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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND  
ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

Working Party on Standardization of  
Perishable Produce and Quality Development  
Fifty-fourth session, 9-11 November 1998, Geneva

Item 10 of the provisional agenda

PROGRAMME OF WORK

Note by the secretariat

This document presents an updated programme of work. Further amendments will be introduced after the current session to reflect decisions of the Working Party relating to its activities.

## Annex I

### PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 1999 - 2003

#### PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 04: TRADE FACILITATION AND AGRICULTURAL STANDARDS

##### 04 (B) STANDARDIZATION OF PERISHABLE PRODUCE AND QUALITY DEVELOPMENT

##### 04 (B).1 Activities of the Working Party on Standardization of Perishable Produce and Quality Development

Description: The Working Party prepares and revises standards, recommendations and interpretative brochures for the marketing and control of commercial quality of selected perishable produce moving in international trade between and to UN/ECE member countries.

Workshops are organized:

- (1) in the form of informal meetings of rapporteurs for particular standards under elaboration or revision (seed potatoes, meat);
- (2) on harmonization of standards and control procedures in countries in transition.

Work accomplished: Several standards for fresh fruit and vegetables and the Standard layout for fresh fruit and vegetables were revised. A new standard for dried apples was adopted. Recommendations on inshell hazelnuts and hazelnut kernels were adopted for a two year trial period. The revision of the Standards for early and ware potatoes continued. The Standard for porcine carcasses and cuts was published. The work on the preparation of a draft standard for beef continued. The work on the revision of the Standard for Seed Potatoes continued.

Work to be undertaken:

- (a) Elaboration of new standards for dry and dried produce, fresh fruit and vegetables and meat.

Duration: Continuing

- (b) Revision of selected standards and recommendations: publication of revised standards for fresh fruit and vegetables, dry and dried fruit and early and ware potatoes on the World Wide Web. Review of the standard for seed potatoes. Preparation of a draft standard for beef carcasses and cuts.

Duration: It is expected that all standards will have been published on the World Wide Web by Spring 1999. The revision and updating of standards is continuing.

- (c) Workshops on harmonization of standards and control procedures for perishable produce in countries in economic transition

Duration: It is expected that a workshop for countries in transition will be organized for autumn 1999.

- (d) Interpretation of the provisions concerning quality tolerances in the standards for fresh fruit and vegetables

Duration: Continuing

- (e) Investigation of quality assurance systems for perishable produce

Duration: Continuing

- (f) Creation and updating of a homepage on the World Wide Web containing up to date information on the work of the Working Party.

Duration: It is expected that a first version of this system will be accessible on the World Wide Web at the beginning of 1999. This system will then be continually enlarged and updated.

#### **04(B).2 Activities of the specialized sections of the Working Party**

##### **04(B).2.1 Specialized Section on the Coordination of Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables**

###### Continuing activities

- Elaboration of harmonized commercial quality standards
- Review and revision of existing standards
- Problems of quality control, including the harmonization and overview of certification, quality control and inspections, in cooperation with the OECD Scheme on the Application of International Standards for Fruit and Vegetables.
- Publication of the UN/ECE Standards, Geneva Protocol, Standard Layout and Guides on the World Wide Web.

###### Specific activities

- Review of the status of the acceptance and application of UN/ECE Standards
- Review and revision
  - Standards for avocados, melons watermelons, citrus fruit, shelling peas, onions, beans, apples and pears, garlic, pineapples, plums, peaches and nectarines, cultivated mushrooms, kiwi fruit and others as proposed
- Consideration to include provisions for miniature fruit and vegetables in UN/ECE standards
- Application of quality control

- Investigation of a quality assurance system
- Interpretation of provisions concerning the application of quality tolerances
- Draft Codex standards for fresh fruit and vegetables under review
  - asparagus, limes, oranges, pineapples as proposed

#### **04(B).2.2 Specialized Section on Standardization of Dry and Dried Produce**

##### Continuing activities

- Elaboration of harmonized commercial quality standards
- Review and revision of existing standards
- Review of the Standard Layout for Dry and Dried Fruit
- Review of a multi-lingual Dictionary of Defects
- Publication of the UN/ECE standards for Dry and Dried Fruit on the Internet World Wide Web

##### Specific activities

- Review and revision
  - Pistachio nuts, walnuts,
- Recommendations under review
  - Cashew kernels, hazelnut kernels, inshell hazelnuts and walnut kernels

#### **04(B).2.3 Specialized Section on Standardization of Meat**

- Elaboration of UN/ECE standard for beef carcasses and cuts and preparation of an interpretative brochure
- Investigation of the possibility of creating a UN/ECE quality trade mark for meat.
- For poultry meat, further consideration of methods for determining extraneous water in poultry chilled by using water. Publication of the revised standard and an interpretative brochure

#### **04(B).2.4 Specialized Section on Standardization of Early and Ware Potatoes, Specialized Section on Standardization of Seed Potatoes**

- Review of the standards for early and ware potatoes
  - Comparison of inspection and sampling methods

- Definition of varieties of long and irregular shape (preparation of list of such varieties)
- Revision of UN/ECE General Conditions of Sale for Potatoes
- For seed potatoes:
  - Review of the standard;
  - review of the questionnaire on national seed potato schemes,
  - definition of the complete control procedure for the certification of seed potatoes,
  - elaboration of a list of quality diseases for inclusion in the standard.

**04(B).2.5 Standardization of eggs and egg products**

Publication on the World Wide Web.

**04(B).2.6 Standardization of cut flowers**

Publication on the World Wide Web.

**04(B).2.7 General conditions of sale for fresh fruit and vegetables and for dry and dried fruit**

Note: For the above activities (04(B).2.5.-04(B).2.7) the regular Meetings of Experts have been discontinued. Review, revision and updating of existing standards and conditions of sale may require sessions in future as needed.

## Annex II

## TENTATIVE CALENDAR OF MEETINGS FOR 1999

Symbol and name	Session	Location	Date	10 week deadline for documents
GE.5: Specialized Section on Standardization of Potatoes (Early and Ware)	14	Geneva	1-4 February	23 November 1998
GE.11: Specialized Section on Standardization of Meat (Porcine, Bovine and Poultry)	8	Geneva	3-5 May	22 February
GE.2: Specialized Section on Standardization of Dry and Dried Produce (Fruit)	46	Geneva	7-11 June	29 March
GE.1: Specialized Section on Coordination of Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables	45	Geneva	[26-29 October ] This session might be moved forward.	[17 August]
WP.7: Working Party on Standardization of Perishable Produce and Quality Development	55	Geneva	3-5 November	25 August

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