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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND
ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards

Specialized Section on Standardization of
Dry and Dried Produce (Fruit)
24-27 June 2003, Geneva

REPORT ON ITS FIFTIETH SESSION

Executive Summary:

The following standards were updated and will be recommended to the Working Party for adoption as revised/new UNECE Standards:

Almond Kernels (TRADE/WP.7/GE.2/2003/15/Add.1)
Prunes (amendments in TRADE/WP.7/GE.2/2003/15/Add.6)

The following texts will be recommended to the Working Party for adoption as UNECE Recommendations for a one-year trial period:

Inshell Almonds (TRADE/WP.7/GE.2/2003/15/Add.3)
Pistachio Kernels and Peeled Pistachio Kernels (TRADE/WP.7/GE.2/2003/15/Add.4)
Inshell Pistachios (TRADE/WP.7/GE.2/2003/15/Add.5)

Revision of the annexes to the standard layout

Annex I: Determination of the moisture content for Dried Fruit (TRADE/WP.7/GE.2/2003/15/Add.7) and Annex III: Terms recommended and definition of defects (TRADE/WP.7/GE.2/2003/15/Add.8) will be forwarded to the Working Party for adoption.

Executive Summary (cont'd):

Dictionary of defects: Work was completed and will be made available on the web site of the UNECE.

Sampling Plan: It was agreed to annex the draft prepared by the working group as amended to the report (TRADE/WP.7/GE.2/2003/15/Add.2) and to transmit it to the OECD Plenary Meeting together with the opinion of the Specialized Section that it is important to have harmonized inspection and sampling procedures for dry and dried fruit. All delegations were invited to transmit relevant comments either directly to the OECD Scheme or through the UNECE secretariat in the case of non-members.

UNECE General conditions of sale for dry (shelled and unshelled) and dried fruit: will be put on the UNECE web site to allow delegations to study them.

New work:

To review the UNECE Standard for Dates

To create new UNECE Standards for:

Dried Peaches, Inshell Peanuts and Peanut Kernels, Inshell Pecans and Pecan Kernels, Inshell Macademia Nuts and Macademia Kernels, Blanched Almonds, Dried Tomatoes, Dried Peppers (Greece, Spain) – with the possibility to include annexes on dried pepper powder

Opening of the session

1. The meeting was held in Geneva from 24 to 27 June 2003. It was chaired by Mr. Bruno Cauquil (France).
2. The session was opened by the Chief of the Trade Policy and Governmental Cooperation branch of the UNECE Trade Development and Timber Division, Ms. Virginia Cram-Martos, who welcomed delegations to Geneva.
3. She said that the Specialized Section was a unique group, the only one worldwide that had been working continuously on the commercial quality of dry and dried produce. She understood that the standards produced by the group were very technical and involved long discussions but congratulated the group on always having managed to find a consensus.
4. She hoped that it would be possible to conclude in the current year the revision of the Almond standards and the discussions on the standard layout, to make progress on the standards for pistachios and to finalize the colour sheet for walnut kernels.
5. The UNECE had been invited to contribute to a WHO Global Strategy for Diet, Physical Activity and Health, and she believed that the group could contribute to that strategy as dried fruit and nuts could be promoted as healthy snacks e.g. for children at school. She invited the group to hold a discussion on experiences with promoting consumption of dry and dried fruit as healthy food.
6. She also invited the group to reflect on how the enlargement of the EU would influence the work and how countries not entering the EU in the near future, but having the potential for developing their trade in dry and dried fruit could be assisted with implementation of standards so that they could also profit from the integration process in Europe.

Participation

7. The session was attended by the delegations of: Bulgaria; France; Germany; Greece; Hungary; Spain; Turkey; United Kingdom and the United States of America.
8. The European Community was also represented.
9. Representatives of the following non-governmental organizations also participated: International Nut Council, International Prune Association.
10. At the invitation of the secretariat, a representative of the following intergovernmental organization participated: The OECD Scheme for the Application of International Standards for Fruit and Vegetables.

Item 1: Adoption of the agenda
Document: TRADE/WP.7/GE.2/2003/1

11. The Meeting adopted the provisional agenda with the deletion of the following documents which had not been received: TRADE/WP.7/GE.2/2003/12 and 14.

12. The following document was added to the agenda:
- TRADE/WP.7/GE.2/2003/INF.3 (United Kingdom) – Sampling Plan

Item 2: Matters of interest arising since the last session

Document: TRADE/WP.7/GE.2/2003/2

UNECE

13. The meeting took note of document TRADE/WP.7/GE.2/2003/2 summing up the relevant outcome of the sixth session of the Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development and the fifty-eighth session of the Working Party on Standardization of Perishable Produce and Quality Development, which had been renamed the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards.

14. The delegation of Spain clarified that the Working Party had adopted the proposal to automatically include the annexes to the standard layout in all relevant standards. They said that it would be more practical to make this inclusion on the basis of a reference and not by including the text itself.

15. The Specialized Section agreed to this proposal.

European Community

16. The delegation of the European Community informed delegations that the marketing standard for inshell hazelnuts had now been in force for nine months. They also reported that some refinements had been made to the standards for inshell walnuts. As these modifications related more to the interpretation of the standards they did not intend, at present, to propose them to UNECE.

17. They said that of the three dry fruit products which the European Council had decided to standardize, now only inshell almonds were missing, awaiting the adoption of the revised standard by UNECE.

18. They also reported that there were currently nine non-EU countries for which the possibility for accreditation of quality controls in accordance with regulation 1148/2001 had been implemented: Cyprus; Czech Republic; Hungary; India; Israel; Morocco; Slovakia; South Africa and Switzerland.

OECD Scheme

19. The delegation of the OECD reported on the activities of the OECD Scheme.

20. Draft interpretative brochures for inshell hazelnuts and hazelnut kernels had been developed by the rapporteur (Turkey) and were being discussed in the electronic discussion group for the scheme.

21. The plenary meeting decided at its last session to revise the guide for the quality control of exported fruit and vegetables to include, in particular, sampling methods for the quality control of nuts.

22. The 11th session of the heads of inspection services meeting took place from 3 to 5 September 2002 in the Netherlands, at the invitation of the Dutch authorities. The agenda contained items concerning traceability, new non-destructive methods to determine the maturity of fruit and the joint organization of different types of control that fresh fruit and vegetables have to undergo.

23. The 61st session of the plenary meeting will take place from 20 to 24 October in Paris.

Cooperation with the OECD Scheme

24. The secretariat recalled that cooperation with the OECD Scheme functioned very well. At the moment, the OECD Scheme adopts UNECE Standards and creates explanatory brochures based on the standards, which are essential for the harmonized application of the standards. The questions and comments received by the secretariat from users of the standards (e.g. Russia, Ukraine) show that the availability of an official international interpretation of the standards is considered as very important.

25. UNECE has, in the past, adopted OECD texts (e.g. exchange of information on non-conformity cases). The secretariat proposed to hold a first discussion in the Specialized Section as to whether OECD brochures could be adopted as official interpretations of UNECE Standards, to create a Russian version and promote the brochures in cooperation with OECD through its network.

26. Several delegations thought this a useful idea, which could lead to further international harmonization of inspection. Some delegations said that the process of adopting brochures at the UNECE should not give rise to any delays in the work of the OECD Scheme.

27. The secretariat clarified that it had been the intention only to discuss completed OECD brochures for adoption in UNECE and then either to adopt them or not and in the case of not adopting them to transmit the reasons for this to the OECD Plenary meeting.

28. The Specialized Section agreed to propose to the Working Party to discuss this issue further.

Item 3: Proposals to revise UNECE Standards

(a) Almond Kernels

TRADE/WP.7/GE.2/2003/3 (Spain)

29. The rapporteur (Spain) introduced the document and the main open points or changes for discussion:

- blanched kernels (to include or not in the standard),
- need to specify the adjective “sweet”,
- sizing (changes in wording, most of them already agreed at the last session),
- sizing marking (for sizing by count per ounce or 100 g, no obligation to transfer this sizing to mm).

30. The positions on this issue had not changed since the last session. Some delegations felt that blanched almonds should be included in the standard because the provisions needed for them vary only slightly little from those for other almond kernels. Others felt that blanched almonds were a different product undergoing some processing and should not be included.

31. As a compromise it was decided to create a separate UNECE Standard for Blanched Almond Kernels. Spain will present a proposal at the next session.

32. Consequently, all provisions for blanched almonds were deleted from the draft text for almond kernels.

33. It was agreed to maintain the word “sweet” only in the paragraph concerning the definition of produce.
34. The proposed changes for sizing were agreed with some minor corrections in the wording.
35. It was agreed to include footnote 11 concerning marking of produce sized by count in the relevant paragraphs of the text.
36. The term for packages destined for direct sale to the final consumer should be used in a harmonized way throughout UNECE Standards, possibly through inclusion in the standard layout. It was decided that the Working Party should discuss this issue further.
37. The Specialized Section agreed the text and recommended to the Working Party to adopt it as a revised UNECE Standard for Almond Kernels (presently called Decorticated Almonds). The text is contained in addendum 1 to this report.
38. The rapporteur thanked the delegations of Germany, the United States and the United Kingdom for their contribution to the revision of this standard.

(b) Inshell Almonds

TRADE/WP.7/GE.2/2003/4 (Spain)

39. The rapporteur (Spain) introduced the document and the main open points or changes for discussion:
- definition of types (soft, semi-soft, hard),
 - sizing (inclusion of minimum size, around 18 mm of diameter, yes or no?),
 - sizing marking (for sizing by count per ounce or 100 g, no obligation to transfer this sizing to mm),
 - tolerances (by count or by weight?),
 - tolerances (confirmation of values puts into square brackets).
40. Some delegations felt that the types (soft, semi-soft, hard) were not widely enough used in trade to merit inclusion in the standard. They also felt that “hard” almonds were not traded with the intention of being sold for direct consumption but were only used for decoration and should thus be excluded.
41. Other delegations felt that the types were used in practice (though under different names as “paper type” “mollares”, “fitas”). They also felt that it was necessary to have provisions for hard almonds in the standards because they were traded under the same customs code as other almonds and only inclusion in the standard would allow inspection services to deal with them appropriately.
42. It was decided to rename the types to groups as the term types was used in different contexts. It was also decided to include only two groups:
- *soft/semi-soft almonds*: Inshell almonds, which can be easily cracked with the fingers or with a nutcracker.
 - *hard almonds*: Inshell almonds, which can be cracked only with a hammer or similar devices.
43. It was also decided to demand the marking of the group only in the case of hard almonds.
44. It was decided to make sizing optional for all three classes because this reflects current trade practice.
45. It was also decided not to include a minimum size as the size was not a reliable indicator for the quality of

the kernel and also to be in line with the decision to make sizing optional.

46. It was decided that the quality tolerances will be stated by count with the exception of loose shells and shell fragments and dust and foreign matter, which will be stated by weight. This difference will be indicated in a heading in the table instead of a footnote.

47. The tolerances for gum and brown spot were included in the table with the tolerances 3, 7 and 10. The figure 8 for the total tolerances was agreed. The text on tolerances for hard almonds was amended to reflect the fact that the group has to be marked only in case of hard kernels.

48. The delegation of the United Kingdom said that the new layout of the table was much clearer and should also be used for other standards.

49. The Specialized Section agreed the text and recommended to the Working Party to adopt it as a UNECE Recommendation for Inshell Almonds for a one-year trial period (which means the text will be discussed again in the next Specialized Section session). The text is contained in addendum 3 to this report.

(c) Pistachio Kernels and Peeled Pistachio Kernels

TRADE/WP.7/GE.2/2003/5 (Turkey)

50. The rapporteur (Turkey) presented the new proposal. They said that the standard had a great potential for facilitating trade in this commodity. A number of changes were made to the text:

51. Definition of produce: A definition for peeled kernels was included.

52. Quality classification: For pistachio kernels it was clarified that in Class Extra and Class I they only have to be according to the colour type if this has been specified. For peeled pistachio kernels, the tolerances were moved from this section to the table of quality tolerances.

53. The colour classification was moved from Provisions Concerning Quality to Definition of Produce because this was felt to be more appropriate. The text for mixed colour was amended to be clearer.

54. The table of quality tolerances was changed extensively: the tolerances for halved and broken were taken out of the total tolerances and moved to the end of the table. They have now their own total tolerances with an indication of how many broken kernels are allowed as a maximum. The tolerances for colour were added as a footnote to the peeled pistachio kernels.

55. Uniformity: Following a proposal from the United Kingdom, crop year was added after origin. Some delegations felt that this should not be included because it would be impossible to control. It was clarified that this applied also to origin and that it was also the task of the standard to reflect good marketing practice.

56. Presentation: "or solid containers" were added after "bags".

57. Commercial specifications: Type was deleted as this was already contained under "Nature of Produce". The words "(optional for pistachio kernels)" were added after colour type. The wording for crop year was aligned with other standards, i.e. the text of footnote 9 was included in the text directly after "Crop year (optional)".

58. The delegation of the United Kingdom stated that crop year was important trade information and should therefore be mandatory.

59. The delegation of Greece said that 4 per cent of shrivelled fruit by weight in Extra Class was too much because these kernels were very light. This meant that there could be many shrivelled kernels, which was not acceptable in Extra Class. It was agreed to lower the tolerance to 3 per cent.

60. It was agreed that the secretariat will write to the Netherlands, Poland and Switzerland who have reservations at different points of the standard. If no reply is received before the next session of the Working Party, the reservations will be considered as withdrawn.

61. The Specialized Section agreed the text and recommended to the Working Party to adopt it as a UNECE Recommendation for Pistachio Kernels and Peeled Pistachio Kernels for a one-year trial period (which means the text will be discussed again in the next Specialized Section session). The text will be contained in addendum 4 to this report.

62. The Chairman thanked Turkey and the United States for their efficient cooperation in updating this standard.

(d) Inshell Pistachio Nuts
TRADE/WP.7/GE.2/2003/6 (Turkey)
TRADE/WP.7/GE.2/2003/7 (Spain)

63. The rapporteur (Turkey) prepared a new proposal. Further comments are available from Spain. The main open points for discussion were on tolerances.

64. Sizing: The sizing scales were adjusted in order to find a compromise between the sizing used in the Islamic Republic of Iran, Turkey and the United States.

65. Quality tolerances: The table was amended extensively following mainly the proposal from Spain in 2003/7 with further adjustments for the figures. Tolerances for “mechanically opened” pistachios were included.

66. Mineral impurities: This section was renamed “Mineral impurities of the kernel”.

67. Size tolerances: This section was deleted following a proposal from Spain because sizing is only done by count and not by diameter.

68. Uniformity: Crop year was included.

69. Presentation: Solid containers were added and the text of footnote 4 was included in the text of the standard.

70. Nature of the produce: The option to mark “mechanically opened” if appropriate was included.

71. Commercial specifications: The text of footnote 7 was included after “Crop year (optional)”.

72. The delegation of Greece said that either “best before” or “crop year” should be mandatory because standards should protect the consumer.

73. The delegation of the United States said that “best before” should be deleted as there was no way of establishing such a date.

74. The delegation of Germany said that in their country marking the “best before” date was mandatory on consumer packages for some produce only.

75. The delegation of Spain said that Inshell Pistachios do not usually go to the final consumer before roasting.

76. As there was no consensus on this issue, the text remained unchanged and the delegation of Greece agreed to have their opinion noted in the report that either crop year or best before should be mandatory.

77. It was agreed to include definitions for “adhering hull”, “immature kernels”, “blemishes” and “commercial type” in the annex. It was also agreed to delete the reference on the development of the kernel from the definition of unsplit shells.

78. The Specialized Section agreed on the text and recommended to the Working Party to adopt it as a UNECE Recommendation for Inshell Pistachio Kernels for a one-year trial period (which means the text will be discussed again in the next Specialized Section session). The text will be contained in addendum 5 to this report.

(e) Prunes

TRADE/WP.7/GE.2/2003/8 (Secretariat)

TRADE/WP.7/GE.2/2003/9 (France)

79. Following the discussions at the last session the secretariat reproduced in TRADE/WP.7/GE.2/2003/8 the text of the standard in force, including some corrections from 1993, which had been mentioned in document AGRI/WP.1/GE.2/R.85) but not yet included in the text.

80. The proposal from France was presented by a representative of the International Prune Association, which regroups all producer and marketing organisations of all major producing countries (Australia, Chile, France, Italy, United States, South Africa (and Argentina with a special status)). They said that at a recent meeting there had been consensus within the organization on the proposals presented.

81. Sizing: The proposal to relate the sizing to the moisture content was already contained in the corrections included by the secretariat in TRADE/WP.7/GE.2/2003/8. The text was maintained as it stands.

82. Pressure pitted prunes are not usually sold to the final consumer and were thus excepted from the sizing provisions. The proposal to require sizing in case of sale of these prunes in small packages to the consumer was agreed.

83. The delegation of France proposed two changes to the text on the preparation of the sample for the determination of moisture content:

84. Not to require that prunes are crushed three times because today food grinders are available that can do so in one go and crushing three times would lead to heating of the pulp and loss of moisture. This proposal was agreed.

85. They also proposed to allow crushing of the prunes either with or without pits depending on the product to be tested as this was common practice in the industry.

86. There was no consensus on this proposal. Some delegations said that special grinders were required to crush prunes with the pits, which might not be available in some places. They also felt that it would be difficult to achieve a uniform mixture of the pulp if it was ground with the pit.

87. It was decided that delegations will consult with their industry and laboratories on this question and to return to it at the next session.

88. The delegation of France proposed to make the electric conductivity method the reference method as this method was used almost exclusively in the industry because it was quick and reliable.

89. They said that while the oven-drying method was probably the more scientific method, the results could vary if not applied absolutely correctly.

90. There was no consensus on this issue. Other delegations did not question the merits of the electric conductivity method but felt that a scientific reference method was needed to calibrate the other methods and to serve as the reference in case of a dispute.

91. It was felt that there was no urgency in this matter as both methods were contained in the standard. It was decided not to change the text for the time being and to return to this question after finishing the revision of annex I to the standard layout.

92. The amendments agreed are contained in addendum 6 to this report and will be proposed to the Working Party for adoption for inclusion in a revised UNECE Standard for Prunes.

Item 4: Revision of the standard layout for Dry and Dried Produce

(a) Annex I: Determination of the moisture content for Dried Fruit
TRADE/WP.7/GE.2/2003/10 (Spain)

93. The rapporteur (Spain) presented a new version of this annex and thanked the delegations of France, Germany, the United Kingdom, the United States and INC for their comments.

94. It was decided to weigh the test portion to the nearest 0.001 g and to delete the word "hot" in the paragraph about moistening of the test portion. Additionally some corrections were made to the formula.

95. The delegation of Greece asked if it was necessary to express the uncertainty of measurement together with the results.

96. It was suggested to examine if, as in the annex for dry fruit, reference to the relevant ISO standard (ISO 665-2000) could be made, but after some discussion it was decided to leave the text unchanged.

97. It was agreed to transmit the text (as contained in addendum 7 to this report) to the Working Party for adoption. The Specialized Section will examine at its next session how the new text shall be connected with the standards, and which standards might need specific additional provisions.

(b) Annex III: Terms recommended and definition of defects
TRADE/WP.7/GE.2/2003/11 (Spain)

98. The rapporteur (Spain) included the comments made at the last session in document

TRADE/WP.7/GE.2/2003/11. The document was reviewed and some corrections were made. A definition for “hull” was included in the recommended terms.

99. It was agreed to transmit the text (as contained in addendum 8 to this report) to the Working Party for adoption.

100. The Specialized Section thanked Spain for the excellent work as rapporteur for the annexes to the standard layout.

(c) Standard layout (comments from the secretariat)

101. The secretariat invited the delegations to reflect on two possible changes to the standard layout: At the moment the Geneva Protocol and the Standard Layout mention the export control stage as point of application. The secretariat proposed to delete this requirement from the standard layout to allow for more flexibility for the application.

102. Delegations felt that some reference to the point of application of the standard was necessary and that the Working Party should further discuss this issue.

103. The secretariat also proposed to delete the following phrase from the title: “moving in international trade between and to UNECE member countries” because countries should be able to decide that they want to use the standard for national trade. Non-member States of UNECE should also have the right to apply the standards in any way they wish.

104. The Specialized Section agreed this proposal and recommends to the Working Party to delete the phrase (if this is also done in the standard layout for fresh fruit and vegetables). The Specialized Section also asked the Working Party to harmonize the term used for consumer or sales packages.

Item 5: Dictionary of Defects
TRADE/WP.7/GE.2/2003/13 (Italy)

105. The delegation of Italy completed the dictionary by adding the terms in Turkish. The Russian terms were to be added by the translation services of the United Nations.

106. The Specialized Section agreed to the document in principle (delegations were invited to send any corrections to the secretariat until 30 September 2003). The delegation of Spain will check the document for consistency with the definitions in annex III of the standard layout.

107. After the final corrections the document will be made available on the web site with a disclaimer stating that the contents of the dictionary are for information only and do not represent a legal text.

108. The Specialized Section thanked the rapporteur (Italy) for their work.

Item 6: Elaboration of a sampling plan
TRADE/WP.7/GE.2/2003/INF.3 (United Kingdom)

109. The topic had been on the agenda since 1999 but not been discussed in detail due to a lack of time and the fact that no document was available. Before the session a working group met to create a draft proposal for a minimum sampling and inspection procedure for dry and dried fruit. The group used the text adopted by the European Community as a base.

110. In the discussion a number of amendments were made to the document.

111. The delegation of Turkey felt that it was important to have a document on sampling and inspection. They said that different produce required different ways of applying sampling and inspection methods and that provisions for this should be included in each standard. They reported that in Turkey a system on conformity checking has been successfully used since 1923. They stated that they would like to make proposals based on that system for the further development of the sampling plan.

112. A number of delegations, while agreeing that specific provisions for sampling of dry and dried fruit were needed, felt that work on this issue was more appropriately done by the OECD Scheme because the Scheme is presently reviewing their inspection guide. To discuss the sampling procedures in that forum would be in line with the division of labour between the two organizations and avoid the danger of any duplication of work.

113. It was agreed to annex the draft prepared by the working group as amended to the report (addendum 2) and to transmit it to the OECD Plenary Meeting together with the opinion of the Specialized Section that it is important to have harmonized inspection and sampling procedures for dry and dried fruit. All delegations were invited to transmit relevant comments either directly to the OECD Scheme or through the UNECE secretariat in case of non-members.

Item 7: UNECE General conditions of sale for dry (shelled and unshelled) and dried fruit
ECE/AGRI/41 (Secretariat)

114. The secretariat raised the question of whether or not this document (from 1979) was useful or if it should be deleted from the list of publications.

115. The delegation of Spain will assist the secretariat in scanning the document and putting it on the Internet to allow delegations to study it in order to form an opinion. The issue will be discussed at the next session.

Item 8: UNECE Quality Standards and Organic Produce

116. The secretariat raised the question as to whether the standards set by the Specialized Section had resulted in problems for organic produce to enter at least into Class II.

117. No delegation had any such problems to report. The delegation of Spain said that a problem of organic produce was rather how to keep the good quality after packing. The delegation of Germany said that the only class organic produce had problems with was Extra Class but this was not considered as important as the added value for this produce came from the way of production and not from being in a high quality class.

118. The delegation of Turkey said that the method of production for organic produce was completely different than for other produce and felt that there should be separate quality standards for this produce with higher tolerances and different sizes.

119. The other delegations agreed on the one hand that there were different production standards for organic produce. On the other hand they said that quality standards dealt with the finished product, which should fulfil the minimum requirements set by UNECE standards regardless of production method.

Item 10: Publications

120. The Specialized Section felt that it was not necessary to publish the standards on paper as such a publication would quickly be outdated.

Item 11: Application of UNECE Standards

121. The secretariat reminded delegations to consult the document on acceptances and to make any corrections to it if necessary. The document is available at: <http://www.unece.org/trade/agi/info/accept.htm>

Item 12: Workshops, seminars, training courses and other activities concerning capacity building for the application of quality standards

122. The secretariat informed delegations of presentations given in South Africa and Russia. Concerning the question raised by the Chief of Section at the beginning of the session, the delegation of Spain said that there were assistance programmes in place in the European Commission both for assistance to candidate countries and also for those countries who would not enter the European Community in the near future.

Item 13: Other business

123. No discussions were held under this item.

Item 14: Future work and meetings

(a) Date and place of the next session

124. The next session of the Specialized Section has been tentatively scheduled to take place from 14 to 18 June 2004 in Geneva (deadline for documents: 5 April 2004). Working groups will have the opportunity to meet on 13 June 2004.

(b) Future work

125. A draft agenda for the next meeting including the tasks to be accomplished will be annexed to the report of the Specialized Section.

(c) Preparation of the next session of the Working Party

126. The secretariat will transmit the following recommendations to the Working Party:

- To harmonize the term used for packages destined for direct sale to the final consumer
- To adopt a revised UNECE Standard for Almond Kernels
- To adopt amendments to the UNECE Standard for Prunes
- To adopt UNECE Recommendations for Inshell Almonds, Inshell Pistachio Nuts and Pistachio Kernels and Peeled Pistachio Kernels for a one-year trial period.

- Discuss UNECE General conditions of sale for dry (shelled and unshelled and dried fruit) ECE/AGRI/41
- Review the work on the sampling plan done by the OECD Scheme
- To review UNECE Standard for Dates (France (rapporteur), Germany, United States)
- To create a new UNECE Standard for
 - Dried Peaches (Germany, Spain (rapporteur), United States)
 - Inshell Peanuts and Peanut Kernels (Germany, United States (rapporteur))
 - Inshell Pecans and Pecan Kernels (United States)
 - Inshell Macademia Nuts and Macademia Kernels (Australia (to be contacted), United States)
 - Blanched Almonds (Spain)
 - Dried Tomatoes (United States, Spain)
 - Dried Peppers (Greece, Spain) – with the possibility to include annexes on dried pepper powder
- To amend the procedure to develop a UNECE Standard and to allow Specialized Sections to take the decision on new work and revising existing texts.

Item 15: Election of officers

127. The Specialized Section elected Mr. B. Cauquil (France) as Chairman and Mr. P. Marzabal (Spain) as its Vice-Chairman.

Item 16: Adoption of the report

128. The Specialized Section adopted the report of its fiftieth session on the basis of a draft prepared by the secretariat.

Addenda to this report published separately:

TRADE/WP.7/GE.2/2003/15/Add.1	Revised UNECE Standard for Almond Kernels
TRADE/WP.7/GE.2/2003/15/Add.2	Draft Sampling and Inspection Procedure
TRADE/WP.7/GE.2/2003/15/Add.3	UNECE Recommendation for Inshell Almonds
TRADE/WP.7/GE.2/2003/15/Add.4	UNECE Recommendation for Pistachio Kernels and Peeled Pistachio Kernels
TRADE/WP.7/GE.2/2003/15/Add.5	UNECE Recommendation for Inshell Pistachio Nuts
TRADE/WP.7/GE.2/2003/15/Add.6	Amendments to the UNECE Standard for Prunes
TRADE/WP.7/GE.2/2003/15/Add.7	Revised Annex I to the standard layout
TRADE/WP.7/GE.2/2003/15/Add.8	Revised Annex III to the standard layout

Annex

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FIFTY-FIRST SESSION

to be held in the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
commencing at 10.00 hrs on Tuesday, 14 June 2004*

Note by the secretariat: Document numbers in square brackets refer to documents expected but not received by the time of the preparation of the agenda. They might be available late or at the meeting as room documents. As soon as they are received they will also be available on the home page of the agricultural standards unit.

* The informal Working Groups have the possibility to meet on Monday 13 June 2004. The secretariat will send out further information closer to the meeting.

1	Adoption of the agenda	TRADE/WP.7/GE.2/2004/1
2	Matters of interest arising since the last session	TRADE/WP.7/GE.2/2004/2
3	Revision of the UNECE Standard for Dates	TRADE/WP.7/GE.2/2004/3 (France)
4	Review of UNECE Recommendations	
	(a) Inshell Almonds	TRADE/WP.7/GE.2/2004/4
	(b) Pistachio Kernels and Peeled Pistachio Kernels	TRADE/WP.7/GE.2/2004/5
	(c) Inshell Pistachios	TRADE/WP.7/GE.2/2004/6
5	Draft new UNECE Standards	
	(a) Blanched Almonds	TRADE/WP.7/GE.2/2004/7 (Spain)
	(b) Inshell Macademia Nuts and Macademia Kernels,	TRADE/WP.7/GE.2/2004/8 (United States)
	(c) Inshell Peanuts and Peanut Kernels	TRADE/WP.7/GE.2/2004/9 (United States)
	(d) Inshell Pecans and Pecan Kernels	TRADE/WP.7/GE.2/2004/10 (United States)
	(e) Dried Peaches	TRADE/WP.7/GE.2/2004/11 (Spain)
	(f) Dried Peppers	TRADE/WP.7/GE.2/2004/12 (Greece, Spain)
	(g) Dried Tomatoes	TRADE/WP.7/GE.2/2004/13 (United States, Spain)
6	Elaboration of a sampling plan – review of the work done by the OECD Scheme	
7	UNECE General conditions of sale for dry (shelled and unshelled) and dried fruit)	ECE/AGRI/41 (Secretariat)
9	Cooperation with the OECD Scheme	
10	Application of UNECE Standards	
11	Capacity building for the application of quality standards	
12	Other business	

13	Future work and meetings	
	(a)	Date and place of the next session
	(b)	Future work
	(c)	Preparation of the next session of the Working Party
14	Election of officers	
15	Adoption of the report	