

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Working Party on the Transport of Perishable Foodstuffs

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PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO ANNEX 2, APPENDIX 1

Transmitted by the Government of the United Kingdom

Background

1. In Annex 2, Appendix 1, transport carrying quick-frozen foods is required to be fitted with suitable measuring equipment to monitor the air temperature. Approval of the measuring instruments is the responsibility of the competent authority where the means of transport is registered. This requirement also conforms with the European Commission Directive 92/1/EC dealing with the temperature monitoring of quick-frozen foods.

2. The requirement has produced different specifications and testing regimes by different competent authorities to approve measuring instruments. Although mutual recognition of approved equipment exists for international transport of foodstuffs, the different approval standards have caused problems. Questions of unfair competition arise, as well as barriers to trade for the sales of measuring equipment.

3. Since Appendix 1 was introduced into the ATP in 1996, the following European standards for temperature measuring equipment have been developed and agreed in CEN (European Committee for Standardisation):

EN 12830, Temperature recorders for the transport, storage and distribution of chilled, frozen, deep-frozen/quick-frozen food and ice cream – Tests, performance, suitability.

EN 13486, Temperature recorders and thermometers for the transport, storage and distribution of chilled, frozen, deep-frozen/quick-frozen food and ice cream – Periodic verification.

4. The CEN standards were established in 1999, and from early 2000 manufacturers have an obligation to conform to such standards when manufacturing measuring equipment, and also operators in verifying and calibrating such equipment. Therefore harmonised standards for monitoring equipment now exist and ensure that all signatories to the ATP have a common approach and specification in the approval of monitoring equipment.

5. The European Commission has proposed a Commission Regulation, which will amend and replace Directive 92/1/EC. The draft Regulation removes the requirement for equipment to be approved by the competent authority in which the means of transports is registered. However, all equipment used to monitor air temperatures must conform to CEN Standards EN 12830 and 13486.

6. It is recognised that the new requirement needs a gradual application in order to reduce the costs and facilitate change from national to CEN standards. Therefore a sufficient transition period must be allowed.

Proposal

Annex 2, Appendix 1

Delete the sentence:

“The measuring instruments must be approved by the competent authorities of the country in which the means of transport is registered.”

Replace with:

“The measuring instruments shall comply with EN 12830 and EN 13486 Standards.”

Amend the last sentence as follows:

“Measuring instruments shall comply with the provisions of this Appendix one year after the date of entry into force of the above provision. Measuring instruments already installed before this date can continue to be used until the 31 December 2009 “.
