

Agreement on the International Carriage of Perishable Foodstuffs and on the Special Equipment to be Used for such Carriage (ATP)



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ATP Agreement



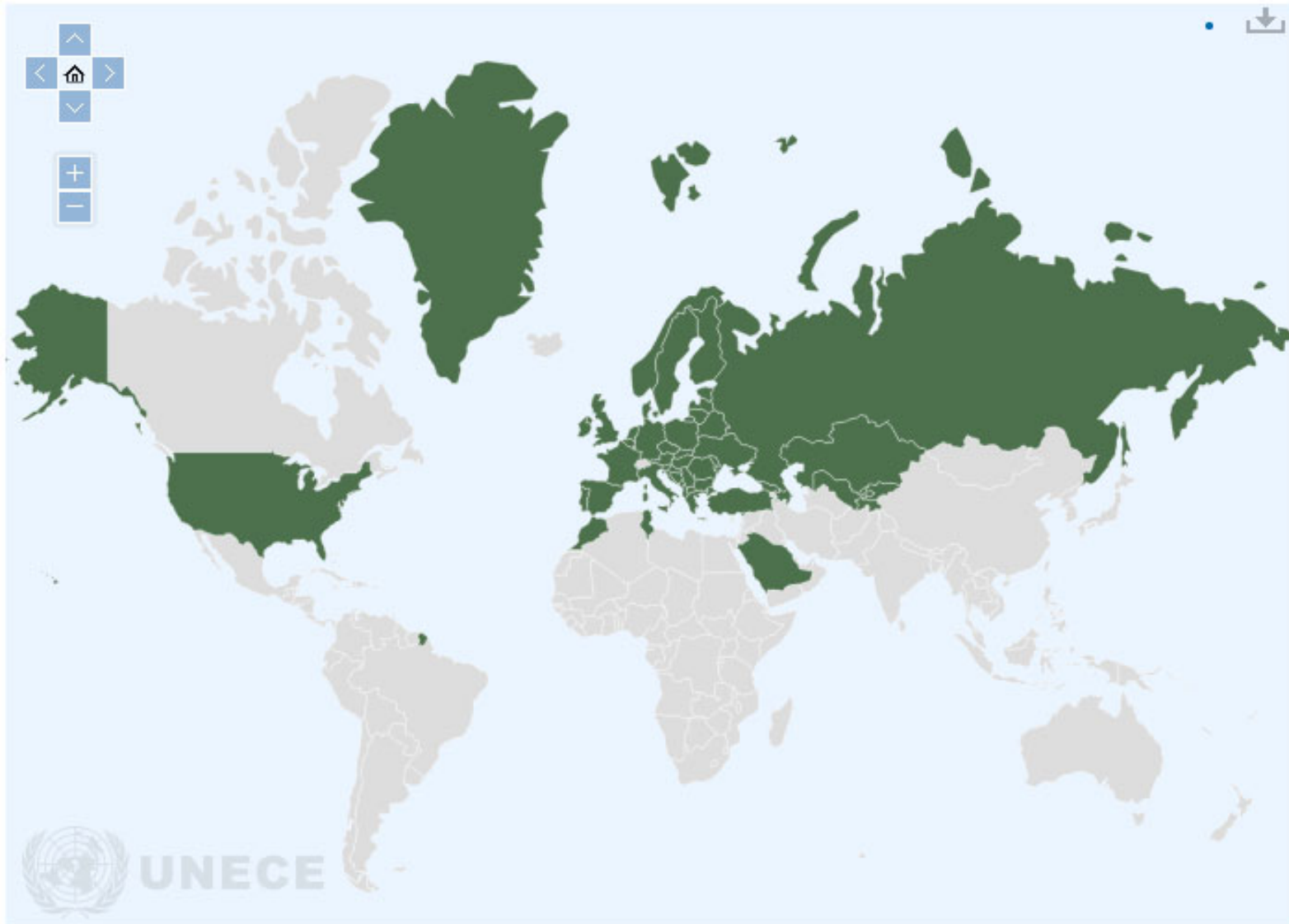
ATP

The Agreement on the International Carriage of Perishable Foodstuffs and on the Special Equipment to be Used for such Carriage was adopted in 1970.

Objectives: Improve conditions of preservation of quality of perishable foodstuffs during carriage, particularly in international trade and promote the expansion of trade in perishable foodstuffs.

Unwritten objectives: Protecting food safety and preventing threats to human health from unsafe food.

50 Contracting Parties



ATP Agreement

What perishables?

The ATP contains a non-exclusive list of products and sets the warmest possible temperature of the load.

Annex 2 frozen foodstuffs. Ice cream at a temperature of -20°C and frozen fish at -18°C .

Annex 3 chilled foodstuffs, cooled but above freezing. Meat products, pasteurized milk at $+6^{\circ}\text{C}$, red meat at $+7^{\circ}\text{C}$.



Fresh fruit and vegetables unless processed are not covered by ATP.

What perishables?

No definition of perishable foodstuffs in ATP.

Some countries, such as Russia, want to expand the scope of ATP to cover fresh fruit and vegetables.

Others argue that ATP is about food safety and not about maintaining food quality.

Countries, particularly in southern Europe, use ATP equipment to transport fruit and vegetables.



In cold countries, such as Russia, heating may be required to maintain the correct temperature.

ATP Agreement

What perishables?

Although not foodstuffs, many pharmaceutical products have to be carried under controlled temperatures and one could imagine that in the future ATP could also be applied to these products.



WP.11, administering ATP

- Working Party on the Transport of Perishable Foodstuffs commonly known as WP.11. Annual meetings in Geneva.
- Member countries (Ministries of transport, food and agriculture, representatives of ATP testing stations), but also International Institute of Refrigeration, Transfrigoroute International, and associations of insulated body builders.
- WP.11 examines proposals for amendments made by countries.



WP.11

- Adopted amendments are annexed to the reports of WP.11.
- They are then communicated to ATP Contracting Parties by the UN Treaty Section for a period of 6 months.
- If there is no objection, the amendments are considered accepted.
- Once accepted, however, the amendments take on legal force after a further period of six months.
- The latest version of the ATP is on our website but the secretariat also periodically issues updated consolidated texts.



WP.11 future work

In order to keep ATP up to date and in sync with economic, technological and political developments and challenges and to facilitate increased harmonization on the implementation of the agreement WP.11 will focus on:

- Discussions on a common understanding and possible further extension of the scope of the agreement:
 - a) *Inclusion of a definition for perishable foodstuffs as well as other definitions to facilitate a common interpretation of the provisions of ATP,*
 - b) *Inclusion of provisions, in a non-legally binding way, for the transport of fresh fruits and vegetables in an annex to the ATP publication,*
 - c) *Possibility of including other perishable products in the scope of the agreement, i.e. pharmaceuticals, flowers, etc.*

WP.11 future work

- Further adaption of ATP standards and requirements to the climatic and technical conditions encountered during the carriage of perishable foodstuffs in different climatic zones,
- The development of a single database of ATP model certificates to help reduce forgery or misuse,
- Simplify the procedure for issuing new ATP certificates in the case of transfer of special equipment to another State, and
- Ways to harmonize procedures for enforcement, checks and penalties across countries.



Thank you!



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