

ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.6/2008/INF.3

Specialized Section on Standardization of Seed Potatoes

Thirty-Eighth Session

Geneva, 17 – 19 March 2008

Item 14 of the provisional agenda

Tables of tolerances in the UNECE Standard and in the RUCIP rules

**Summary of the Minutes of the technical commission “Seed Potatoes”, Europatat
8 June 2007, Bratislava**

4. Request of UNECE to adapt the quality standards of the RUCIP to the recent UNECE standard (page 25-26 in the meeting dossier, English version)

During UNECE meeting of the standardization of seed potatoes the meeting raised the question to bring the tolerances as mentioned in RUCIP in line with the tolerances of the UNECE standard. A comparison of the two standards and the tolerances of the marketing directive 2002/56 is available on page 25 and 26 of the meeting dossier (see annex).

The scan resulted in three differences: Powdery scab, Rhizoctonia and shriveled tubers / silver scurf.

The general conclusion of the participants is that differences are minor, therefore at the moment they feel no need to adapt the tolerances of UNECE.

The participants consider it very difficult to adapt a tolerance for powdery scab. This can only be done by laboratory research. Visual detection on the lot is very difficult. Besides the tolerance mentioned in RUCIP in Europe all national certification bodies have their own tolerances which in general are more severe as RUCIP or UNECE (e.g. SOC quality or NAK quality). This is often additionally mentioned in the contract between buyer and seller or buyer and sellers have their own private tolerances.

The participants are questioning whether the mentioned percentages for scab can be used for daily practice? They suggest making use of existing scab scales. This gives a more objective and practical approach. The meeting decides to ask the Europatat board to bring this suggestion into the discussion of the RUCIP committee.

Referring to the question of UNECE the meeting advises the Europatat board to reply to the UNECE that the RUCIP committee has on a regular basis evaluation of the RUCIP trade conditions and that they will take the suggestion of the UNECE into account in the next evaluation.

Annex**Comparison of the UNECE tolerances and RUCIP tolerances for seed potatoes**

The Specialized Section invited Europatat to explore the possibility of harmonizing the table of tolerances in the RUCIP rules for seed potatoes with the tolerances in the UNECE Standard. The representative of Europatat explained that this will be discussed at the Europatat congress to be held in Bratislava in June 2007, and the results will be reported back to the Specialized Section.

A. Tolerances for defects and disease 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 (RUCIP 2%)
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 (RUCIP 1%)
3. External defects (e.g. misshapen or damaged tubers)
 - Pre-basic TC: 3 per cent by weight
 - Pre-basic: 3 per cent by weight
 - Basic and Certified: 3 per cent by weight (RUCIP 3%)
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 (RUCIP 5%)
5. Powdery scab¹: 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 (In RUCIP not mentioned)
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 (RUCIP 33%*)

*provision: potatoes have been treated for this disease on dispatch
7. Shrivelled tubers: Tubers which have become excessively dehydrated and wrinkled.

¹ Reservations: Romania needs further consultations with the trade on tolerances for basic and certified.

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

(RUCIP Silver scurf 5% of the tubers affected. Only tubers which have lost some of their turgidity and with at least one eye affected are considered to be affected.)

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 (RUCIP 6%)

- 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 Koth.) 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*. (RUCIP annex 5)

Conclusion: Differences concern only:

- Powdery scab
- Rhizoctonia
- Shrivelled tubers / Silver scurf