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|  |  | Doc. 4 – Revised Definition of the term “Designated Authority” |

**Specialized Section on Standardization of Seed Potatoes**

**Meeting of Bureau and Rapporteurs**

**Emmeloord, Netherlands, 27-29 September 2017**

Revised Definition of the term “Designated Authority”

The following document proposes a new definition for the term “Designated Authority”.

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**Modification to the definition of “Designated Authority”.**

The 44th Session of the Specialized Section on Standardization of Seed Potatoes decided to review the definition of “Designated Authority” as contained in the UNECE Standard (page 6) and propose new wording and terminology at the next session in 2018. The work was to be led by the Specialized Section’s Chair and Vice-Chairs with collaboration from New Zealand. The following proposed wording has been drafted for consideration and recommendation to the 45th Session in March 2018.

In the Introduction, section IV, of the Standard it is specified that “Countries applying this Standard should notify the UNECE Secretariat of their Designated Authority (DA) responsible for its implementation”. The Standard defines “Designated Authority (DA)” as “Organization(s), agency or agencies designated and empowered by legislation to administer the certification of seed potatoes under the Standard”. Not all seed potato certifying organisations are empowered by legislation.

The Standard also specifies that the “DA shall notify the UNECE secretariat of each additional or more stringent quality requirement, together with technical or scientific justification for it”. However it appears that practice of notifying the Secretariat of such deviations, or of the identity of their DAs, has not been consistently implemented and this information is not fully held by the Secretariat.

There are also some seed potato certifying organisations which use the Standard (and Guides) as a basis for their own Seed Potato Certification Schemes, rather than “applying” or certifying to the Standard. All of these organisations have an interest in the Standard and in the development of guides to its implementation.

It is suggested that several amendments are made regarding the term “Designated Authority”.

Annex VII

Certifying Authority (CA): Organization(s), agency or agencies administering the certification of seed potatoes”,

Introduction, Section IV

“Certifying Authorities applying this Standard should notify the UNECE Secretariat”.

Alternatively this sentence could be deleted.

Annex V

3. The Designated Certifying Authority (CA) or its recognized initials

Annex X

Section 2

Where an importing CA identifies a non-compliance it should inform the exporting CA, giving details of the reason for the non-compliance.

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Throughout the text replace the acronym DA with CA.

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