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COMMITTEE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND
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Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards
Fifty-ninth session, Geneva, 4 to 6 November 2003

REPORT OF THE FIFTY-NINTH SESSION

Addendum 4

Process of Developing or Revising UNECE Agricultural Quality Standards

Note by the secretariat: In this document the secretariat reproduces the procedure for the development/ updating of UNECE Standards as amended at the 59th session of the Working Party concerning the process for initiating new work.

PROCESS OF DEVELOPING OR REVISING UNECE AGRICULTURAL QUALITY STANDARDS

Step 0 Process for initiating new work

Revision A delegation proposes the revision of an existing standard to the relevant specialized section. The proposal must contain a justification why a revision is necessary (e.g. technological developments, changes in trade practice).

If the specialized section agrees, work on the revision can begin at Step 1.

New standard A delegation proposes the creation of a new standard to the relevant specialized section. The proposal must contain a justification why this new work is necessary (e.g. commercial importance of the product in trade).

If the specialized section agrees, the proposal is transmitted to the Working Party for approval. If the Working Party agrees, work on the new standard can begin at step 1.

NOTE 1: The updating of lists of varieties in individual standards is not considered a revision of the standard and thus not subject to approval by the Working Party.

NOTE 2: In both cases (Revision or New standard) the proposal can also be made directly to the Working Party in order to speed up the process if deemed necessary.

Step 1 Process in the relevant specialized section

Step 1.1 The task for creating a new text (draft standard or draft revision) is assigned to a rapporteur (one or several delegations or a working group, which can be established for this purpose).

Step 1.2 The rapporteur works on the text taking into account comments from other delegations.

Step 1.3 The rapporteur presents the text to the specialized section for consideration. During the session a revised draft is created indicating, which parts of the text are accepted and which need further discussion. Reservations can be entered into the text in accordance with the rules of procedure. The revised text is either distributed at the end of the session or published as addendum to the report of the session.

Step 1.4 In the intersession period delegations can send proposals for amendments or comments on the draft to the Secretariat and the rapporteur;

Step 1.5 Steps 1.2 to 1.4 are repeated until the text is accepted by the specialized section and is forwarded to the Working Party for consideration either:

- to adopt it directly as a new or revised UNECE Standard;
- or 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;

Any reservations entered into the text have to be confirmed or will be considered as withdrawn.

Step 2 Process in the Working Party

The Working Party studies the proposal of the specialized section and will either:

Step 2.1 Adopt the proposal as submitted by the specialized section.

Step 2.2 Reject adoption of the proposal 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 for further discussion.

In this case the process begins again at step 1.1 or 1.2.

Step 2.4 In all cases (2.1, 2.2, 2.3) delegations may lift their previous reservations or may enter new reservations in accordance with the Rules of Procedure.

Step 3 Process in the relevant specialized section after the trial period

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 in accordance with the rules of procedure and recommends adoption by the Working Party as a new/revised UNECE Standard.

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

Step 3.4 In all cases (3.1, 3.2, 3.3) participants may lift their previous reservations or may enter new reservations in accordance with the rules of procedure. In case of 3.1 and 3.2 any reservations entered into the text have to be confirmed or will be considered as withdrawn.

Step 4 Process in the working party after the trial period

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.
- Step 4.2 Agree the proposal to extend the trial period of the Recommendation to allow further study
- Step 4.3 Refuse the proposal and reject the Recommendation noting the reasons for rejection. The Recommendation then returns for further consideration in the specialized section at step 1.1 or 1.2.
- Step 4.4 In all cases (4.1, 4.2, 4.3), participants may lift their previous reservations or may enter new reservations against in accordance with the rules of procedure.