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COMMITTEE ON TRADE

Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards

Specialized Section on Standardization of Seed Potatoes

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Item 5 of the provisional agenda

INTERNAL DEFECTS

Submitted by the delegation of the United States^(*)

This note proposes how to address internal defects in the Standard. All the suggested changes are underlined in the text.

This document is being issued pursuant to paragraph 5 of the Working Party's Terms of Reference.

^(*) The present document has been submitted after the official documentation deadline by the Trade and Timber Division due to resource constraints.

Annex III. Minimum quality conditions for lots of seed potatoes**A. Tolerances for defects and disorders allowed for seed potato tubers**

1. Presence of earth and extraneous matter

- Pre-basic TC 1 per cent by weight
- Pre-basic 1 per cent by weight
- Basic and Certified 2 per cent by weight

2. Dry and wet rot, where not caused by pests listed under section B below

- Pre-basic TC 0 per cent by weight
- Pre-basic 0.2 per cent by weight
- Basic and Certified 1 per cent by weight

3. External defects (e.g. misshapen or damaged tubers, and tubers with holes caused by insects or roots, when holes are either one of 1 mm or greater, or two or more of any size)

- Pre-basic TC 3 per cent by weight
- Pre-basic 3 per cent by weight
- Basic and Certified 3 per cent by weight

4. Scab caused by *Streptomyces* spp (common and netted): Tubers affected over a specified per cent of their surface (see annex VIII)

- Pre-basic TC (0% surface cover) 0 per cent by weight
- All other categories (>33.3% surface cover) 5 per cent by weight

5. Powdery scab: Tubers affected over a specified per cent of their surface

- Pre-basic TC (0% surface cover) 0 per cent by weight
- Pre-basic (> 10% surface cover) 1 per cent by weight
- Basic and Certified (> 10% surface cover) 3 per cent by weight

6. Rhizoctonia: Tubers affected over a specified per cent of their surface

- Pre-basic TC (0% surface cover) 0 per cent by weight
- Pre-basic (> 1% surface cover) 1 per cent by weight
- Basic and Certified (> 10% surface cover) 5 per cent by weight

7. Shrivelled tubers: Tubers which have become excessively dehydrated and wrinkled

- Pre-basic TC 0 per cent by weight
- Pre-basic 0.5 per cent by weight
- Basic and Certified 1 per cent by weight

Total tolerance for items 2 to 7:

- Pre-basic TC 3 per cent by weight
- Pre-basic 5 per cent by weight
- Basic and Certified 6 per cent by weight

8. Internal defects and disorders

"Internal defects" are defects which cannot be detected without cutting the potato.

Internal defects and disorders addressed by this standard include damage to tubers caused by:

- wireworms, cutworms, slugs, vermin or tuber moth;
- internal discoloration occurring interior to the vascular ring (e.g. internal brown spot, black heart, mahogany browning, rust spot and heat necrosis. Net necrosis, other necroses, symptoms of potato mop-top virus (PMTV) or tobacco rattle virus (TRV), when more than the equivalent of three scattered spots are 20 per cent of the cut surface 3 mm or greater in diameter;
- internal discoloration confined to the vascular ring, when removal of the affected tissue causes a loss of more than 10 per cent of the total weight of the potato;
- physiological defects, e.g. glassiness, when over 25 per cent of the cut surface of the tuber is affected;
- bruises, e.g. black or blue, when removal causes a loss of more than 5 per cent of total weight of potato, or when the affected tissue is more than 5 mm deep.

Tubers must be free from low temperature injury.

Total tolerances for item 8:

- Pre-basic TC 3 per cent by weight
- Pre-basic 5 per cent by weight
- Basic and Certified 6 per cent by weight

There is a zero tolerance for the presence of live pests (e.g. tuber moth).

B. The seed potatoes shall be free from *Globodera rostochiensis* (Woll) and *Globodera pallida* (Stone), *Synchytrium endobioticum* (Schilb.) Perc., *Clavibacter michiganensis* Spp. *sepedonicus* (Spieck. and Kotth.) Skapt. and Burkh., *Ralstonia solanacearum* (E.F. Smith) E.F. Smith, Potato spindle tuber viroid, Tomato Stolbur and *Meloidogyne chitwoodi* and *fallax* and *Ditylenchus destructor*.
