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of Perishable Foodstuffs

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**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE AGREEMENT ON THE INTERNATIONAL
CARRIAGE OF PERISHABLE FOODSTUFFS AND ON THE SPECIAL
EQUIPMENT TO BE USED FOR SUCH CARRIAGE (ATP)**

Annex 2, appendix 1

Transmitted by 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 to 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 Union has agreed a new Commission Regulation, (EC) No 37/2005, which replaces Directive 92/1/EC. The 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 (and in the case of thermometers EN13485).

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 must comply to standards EN 12830, (Temperature recorders for the transport, storage and distribution of chilled, frozen, deep-frozen/quick-frozen food and ice cream – Tests, performance, suitability) and 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).”

Delete the sentence:

“However, the transport equipment in service at the date of entry into force of this appendix, 1/ the above provisions will be progressively applicable within three years after that date.”

Add a final 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, but which do not conform to the above standard, before this date can continue to be used until the 31 December 2009 “.

Final text will read:

ATP, ANNEX 2, APPENDIX 1

“Monitoring of air temperatures for transport of perishable foodstuffs quick-frozen

The transport equipment must be fitted with a suitable recording instrument to monitor, at frequent and regular intervals, the air temperatures to which quick-frozen foodstuffs intended for human consumption are subjected.

The measuring instruments must comply to standards EN 12830, (Temperature recorders for the transport, storage and distribution of chilled, frozen, deep-frozen/quick-frozen food and ice cream – Tests, performance, suitability) and 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).

Temperature recordings obtained in this manner must be dated and stored by the operator for at least one year or longer, according to the nature of the food.”
