

**Specialized Section on Standardization
of Dry and Dried Produce**

Fifty-seventh session

Geneva, 28 June - 2 July 2010

Item 3 of the provisional agenda

Revision of Standard Layout

UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION

Marking of the crop year on packages for dried fruit

Submitted by the delegation of France

The following document has been submitted by the delegation of France. It concerns the revision of the provision in the Standard Layout concerning the marking of the crop year.

1. France grows – in unequal quantities- three types of inshell fruit: walnuts, hazelnuts and almonds. The walnut production which is an ancient traditional production takes up 70% of the surface and the total quantity of cultivated inshell fruit.
 2. With the exception of walnuts, the French production of dried fruit does not satisfy French consumers' demand. Therefore, imports are necessary and have reached high levels. The three most imported products are: almond kernels, hazelnut kernels and pistachios.
 3. In UNECE standards, the marking of the crop year is mandatory only for inshell walnuts. It is optional for all other dried fruit.
 4. For the French authorities the crop year is particularly important for dried fruit and constitutes one of the essential quality criteria. Indeed, a lengthy storage and/or bad storage conditions can lead to the oxidation of lipids and a deterioration of the essential characteristics of dried fruit.
 5. The indication of this provision corresponds also to the need to inform the consumer as set out in Article 5.1.b) of Directive 2000-13 on the Approximation of the Laws of the Member States relating to the Labelling, Presentation and Advertising of Foodstuff (provision transposed into Article R. 112-14-1 of the French Consumer Code)
 6. This is why the French delegation is in favour of the obligation to mark the crop year on all dried fruit packages (**for Extra Class and Class I**) and would like to discuss the marking of the crop year at the June 2010 session of the Specialized Section on Dry and Dried Produce.
 7. The proposed marking could be **« crop year n »**.
 8. In addition, in certain cases, industry and trade (including exporters, importers or or the processing industry) mix produce from several harvests, mostly from two consecutive harvests. Indeed, given climatic fluctuations and the natural development of trees, harvests can vary significantly from one year to the next. Produce from a “good” harvest are then being sold over a period of two years.
 9. The proposed marking in these cases could be **« crop year n-1/n »** which would correspond to two crop years.
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