brochure for Inshell Walnuts and UNECE Standard for Inshell Walnuts (led by the United States of America)

The draft **UNECE Explanatory Brochure for Inshell Walnuts** prepared by the delegation of the United States of America was discussed. Changes were made to both the text of the **standard**, the text of the draft brochure and its format.

Decision: The Specialized Section recommended to the 2014 Working Party session to adopt the proposed changes made to the Standard for Inshell Walnuts and submits the Explanatory Brochure for approval by the Working Party and subsequent printing.



Review of Proposed New Draft Standards (on-going work)

Dried Cranberries: At its 2013 session, the Specialized Section reviewed a proposed draft Standard for Dried Cranberries and decided after 2 years of comments and consultations:

- (i) That sugar is added to dried cranberries an ingredient and not as a processing aid, and
- (ii) Other ingredients and flavouring were often used in this product changing it characteristic to a processed product – which is be outside the scope of the UNECE Standards.

Decision: The Specialized Section recommended that the Working Party suspend the development of this Standard.



Development of Sampling Plans for Tree Nuts and for Dried Produce:

A new sampling plan for dry and dried produce joint developed by the delegation of Germany and the INC was explained. This sampling plan integrated parts of the also into the OECD sampling plan. The meeting agreed that the initial sampling mechanism needed to be better defined in terms of :

- Initial sample min. of 5. Samples size for up to 1000 packages and a min. of 10 samples for over 1000 packages.
- Sampling decisions at the discretion of the inspectors. Reduced samples,

Further consultations and discussion on some bracketed texts at the next session in 2015.

- The Specialized Section accepted an offer from the INC's representative to produce a short video illustrating the sample plan and at the 2015 session, a practical presentation will also be organized.

Decision: The Specialized Section recommends that the Working Party adopt the sampling plan as a Recommendation for a one-year trial period.

Review of the DDP Standard Layout Annex – definition of terms and defects.

A working group reviewed the terms and defects listed in Annex III of the 2011 version of the 2011 Standard Layout for DDP. Some changes were made.

Decision: The revision continues at the 2015 Session.



INTER-SESSION Revision of UNECE Standard for Inshell Pistachio Nuts (DDP-09)

Industry representatives brought to the attention of the DDP Chair and the UNECE secretariat problems with the application of tolerance for insect damage when the accompanying footnote is applied:

- rancid, decay, having a foreign smell or taste, damaged by insects ^c 1, 2 & 3%

^c In all classes, not more than 0,25 per cent of nuts containing dead insects or parts of dead insects. Living pests are inadmissible in any class.

Through the inter-session procedure members were contacted with a proposal to delete footnote C.

All responses received during the consultation and approval period (see WP.7 Working Procedures, para.19) support the amendment.

Decision: The Specialized Section recommended that the Working Party adopt the revised standard.



Future work

At its 2015 session, the Specialized Section will discuss the following:

- Revision of the UNECE Standard for Dates (on-going, and with a presentation and information session at the next meeting)
- Revision of the UNECE Standard for Dried Grapes (on-going)
- Revision of the UNECE Standard for Dried Apricots (on-going)
- Revision of the UNECE Standard for Dried Figs (on-going)
- Sampling Plan for Tree Nuts and Dried Fruit (on-going, and with a practical demonstration during the next session)
- Revision of the UNECE Standard for Inshell Almonds (new)
- Revision of the UNECE Standard for Blanched Almonds (new)
- Revision of the UNECE Standard for Almond Kernels (new)
- Revision of the UNECE standard for Inshell Pistachio nuts (new)
- Revision of the UNECE Standard for Walnut Kernels and possible development of an electronic Brochure for Walnut Kernels
- Revision of the DDP Standard Layout

Summary

For Final Adoption:

- Dried Pineapples as a new UNECE Standard
- Inshell Walnut Brochure
- Inshell Walnuts Standard
- Inshell Pistachio Nuts

Extension of Trial Period until November 2015:

- Recommendation for Dried Apricots
- Recommendation for Dried Figs

New Recommendations:

- Dried Grapes and currants
- Sampling Plans for Tree Nuts and for Dried Produce

Ongoing Development:

- Dried Dates
- Standard Layout-Definition of Terms/Defects

Suspension

- Dried Cranberries

