

# **UNECE COMMERCIAL AGRICULTURAL QUALITY STANDARDS**

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# UNECE Commercial Agricultural Quality Standards

- Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards
- Who develops standards?
- How are they developed and for which products?
- Who uses them?
- Why are they important for Asian countries?



# UNECE Commercial Agricultural Quality Standards



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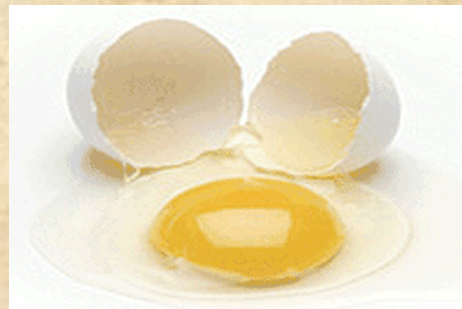
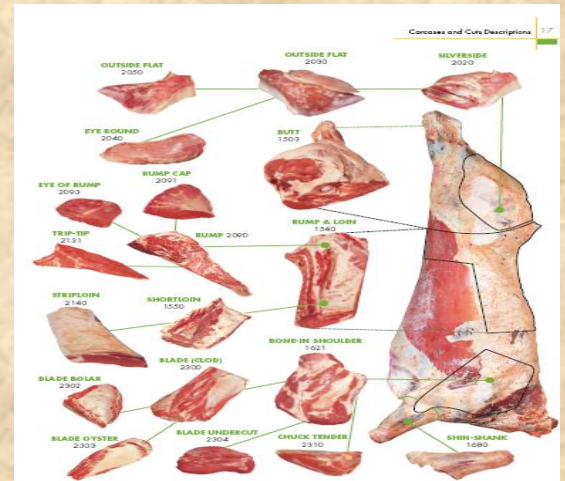
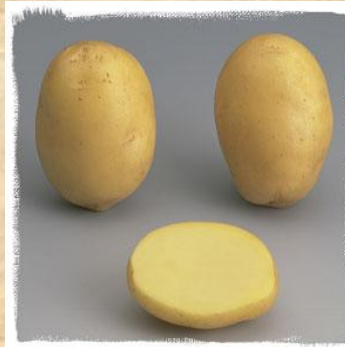
- Working Party + Specialized Sections
  - Dry and Dried Produce
  - Seed Potatoes
  - Meat
  - Fresh Fruit and Vegetables
- Equal rights for all UN Member States
- 60 years of work





# UNECE Commercial Agricultural Quality Standards

- Fruit, vegetables
- Dry produce
- Potatoes
- Meat
- Eggs
- Flowers



## 2010: FFV Specialized Section

- Adopted revised Standard Layout
- Aligned/revised 50 standards
- 2 sessions that year
- Published explanatory brochure

**Flexible, efficient, effective**



## Compliance with TBT agreement

“Where international standards exist countries shall use them as a basis for their technical regulations except when such standards would be an ineffective or inappropriate means for the fulfillment of the objectives”

(TBT, Art. 2.4)



## **Purpose of standards**

- Facilitate international trade
- Create market transparency
- Promote quality agricultural products
- Keep unsatisfactory produce out of market
- Improve profitability
- Protect consumers





## UNECE standards are recommendations

### Obligatory

EU Regulations

National legislation

### Voluntary

Reference in commercial contracts



## Users of standards

- Producers
- Traders
- Consumers
- Inspection services





# UNECE Commercial Agricultural Quality Standards



Class II ←

**5** Peppers are high in vitamin C and half an average pepper provides one portion of your 5 a day.

At home, refrigerate for freshness. Wash before use.



## UNECE and E(E)C

**1962**

- 21 UNECE standards obligatory for intra-community trade

**2008**

- 36 UNECE standards in EC regulations

**2009**

- 10 UNECE standards in EC regulations (specific marketing standards)
- General marketing standard (GMS)





# UNECE Commercial Agricultural Quality Standards

## GMS sets minimum quality requirements

- Intact
- Sound; products affected by rotting are excluded
- Clean
- Free from pests
- Free from damage caused by pest
- Free of abnormal external moisture
- Free of any foreign smell and/or taste

## No provisions on quality classes



# UNECE Commercial Agricultural Quality Standards

## Commission Regulation (EC) No 1580/2007

Where the holder of fruit and vegetables is able to show they are in conformity with any applicable UNECE standard, the product is considered as conforming to the GMS



## UNECE and OECD Scheme

- Interpreting UNECE standards since 1962
- Drawing up standards until 1996
- Working on inspection methods, sampling, objective tests



# UNECE Commercial Agricultural Quality Standards

## OECD Interpretative Brochures

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

- intact:”

Tomatoes must not have any mutilation or injury spoiling the integrity of the produce.



Damaged tomato - Not allowed





# UNECE Commercial Agricultural Quality Standards

- Help grading
  - Reduce risk of rejection
  - Resolve disputes
- 
- Countries invited to contribute

UNECE Standard on the marketing  
and commercial quality control of



# Sweet Peppers

*Explanatory Brochure*



UNITED NATIONS



# UNECE Commercial Agricultural Quality Standards

**UNECE STANDARD**

**OVINE MEAT**

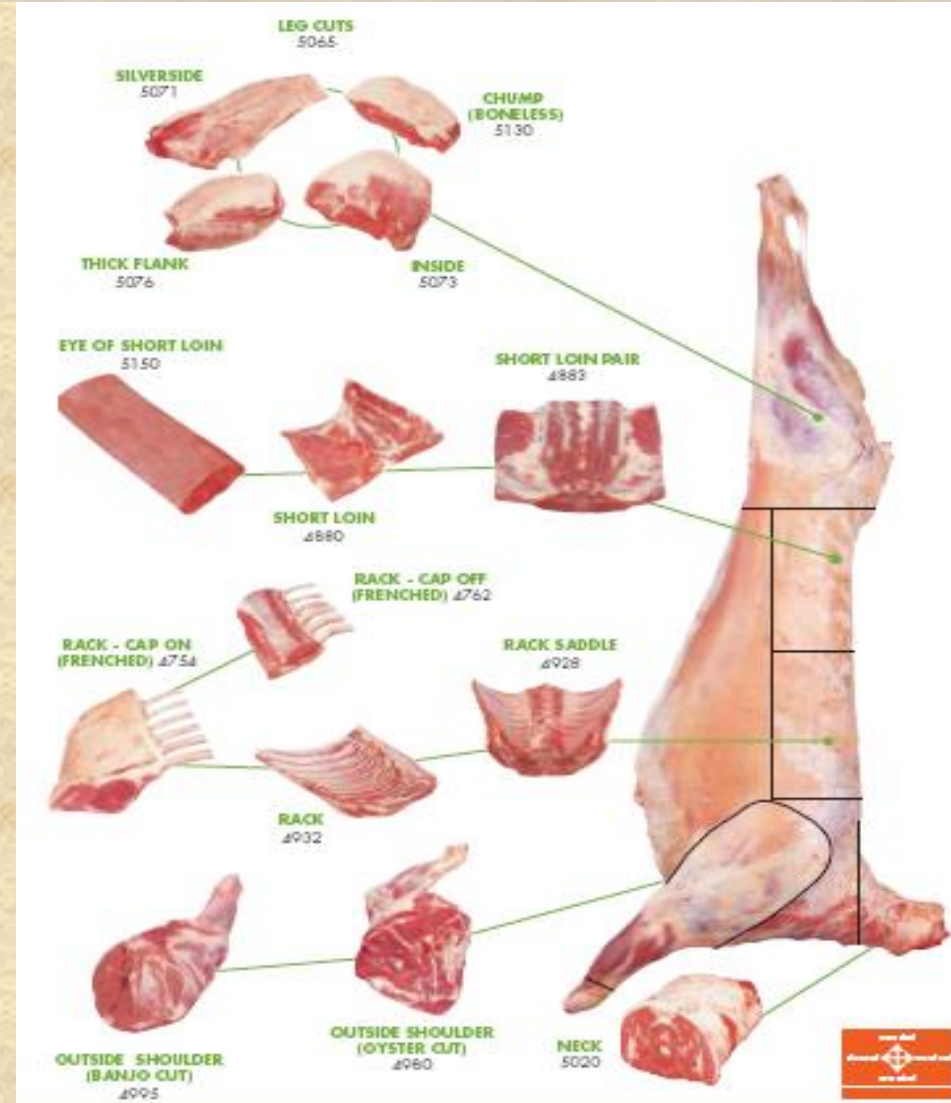
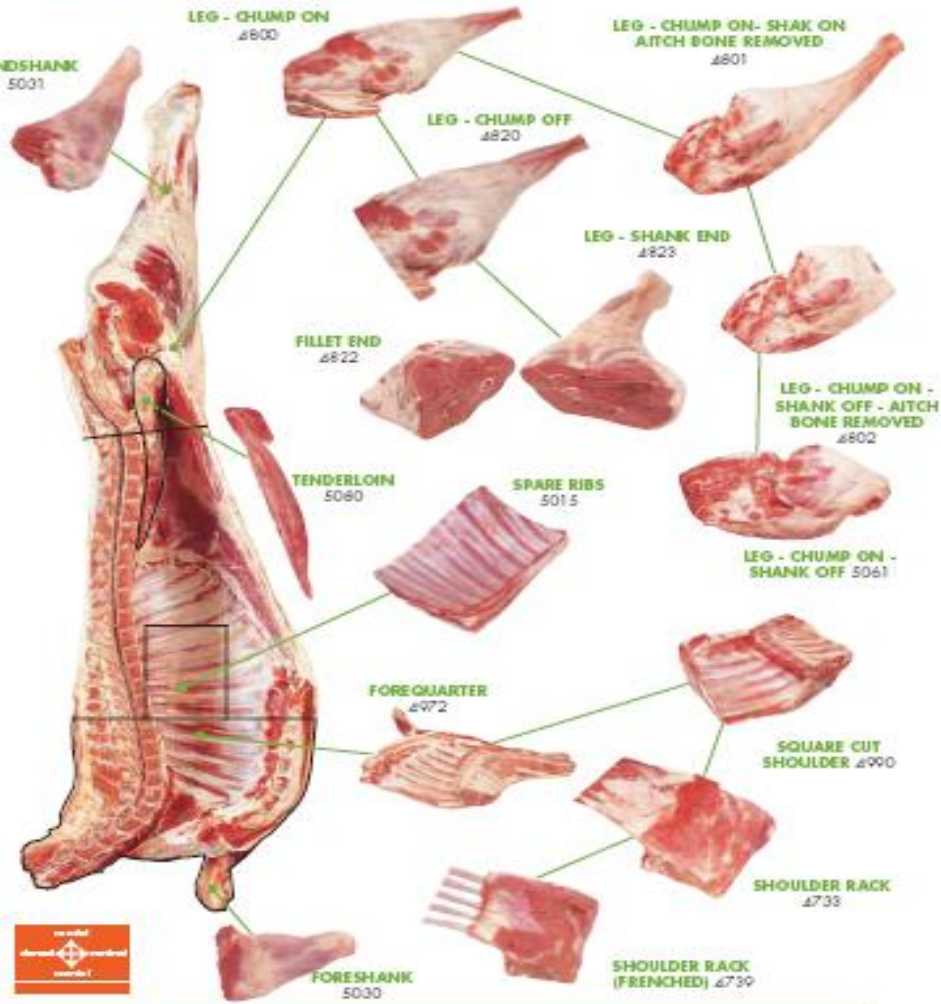
**CARCASES AND CUTS**

**2006 EDITION**



# UNECE Commercial Agricultural Quality Standards

5.3 Standard ovine primal cuts flow chart





# UNECE Commercial Agricultural Quality Standards

## Standard for Seed Potatoes



- Unique reference covering all aspects of seed potato certification
- List of Diseases and Pests





# UNECE Commercial Agricultural Quality Standards

## List of Diseases and Pests

Disease	Agent	Status in UNECE Standard	Recommended diagnostic method	General disease description	Tuber symptoms	Plant symptoms
Potato wart disease	<i>Synchytrium endobioticum</i>	Zero tolerance	Visual observation of tubers and stem base	Tuber: tumours Plant: tumours and galls on stolons and stem base		

- 35 Diseases
- 85 Pictures

[http://www.unece.org/trade/agr/standard/potatoes/pot\\_e.html](http://www.unece.org/trade/agr/standard/potatoes/pot_e.html)



## UNECE and Codex *Alimentarius*

- UNECE standards  
starting point for Codex standards
- Regional UNECE vs. global Codex
- Codex does not produce explanatory material



## UNECE, OECD, Codex, EU

### How to work together on

- Standards
- Explanatory material
- Inspection methods
- Promotion
- Capacity-building



**Draw on regional experience in Asia to develop the standards and brochures for**

- Pineapples
- Fresh chilli peppers





# UNECE Commercial Agricultural Quality Standards

<http://www.unece.org/trade/agr/welcome.html>

