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Inland Transport Committee

Working Party on the Transport of Perishable Foodstuffs

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Item 5 (b) of the provisional agenda

Proposals of amendments to ATP: New proposals

Supplementing the ATP with provisions on the carriage of fresh fruit and vegetables^{1, 2}

Transmitted by the Government of the Russian Federation

Summary

Executive summary:

The ATP does not include provisions on the carriage of fresh fruit and vegetables. However, it is obvious that fresh fruit and vegetables are perishable foodstuffs and need to be protected against the effects of high or low temperatures and ventilation during transportation.

Action to be taken:

Include an additional Annex, number 4 in the ATP with the recommended temperature conditions for the carriage of the main types of fresh fruit and vegetables.

Related documents:

Rules on the carriage of perishable goods by rail approved by Order No. 37 of the Ministry of Transportation of the Russian Federation dated June 18, 2003 (registered with the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation on June 19, 2003, No. 4762).

Introduction

1. The Russian Federation, supported by Spain, Italy and Finland, has on multiple occasions proposed that provisions on the carriage of fresh fruit and vegetables be included in the ATP. However, certain Contracting Parties to the ATP do not recognise fresh fruit

¹ This document was submitted late for document processing as clearances from relevant parties were received late.

² The English translation of this document was supplied by the Russian Federation.

and vegetables as perishable products; for this reason, fresh fruit and vegetables have not been included in the ATP for a long time period.

2. At the 70th session of WP.11 the issue of the need to include fresh fruit and vegetables in the ATP was raised again.

In a welcome speech at the 70th session of WP.11, the Director of the Sustainable Transport Division of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, Mrs. Eva Molnar, proposed that the issue of the lack of provisions in the ATP on fresh fruit and vegetables be discussed. Her reasoning was that these aspects, among others, do not allow some countries that are Contracting Parties to take full advantage of using the ATP and prevent countries that are planning to become Contracting Parties to the ATP from joining it without delay.

3. At the 70th session of WP.11, a proposal to consider the possibility of extending the ATP to include fresh fruit and vegetables was discussed.

WP.11 also took note of concerns expressed by Algeria, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia in informal document INF.6 that the ATP lacks provisions on fresh fruit and vegetables and that this limits the usefulness of the ATP to these countries.

4. However, at the 70th session of WP.11, certain countries continued to oppose the inclusion of provisions on fresh fruit and vegetables in the ATP.

5. At the 70th session of WP.11, various options for addressing this problem were considered. One proposed solution was to include an annex that would not require, but rather recommend the use of temperature conditions for the transport of fresh fruit and vegetables, or sign multilateral agreements in accordance with Article 7 of the ATP.

6. The Russian Federation believes that the introduction in the ATP of provisions with recommendations on temperature conditions for the carriage of fresh fruit and vegetables would make it possible to preserve their quality and safety during transportation, extend the area of application of the ATP, and create the necessary preconditions for new Contracting Parties to be able to join the ATP.

7. In light of the above, the Russian Federation has prepared an official document about this issue to be discussed at the 71st session of WP.11.

Proposal

8. Add a new Annex 4 to the ATP as follows:

"Annex 4

RECOMMENDED TEMPERATURE CONDITIONS FOR THE CARRIAGE OF FRESH FRUIT AND VEGETABLES

1. *Apricots, oranges, thick-rind water melons, cherries, grapes, late-season pears, grapefruits, pomegranates, early potatoes, green head cabbages (early and mid-season), cauliflowers, vegetable marrows, gooseberries, bulb onions, table carrots, mandarins, peaches, table beets without tops, plums, currants, black cherries, garlic, late-season apples:* *from +2 to +5°C;*

2. *Pineapples, aubergines, melons, lemons, cucumbers, pink tomatoes:* *from +6 to +9°C;*

3. *Milky stage tomatoes:* *from +11 to +13°C;*

4. *Bananas:* *from +13 to +14°C."*

Costs

9. If the decision to add an Annex 4 to the ATP (Recommended temperature conditions for the carriage of fresh fruit and vegetables) is adopted, relevant corrections need to be made in Annex 2, Appendix 2 to the ATP.

Feasibility

10. No problems are foreseen.

Practical feasibility

11. The proposed changes will create better conditions for further achievement of the goals of the ATP and its extension.
