



**Economic and Social  
Council**

Distr.  
GENERAL

TRADE/WP.7/2003/4  
27 August 2003

Original : ENGLISH

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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND  
ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards  
(Fifty-ninth session, 4 to 6 November 2003, Geneva)

Item 10(b) of the provisional agenda

**PROPOSED REVISION TO THE STANDARD LAYOUT FOR  
FRESH FRUIT AND VEGETABLES AND DRY AND DRIED PRODUCE**

**Note by the secretariat:** The document contains proposals for amending the standard layout for fresh fruit and vegetables and dry and dried fruit, which were discussed in the relevant Specialized Sections.

## **1. Point of application of UNECE Standards**

### *Background*

At the moment the Standard Layout mentions the export control stage as point of application. The secretariat asked the Specialized Sections if a specific stage of application had to be mentioned. Should it be left to countries how to implement them?

The deletion of the prescription of the point of application would give more flexibility on defining maturity requirements or provisions for ready-to-eat products etc.

### *Discussion in GE.1*

In the Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables a number of delegations agreed to this proposal as the standards were already applied at different stages of marketing by some countries.

Concern was expressed that as products deteriorate and the responsibility of non-conformity might cause problems. It was therefore felt that if this requirement was deleted then some phrase allowing for a certain loss of freshness in later stages of marketing was necessary.

### *Discussion in GE.2*

In the Specialized Section on Standardization of Dry and Dried Fruit delegations felt that some reference to the point of application of the standard was necessary and that the Working Party should discuss this issue.

The Working Party is invited to discuss how to proceed with this question.

## **2. Title of the standards**

### *Background*

At the moment each UNECE Standard includes in the title the phrase:

“moving in international trade between and to  
UNECE member countries”

The secretariat asked the Specialized Sections if such a phrase added any value or was too restrictive. Countries should not be discouraged by such a phrase to implement the standards for their national trade. Countries not members of UNECE who have the right to participate in all discussion the same way as UNECE members should not be discouraged from applying the standards in their national trade or trade with other countries.

*Discussion in GE.1*

The Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables agreed in principle to the proposal noting that in this case the document on acceptances should be modified to take care of the fact that countries can notify that they apply the standard nationally. They felt that the other specialized sections should also discuss the proposal.

*Discussion in GE.2*

(b) The Specialized Section on Standardization of Dry and Dried Produce 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).

**3. Consumer/sales packages**

The Specialized Section on Standardization of Dry and Dried Produce asks the Working Party to harmonize the term used for consumer or sales packages.