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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

COMMITTEE ON TRADE

Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards

Specialized Section on Standardization of Dry and Dried Produce

Fifty-fourth session

Geneva, 25-29 June 2007

**REPORT OF THE SPECIALIZED SECTION ON STANDARDIZATION  
OF DRY AND DRIED PRODUCE ON ITS FIFTY-FOURTH SESSION**

**Summary**

**Revised/new UNECE Standards**

The Specialized Section submitted to the Working Party the amended texts on dried tomatoes, inshell hazelnuts, inshell almonds and inshell walnuts for approval as revised/new UNECE standards. The Section was invited to finalize the standard on dried tomatoes and submit its comments by the end of July 2007. For inshell walnuts, the text is submitted as a revised UNECE Standard for a trial period of one year. The Section agreed to revise it at the next session considering its table of tolerances only.

**Revised UNECE Recommendations**

The Section also recommended that the Working Party adopt the revised texts on dried peaches, pistachio kernels and peeled pistachio kernels for trial use until the end of 2008.

**Work in progress**

The rapporteurs presented draft proposals aligned with the revised Standard Layout. Delegations were invited to study the texts of blanched almonds kernels, hazelnut kernels, inshell macadamia nuts and macadamia kernels for a further year, in cooperation with their industry, and to submit their comments to the rapporteurs and the secretariat.

### Summary (cont'd)

#### **Colour gauge for walnut kernels**

The delegation of the United States presented a proposal for discussion. The Section was invited to submit its comments by the end of July 2007.

#### **Suspension of work**

The Section recommended changing priorities for the standards on inshell pecans and pecan kernels and inshell peanuts and peanut kernels and suspending the work until a new request to restart activities is seconded in the future.

#### **Standard Layout**

The Section revised the text of the Standard Layout and recommended that the Working Party adopt it for a trial period of one year.

## **INTRODUCTION**

1. The meeting was opened by Mr. Serguei Malanitchev, Head of the Agricultural Standards Unit of the Trade and Timber Division.
2. The Specialized Section decided to elect its officers at the beginning of the session because Mr. Csaba Gaspar (Hungary) had resigned as Chairperson in 2006 and the Vice-chairperson, Mr. İlhami Koksal (Turkey) could not attend the meeting. The Section elected Mr. Dorian LaFond (United States of America) as Chairperson and Mr. Sait Sözümert (Turkey) as Vice-chairperson.
3. Representatives of the following countries attended the meeting: Czech Republic, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Slovakia, Spain, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and United States.
4. The European Commission (EC) was also represented.
5. The following State attended under article 11: Mexico.
6. A representative from the following intergovernmental organization participated in the session: the OECD Scheme for the Application of International Standards for Fruit and Vegetables.
7. The representatives of Austria and Bulgaria sent apologies.

### **I. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (AGENDA ITEM 1)**

Documentation: ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.2/2007/1

8. The delegations adopted the provisional agenda, with the deletion of item 5(c) "Revised UNECE Standard for Whole Dates" (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.2/2006/10/Add.2) at a request of

the Permanent Mission of Tunisia. The documents referred to in the agenda under symbols ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.2/2007/2 and ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.2/2007/5 were not submitted.

9. The following documents were added to the agenda:

<b>Code</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Source*</b>
INF.1	Review of the UNECE Recommendations – Inshell Hazelnuts	France (E/F)
INF.2	Proposals to revise UNECE Standards – Hazelnut Kernels	Germany (E)
INF.3	Proposals to revise UNECE Standards – Hazelnut Kernels	Turkey (E)
INF.4	List of authorities	Secretariat (E)
INF.5	Revision of the Standard Layout for UNECE Standards on Dry and Dried Produce	Secretariat (E)
INF.6	Application of UNECE Standards	Secretariat (E)
INF.7	Future work - Proposal of the delegation of Mexico for a standard for Whole Dried Chilli Peppers	Mexico (E)
INF.8	Review of UNECE Recommendations – Inshell Almonds	United States (E)
INF.9	Proposals to revise UNECE Standards – Inshell Walnuts	Germany (E)
INF.10	Review of UNECE Recommendations – Pistachio Kernels and Peeled Pistachio Kernels	Turkey (E)
INF.11	Revision of the Standard Layout for UNECE Standards on Dry and Dried Produce	United Kingdom (E)

\* E = English; F = French.

## **II. MATTERS OF INTEREST SINCE THE LAST SESSION (AGENDA ITEM 2)**

### **A. UNECE and subsidiary bodies (Agenda item 2a)**

Documentation: ECE/TRADE/C/2006/18  
ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/2006/20

10. The delegations were informed about the decisions concerning the work of the Specialized Section taken by the Committee on Trade at its first session (document ECE/TRADE/C/2006/18, paragraphs 24-27) and by the November 2006 session of the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards (document ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/2006/20, paragraphs 10-13, 29-32, and 42-45).

**B. Other organizations (Agenda item 2b)**

11. The representative of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) informed the meeting about the activities it had carried out or planned since the 2006 session of the Specialized Section. The OECD Fruit and Vegetables Scheme had published the explanatory brochures on commercial types of melons and table grapes. The brochures on kiwifruit and cucumbers were adopted at the end of 2006 and would be published in 2007. Work continues on brochures for apples, citrus fruits, potatoes, melons, hazelnuts, pears, peaches and nectarines, apricots and prunes. Electronic versions of the brochures can be downloaded free of charge from the OECD website ([www.oecd.org/agr/fv](http://www.oecd.org/agr/fv)).

12. The OECD Scheme informed the meeting about its working group on Guidelines on Inspector Training and on Inspections, about the adoption of the Guidelines on Risk Analysis and about a document on the implementation of peer reviews. The first peer review will be undertaken on the Hungarian quality inspection system in the autumn of 2007.

13. A revised OECD Council Decision was adopted (document C(2006)95). This document includes, as annex II, the operating rules for conformity checks of produce exported under the Scheme.

14. The representative of the European Commission (EC) provided information on new EC regulations, the common agricultural policy reform and on the database on non-conformity with the standards on the European Union market.

**C. Concentration of agricultural quality standards work in the UNECE (Agenda item 2c)**

Documentation: ECE/TRADE/C/2006/18/Add.1

15. The secretariat reported on the main activities carried out since 2006. These had been presented at the last session of the UNECE Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (document ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.1/2007/11, paragraphs 16-23).

**III. REVISION OF THE STANDARD LAYOUT FOR UNECE STANDARDS ON DRY AND DRIED PRODUCE (AGENDA ITEM 3)**

Documentation: ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.2/2006/10/Add.1  
Informal documentation: INF.5 and INF.11

16. The delegations discussed and agreed on the changes to the Standard Layout prepared by the Working Group (document INF.5). The latter document corresponds to a clean version (no tracked changes) of the document ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.2/2006/10/Add.1. The Section also considered a proposal by the delegation of the United Kingdom (document INF.11) to amend section "VI. Provisions concerning marking". A number of changes were also introduced following the discussions (document INF.5/Rev.1).

17. The Specialized Section decided to amend section “II. Provisions concerning quality”, by including a new sentence to keep the quality of the produce at all stages following export, highlighting the responsibility of the holder of the produce in the whole process.
18. Considering that ripeness cannot be determined for dry and dried produce, the term “Sufficiently ripe” was removed from section “II.A. Minimum requirements” for dried produce only.
19. The Section agreed to amend section “III. Provisions concerning sizing” to reflect that sizing may be optional or mandatory depending on the nature of the produce.
20. At a request of the delegation of France, the Specialized Section agreed to discuss at the next session moisture content as part of the section “IV. Provisions concerning tolerances”.
21. The delegations discussed section “V. C. Presentation”, and agreed to amend the text to make explicit that agents utilized to clean or treat the shell should be authorized by the competent legislation.
22. Some countries forbid the use of code marks only as this make tracing the supplier difficult, which contradicts food-safety requirements. The labelling requirements for code marks have been amended in the Standard Layout.
23. The definition of “Food additives” described in annex III was amended to a simpler description of the subject. For a more elaborated description, it was decided to refer to the Codex Alimentarius definition. The same decision was taken for the term “Preservatives”.
24. The Specialized Section recommended that the Working Party adopt the amended text of the Standard Layout for a trial period of one year.

#### **IV. REVIEW OF THE UNECE RECOMMENDATIONS (AGENDA ITEM 4)**

##### **A. Inshell Almonds (Agenda item 4a)**

Documentation: ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.2/2006/10/Add.3

Informal document: INF.8

25. At the last session of the Specialized Section, delegations aligned the revised Recommendation for Inshell Almonds to the new Standard Layout. The trial period was extended to allow the industry to test the new amendments in the table of tolerances.
26. The Specialized Section discussed the proposals by the Working Group based on the document of the revised Recommendation for Inshell Almonds. Based on the experience acquired during the trial period, the Section introduced some amendments in the table of tolerances.
27. The Section recommended submitting the amended text for adoption by the Working Party as a new standard.

**B. Pistachio Kernels and Peeled Pistachio Kernels (Agenda item 4b)**

Documentation: Informal document: INF.10

28. The Working Group composed of Italy, Turkey (Rapporteur) and the United States of America presented this Recommendation aligned to the new Standard Layout.

29. The Specialized Section discussed the proposals by the delegation of Turkey to amend the Standard. At a request of the delegation of the United States, considering that section “C. Classification” of the Provision concerning quality is not being used by the industry for this produce, the Section decided to put it in a trial period.

30. The Section recommended the amended text (document INF.10/Rev.1) for approval by the Working Party as a recommendation for trial use through 2008.

**C. Dried Tomatoes (Agenda item 4c)**

Documentation: ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.2/2007/3

31. At the last session of the Specialized Section, delegations requested the Working Group (Italy and United States (rapporteur)) to present this Recommendation aligned to the new Standard Layout.

32. The Specialized Section discussed the proposals by the Working Group based on the document of the revised Recommendation for dried tomatoes.

33. Following a proposal from delegations, the definitions of presentation and their sizes were moved from section “III. Provisions concerning sizing” to section “I. Definition of the produce”. To take into account the new produce “whole dried cherry tomatoes” on the market, a new category “Whole” had been added to the list of commercial types.

34. Given the concern of delegations about microbiological activity on dried tomatoes with high moisture content, the delegations decided to include a footnote in section “II. C. Moisture content” to recommend that the produce should be treated to avoid such activity. Additionally, section “VI. D. Commercial specifications” was amended to specify that moisture content designation is mandatory for high moisture produce.

35. Based on the outcome of the trial period, the Section introduced some amendments to the table of tolerances: categories blemishes and discolouration were grouped in one category and a tolerance for fermentation was defined.

36. Other amendments were made to align the text with the revised Standard Layout.

37. The Section decided to use the intersessional procedure to finalize the standard. The participants were invited to send their comments to the secretariat and the Rapporteur by the end

of July. The amended text should then be submitted to the Working Party for adoption as a new standard.

**D. Inshell Hazelnuts (Agenda item 4d)**

Documentation: ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.2/2006/10/Add.4  
Informal document: INF.1

38. The delegation of Germany presented this Recommendation aligned to the new Standard Layout.

39. The Specialized Section discussed proposals to amend section “II. A. Minimum requirements”. As a result, the definition of the concept “sufficiently developed” was split in two parts, one to specify that kernels should fill at least 50 per cent of the shell cavity, while shrunken or shrivelled kernels were removed from this definition. A new category was created for “not desiccated” kernels, specifying that for those kernels with dried out or tough portions affecting more than 25 per cent of the surface should be excluded.

40. The delegations discussed in detail different proposals to amend section “III. Provisions concerning sizing”. The Section agreed that the sizing of inshell hazelnuts in Extra Class and Class I should be mandatory, but optional for Class II. This decision was taken to maintain the quality of the produce put on the market, but also not to put constraints on the flexibility of the market with regard to transactions in non-uniform inshell hazelnuts for further processing.

41. Based on the experience acquired during the trial period, the Section introduced some amendments to the minimum requirements in the table of tolerances, accepting the option “mouldy, rancid, damaged by pests rotting or deterioration” without breaking it down with a separate value for mouldy.

42. Delegates were invited to submit their comments on the section “IV. Provisions concerning tolerances”, line “(a) Total tolerances” by the end of July 2007 to allow for consultation with their industry and before reaching a consensus.

43. Other amendments were made to align the text with the revised Standard Layout.

44. The Specialized Section decided to propose to the Working Party the adoption of this text as a revised UNECE Standard for inshell hazelnuts.

## **V. PROPOSALS TO REVISE UNECE STANDARDS (AGENDA ITEM 5)**

### **A. Hazelnut Kernels (Agenda item 5a)**

Documentation: ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.2/2007/4  
Informal documentation: INF.2 and INF.3

45. The delegation of Turkey presented a revised version of the standard for hazelnut kernels (document INF.3), aligned to the new Standard Layout to facilitate the development of an explanatory brochure.

46. The Specialized Section asked the Working Group composed of France, Germany, Spain, Turkey (rapporteur) and the United States to finalize the text. The question of including “old crop” in footnotes to the table of tolerances in section “IV. Provisions concerning tolerances” needed to be clarified. The definition of produce and the section “IV. B. Size tolerances” will also be revisited at the next session.

47. The Specialized Section decided to keep the revised text as work in progress for one more year.

### **B. Inshell Walnuts (Agenda item 5b)**

Documentation: ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.2/2007/5  
Informal documentation: INF.9

48. The Working Group composed of France, Germany (Rapporteur), Italy and the United States of America reported on the amended text (document INF.9). The delegation of Germany presented this recommendation aligned to the new Standard Layout.

49. The Section decided to amend the text of the Standard, removing from section “I. Definition of produce” the definition that differentiates categories for “Fresh” and “Dry” Walnuts.

50. The development of the kernel was discussed in detail, section “II. A Minimum requirements” was amended to clearly specify that the kernel must be sufficiently developed, with at least 50 per cent of the kernel fully developed. A new category was introduced for desiccated kernels, defining that kernels with dried out or tough portions affecting more than 25 per cent of the surface must be excluded.

51. The table of tolerances was amended to increase figures in categories “Total Tolerances for minimum requirements” and “Not sufficiently developed or empty nuts” to reflect the agreement to remove from section “IV. A. Quality tolerances” the sentence “In the calculation of tolerances, whatever the class, two half-empty walnuts or four quarter-empty walnuts are counted as one empty walnut”.



52. The delegations discussed section “V. C. Presentation” and agreed to amend the text to make explicit that agents utilized to clean or treat the walnut shell should be authorized by the competent legislation, provided that they do not affect the kernel.
53. The delegations amended section “VI. D. Commercial specifications” to specify that category “Crop year” becomes optional for all classes. They also aligned the text of the standard with the revised Standard Layout.
54. The delegation of the United States of America presented a revised colour gauge for walnuts kernels for discussion. The Specialized Section was invited to send its comments to the rapporteur by the end of July 2007.
55. The Specialized Section decided to propose to the Working Party the adoption of this text as a revised UNECE Standard for inshell walnuts for a trial period of one year. The Section agreed to revise at the next session the table of tolerances only.

### **C. Dates, Whole (Agenda item 5c)**

Documentation: ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.2/2006/10/Add.2

56. At the request of the Permanent Mission of Tunisia, the item was withdrawn from the agenda.

## **VI. DRAFT NEW UNECE STANDARDS (AGENDA ITEM 6)**

### **A. Blanched Almonds Kernels (Agenda item 6a)**

Documentation: ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.2/2007/6

57. The Working Group (Spain (rapporteur) and United States) reported on the comments received from delegations and industry experts, and presented the text of the Standard aligned to the new Standard Layout.
58. Based on the experience acquired during the trial period, the Section introduced some amendments in the table of tolerances. The maximum tolerances for “Rancid or damaged by pests, rotting or deterioration” and “Gum, brown spot, blemishes and discoloration” increased their values.
59. The Section discussed different opinions regarding the inclusion of the category “pieces” in table of tolerances. The Section decided that the table of tolerances, and section “IV. B. Size tolerances” would be marked with brackets and revisited at the next session.
60. The text of the Standard was amended to align it with the revised Standard Layout. All delegations were invited to study the text for a further year, in cooperation with their industry, and to send comments to the rapporteur.

**B. Dried Peaches (Agenda item 6b)**

Documentation: ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.2/2007/7

61. The rapporteur of the Working Group (United States) presented the text of the Standard aligned to the new Standard Layout.
62. The Section decided to amend the text of the Standard, removing annex I. Additionally, section “VI. D. Commercial specifications” was amended to specify that category “moisture content” is mandatory for high moisture produce. The text of the Standard was aligned with the revised Standard Layout.
63. The Specialized Section decided to submit the proposal for the standard for dried peaches to the Working Party for approval as a recommendation for a new UNECE standard for a trial period of one year.

**C. Inshell Macadamia Nuts and Macadamia Kernels (Agenda item 6c)**

Documentation: ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.2/2007/8  
ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.2/2007/9

64. The rapporteur of the Working Group (United States) reported on the comments received from delegations and industry experts, and presented the text of the standards aligned to the new Standard Layout.
65. The rapporteur informed delegations that he had received comments on the standard for inshell macadamia nuts from Australia, Brazil, Indonesia, Kenya and New Zealand. He also reported that Australia, Brazil, Germany and Kenya had made comments on the standard for macadamia kernels.
66. The text of the standard for inshell macadamia nuts was amended to align it with the revised Standard Layout. The delegation of Poland removed its reservation on the maximal tolerance for mould. Additionally, the Section requested that the use of decimals in section “III. Provisions concerning sizing” be removed in order to facilitate the application of the standard.
67. The text of the standard for macadamia kernels was aligned with the revised Standard Layout. The delegations recommended that section “I. Definition of the produce” be revised because the produce is also distributed in pieces, which might produce some conflicts with the minimum requirements. The section “V. Provisions concerning presentation” was put in brackets and will be revisited at the next session.
68. The Section confirmed its aim to complete these standards in 2008 and then submit the final texts to the Working Party as new recommendations to put them on trial through 2009.

**D. Inshell Pecans and Pecan Kernels (Agenda item 6d)**

Documentation: ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.2/2007/10  
ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.2/2007/11

69. The rapporteur of the Working Group (United States of America) presented the text of both Standards aligned to the new Standard Layout. He reported that the traded volumes with inshell pecans and pecan kernels are relatively low and suggested that the Section suspend the work on these proposals. Consequently, the Section recommended changing priorities for these standards and suspending the work until a new request to restart activities is seconded or if trading volumes increase in the future.

**E. Inshell Peanuts and Peanut Kernels (Agenda item 6e)**

Documentation: ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.2/2007/12  
ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.2/2007/13

70. The rapporteur of the Working Group (United States of America) reported that existing Codex standards for inshell peanuts and peanut kernels were well established in the market and suggested that the Section suspend the work on these proposals. Consequently, the Section recommended changing priorities for these standards and suspending the work until a new request to restart activities is seconded in the future.

71. The delegation of Germany said that it would inform the European Nut Association and the sector about the latter decision. The views collected will be communicated to the Section at its 2008 session.

**VII. WORK BY THE OECD SCHEME ON SAMPLING PLAN (AGENDA ITEM 7)**

72. This item was not discussed. The participants requested the OECD Scheme to inform the Specialized Section on progress made on this issue at the next session of the Section.

**VIII. LIST OF AUTHORITIES (AGENDA ITEM 8)**

Documentation: Informal documentation: INF.4

73. The secretariat presented a draft updated list of authorities, which will be available on the UNECE website <[www.unece.org/trade/agr](http://www.unece.org/trade/agr)>.

**IX. APPLICATION OF UNECE STANDARDS (AGENDA ITEM 9)**

Documentation: Informal documentation: INF.6

74. Following a decision of the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards, the secretariat presented a draft questionnaire to collect information about national implementation

of UNECE standards. The questionnaire will be sent out to countries every two years to collect information on the practical use of the standards, regardless of whether they are mandatory or not.

#### **X. STRENGTHENING THE WORK OF THE SECTION (AGENDA ITEM 10)**

Documentation: ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/2006/19/Rev.1

75. The delegations took note of the results of the 2005 survey on the work of the Working Party and its specialized sections, as summarized in document ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/2006/19/Rev.1.

#### **XI. CAPACITY-BUILDING ACTIVITIES (AGENDA ITEM 11)**

76. The secretariat reported on the International Training Course organized by Slovakia, jointly with OECD and UNECE, which was held from 18 to 20 June 2007 in Mojmirovce. The programme included presentations on quality standards application, inspections services, interpretation of standards and a technical visit to growers.

#### **XII. OTHER BUSINESS (AGENDA ITEM 12)**

77. No comments were made under this agenda item.

#### **XIII. FUTURE WORK (AGENDA ITEM 13)**

Documentation: Informal documentation: INF.7

78. The delegation of Mexico presented a proposal for a new UNECE standard for dry chilli peppers (document INF.7). The Specialized Section decided to recommend to the Working Party to approve the initiation of work on the new standard.

79. The Specialized Section asked the Working Group composed of Hungary, Spain and Mexico (rapporteur) to align the text to the new Standard Layout and to present it as a draft proposal for a new UNECE standard at its next session. The Working Group was also requested to collect pictures of the produce to create an interpretative brochure in the future.

80. The Specialized Section proposed the following items for future work, as indicated in the draft provisional agenda for the 2008 session, contained in the annex to this report.

81. Additionally, other items listed below might be considered:

- (a) Evaluation of the implementation of UNECE standards;
- (b) Sharing information on national systems of application of agricultural quality standards;
- (c) Standards for inshell pecans and pecan kernels;
- (d) Standards for inshell peanuts and peanut kernels.

82. The next session of the Specialized Section has been tentatively scheduled to be held from 23 to 27 June 2008.

83. Further proposals for inclusion in the agenda should be submitted to the secretariat at least 12 weeks before the next session. The deadline for submitting documents is 28 March 2008.

#### **XIV. ELECTION OF OFFICERS (AGENDA ITEM 14)**

84. The Specialized Section elected Mr. Dorian LaFond (United States of America) as Chair and Mr. Sait Sözümert (Turkey) as Vice-chair.

#### **XV. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT (AGENDA ITEM 15)**

85. The Specialized Section adopted its report.

**Annex**

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FIFTY-FOURTH SESSION 2008**

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Matters of interest since the last session
  - (a) UNECE and subsidiary bodies
  - (b) Other organizations
3. Revision of the UNECE Standard Layout for Dry and Dried Produce (trial until November 2008)
4. Review of the UNECE recommendations
  - (a) Pistachio kernels and peeled pistachio kernels (trial until November 2008)
  - (b) Dried peaches (trial until November 2008)
5. Proposals to revise UNECE standards
  - (a) Hazelnuts kernels
  - (b) Inshell walnuts (trial until November 2008)
6. Draft new UNECE standards
  - (a) Blanched almonds kernels
  - (b) Inshell macadamia nuts and macadamia kernels
  - (c) Dry chilli peppers
7. Explanatory brochure for inshell walnuts and walnut kernels
8. Work by the OECD Scheme on sampling plan
9. List of authorities
10. Other business
11. Future work
12. Election of officers
13. Adoption of the report