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TRADE

Standards, Certification and Traceability
Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards (WP.7)

UN/CEFACT Conference on Sustainable Agriculture

28 March 2017
Palais des Nations

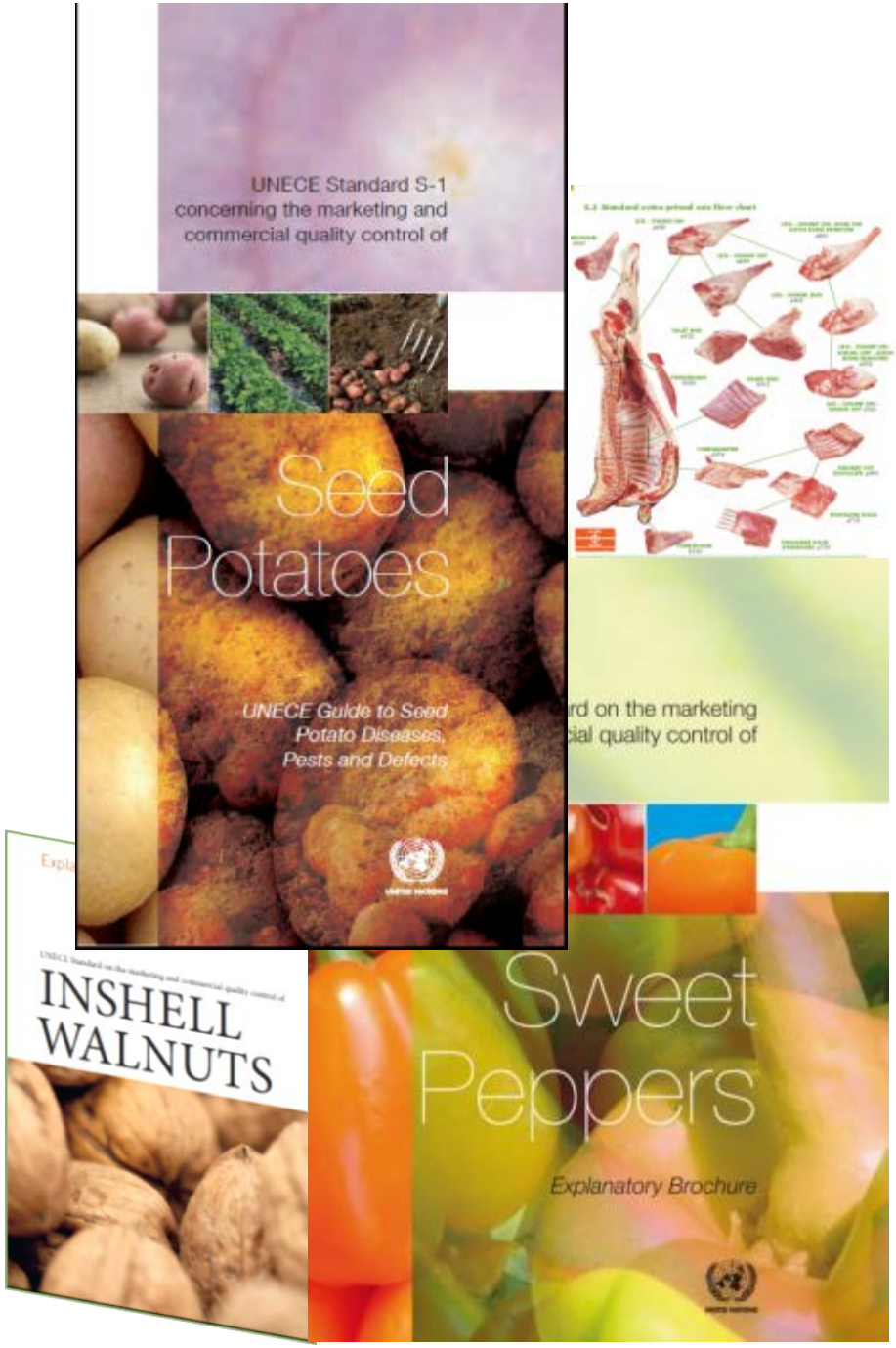
Four Specialized Sections:

- **Fresh Fruit and Vegetables** (56 standards; Lists of Varieties; Explanatory Guides for Sweet Peppers, Pineapples, Chilli Peppers, Persimmon)
- **Dry and Dried Produce** (28 standards; Guides for Walnuts and Dried Chilli Peppers; Colour Gauges)
- **Seed Potatoes** (1 standard; Guides to Seed Potato Field Inspection; Guide to Seed Potato Diseases, Pests and Defects)
- **Meat** (16 standards, plus 2 **egg** standards)

Explanatory guides

- interpret provisions of the standards
- provide guidance in related matters (disease guides, terms used, coding references)
- help with the grading of produce
- ensure uniform interpretation
- reduce risk of rejection
- help resolve disputes

for producers, inspectors and traders

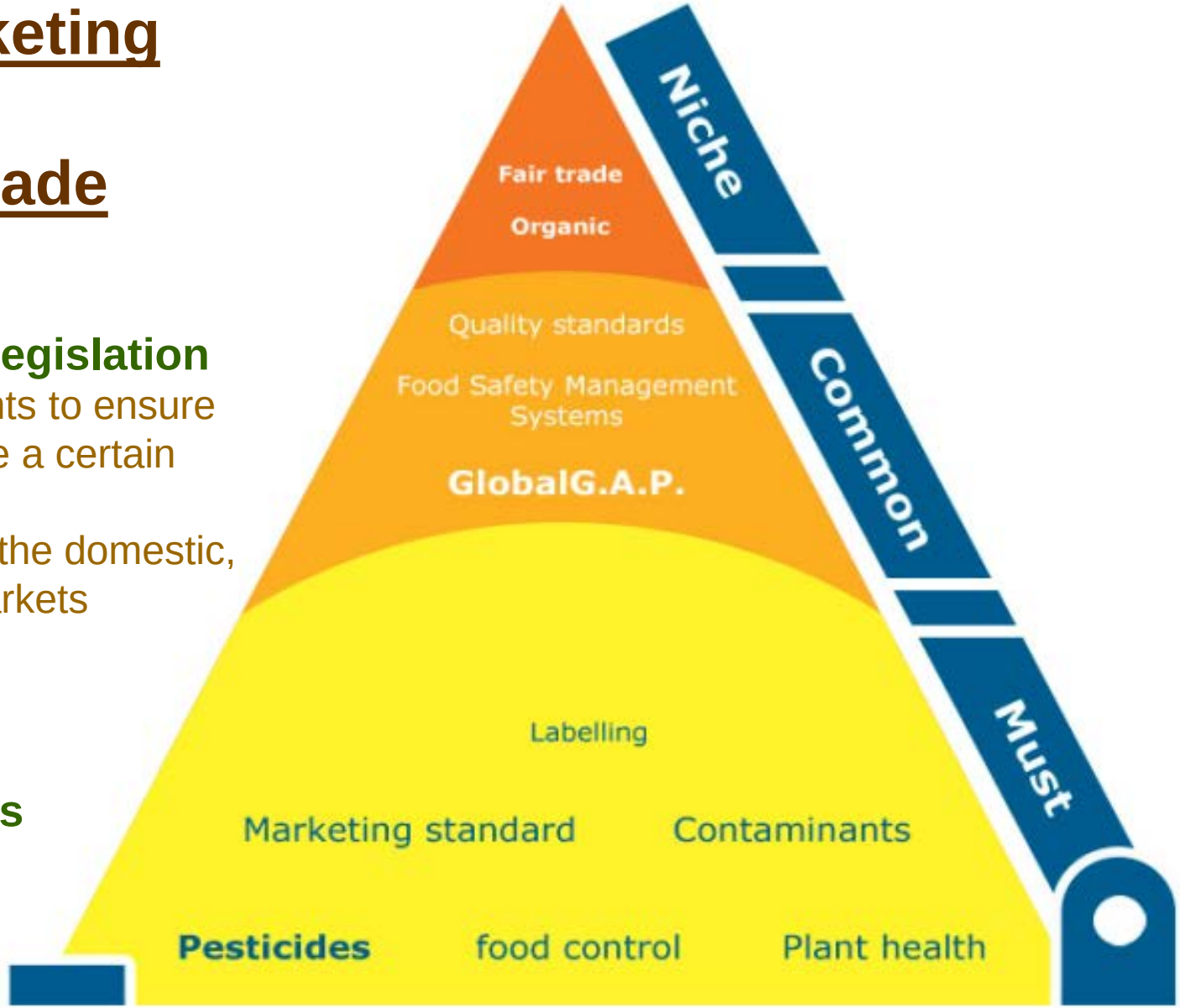


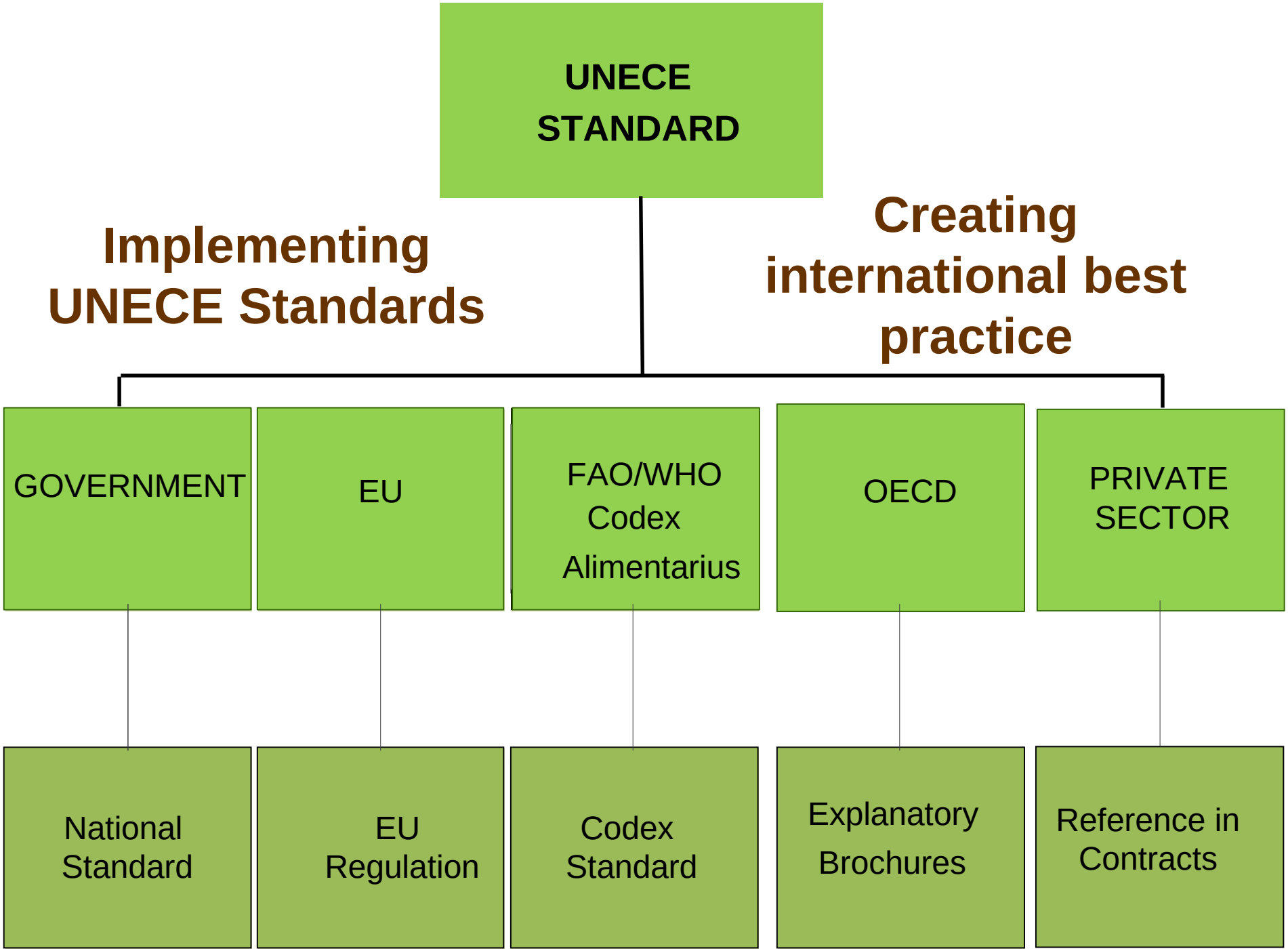
UNECE standards are <u>voluntary marketing standards for international trade</u>

incorporated into national or regional legislation

- As export requirements to ensure that the produce have a certain quality level
- As a requirement for the domestic, export and import markets

incorporated into commercial contracts

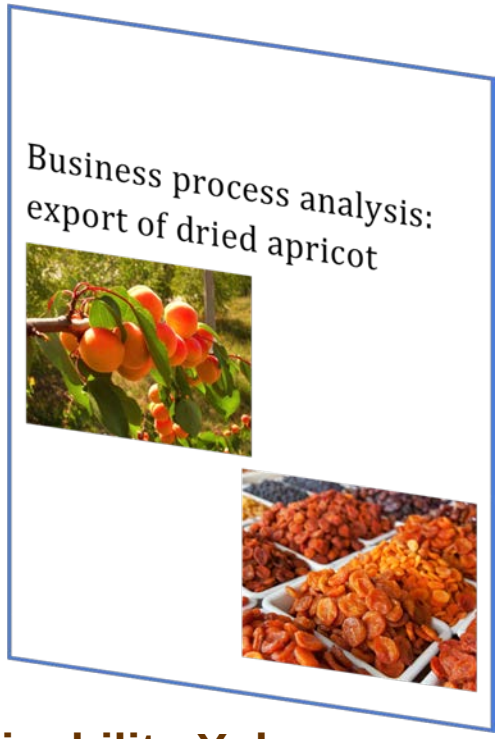



UNECE STANDARD
Implementing UNECE Standards
Creating international best practice
GOVERNMENT
EU
FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius
OECD
PRIVATE SECTOR
National Standard
EU Regulation
Codex Standard
Explanatory Brochures
Reference in Contracts

Help countries participate in agricultural food supply chains

What we do: Capacity-building, practical training, analysis

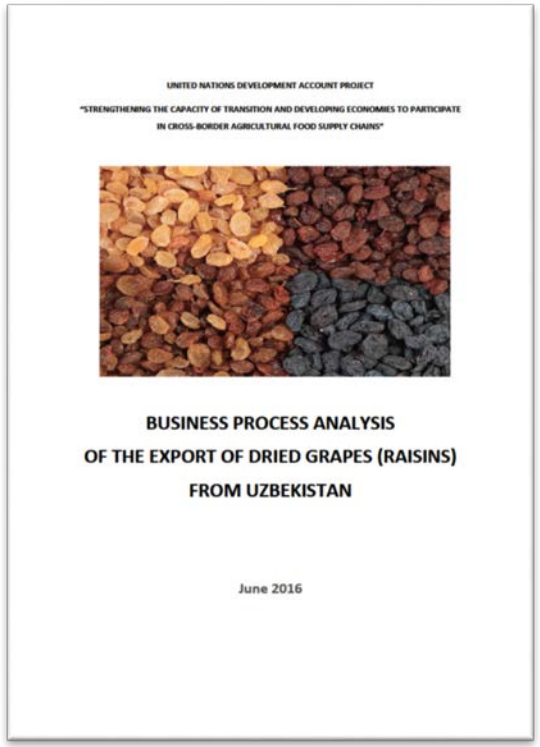
Turkey- Central Asia- Balkan



Sustainability Xchange

Standards Map

Capacity-building and promotion



UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNT PROJECT

"STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITY OF TRANSITION AND DEVELOPING ECONOMIES TO PARTICIPATE IN CROSS-BORDER AGRICULTURAL FOOD SUPPLY CHAINS"

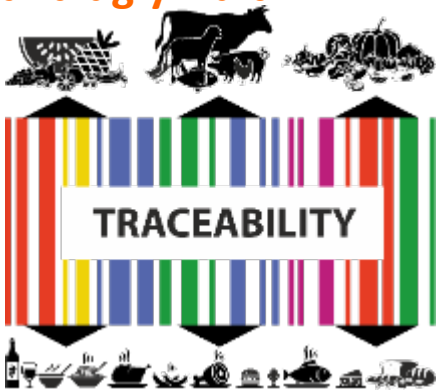
BUSINESS PROCESS ANALYSIS
OF THE EXPORT OF DRIED GRAPES (RAISINS)
FROM UZBEKISTAN

June 2016

Capacity-building and promotion

What we do: Training, Education, Promotion

Food loss and ugly fruit



Training- port of Thessaloniki

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AGRICULTURE TRADE FACILITATION IN GREECE

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Developing a strategy for agriculture exports with simplified and automated procedures

Step 1: **Analysing supply chains for agriculture exports**

Step 2: **Implementing key projects for Agriculture Trade Facilitation**

UNECE

AGRICULTURE TRADE FACILITATION IN GREECE

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The Projects:

1: Approved trader scheme

2: Automated risk based control in agriculture exports

3: Electronic submission of quality certificates to Customs

THE RESULTS:

YEAR	2012	2015
NUMBER OF PHYSICAL CONTROLS	59.599	22.310

Trading fruit and vegetables: The importance of standards and certification

- **Sustainable trade**
- **Food Loss**
- **Market Access**
- ***Food Security***

Key message
Traded food has to be fit for human consumption and of appropriate quality.

- foods **conforms to national standards** of the recipient country and other internationally accepted standards.

- appropriate food packaging used

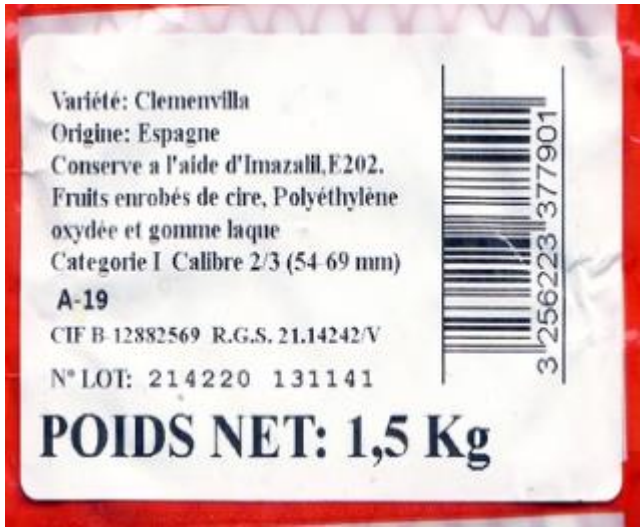
- **Food is labelled correctly to trace it easily and correctly**

- Food is **transported and stored in appropriate conditions after production and during sale**, using best practices in storage management, with systematic checks of food quality

Key message

Food quality: Food is labelled correctly

- To know what it is, where it comes from, how it can be traced back, what we are paying for, what it contains



UNECE labelling requirements the code mark discussion

- UNECE's agricultural quality standards require products to be marked with the
  - **name and physical address of the packer and/or dispatcher/shipper** (or optionally a code mark officially recognized by the national authority),
  - the name of the product/variety, and the country of origin (optionally district), as well as the class and size of the product. (see examples)
- As long as traders are known and trusted = ok, but
- Problems:
  - fraud
  - officially recognised code marks sometimes difficult to verify
  - Labels not always fully legible

Trceability Discusion Group

Working Party 7

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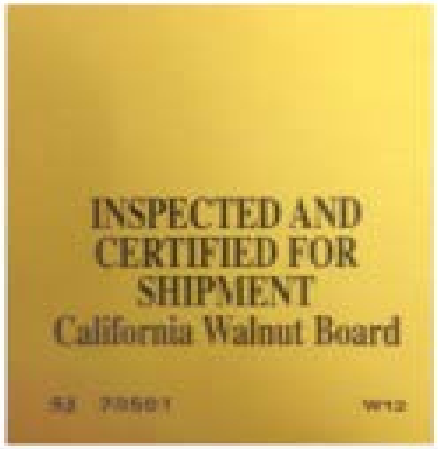
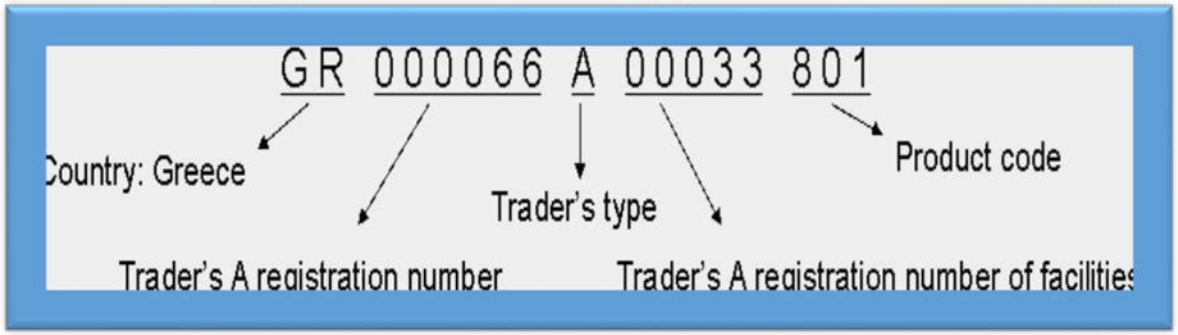
Physical address

Officially recognized code marks





Current/next steps

- Mapping the traceability steps and processes along a selected supply chain to identify the problems (by the end oif 2016)
- Clearer/more harmonized system for code-marks Some ideas:
  - A central body (UNECE or EU?) to gather and share format of codes for information to all actors
  - Centralized database of authorities issuing code-marks
  - Ensuring that the officially authorized body issuing the code-marks is clearly visible from the code-mark (e.g. Spanish codes in format ES/000001, etc).
  - Looking into possibility of **including GLN or similar code (plus product code?) as an additional option in UNECE marking requirements**

  NOTE: GS-1 is currently working on a first codified draft code
- Explore possibilities for exchanging information on wrongly labelled consignments
- **Collect case studies of good practices**

Traceability Discussion Group

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Discussions centred around following issues:

- A Global Registry for Inspection/ Certifying Agencies, which issue code marks
- The possibility of harmonizing the existing code marks (and eventually developing a harmonized code mark system)

Traceability Discussion Group: Key Points

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1. Establish a global Registry at the UNECE of national inspection/certifying agencies, which issue code marks?

- Majority of the group supports establishment a registry at the UNECE for national inspection/certifying agencies, which issue code marks.
- Most of them prefers a password-protected system with dedicated users (potentially inspection agencies) to a system accessible for all.

Traceability Discussion Group: Key Points

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2. If harmonization of the code marks is undertaken, that would mean that existing officially recognized national code marks would need to comply with new requirements. Would such harmonization be taken up by national authorities and traders (who might already have sophisticated systems)?
   - Almost all respondents agree that the harmonised system of codification is very complicated and most likely it should not be taken up at this point.
   - It will be extremely challenging for the national agencies to change the existing national codification system for harmonization. It requires time, money and will receive opposition from current users.
   - In countries, where it does not exist, the national priorities may differ and not be harmonized codification system.
   - All in all, a new harmonized system is a long term process and not the way to go at present.

Traceability Discussion Group: Key Points

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3. Go further and harmonize company/batch/lot/item codification (vertical, further down in the chain) via e.g. GS-1 codes what about those already using GS1 codes?

- In general, codification further down the chain has not been supported. Most respondents tend to support that only packer/dispatcher name and address are required.
- Other information may be optional for the user.
- If the UNECE registry is in place, the need for harmonized lot/batch numbers would be less.

Traceability Discussion Group: Key Points

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4. Who will own the code and pay for the use of codes? How much does it cost to the national agency/companies? For vertical codification, how much would this cost the exporter? Can the small-holder be responsible for these costs?

- When it comes to bearing cost of the codes, the majority indicated that their governments do not charge the companies for the codes issued by the agencies while a few opined that the 'the traders' should bear the cost.
- Small enterprises cannot be responsible for paying the cost of the code.

Traceability Discussion Group: Key Points

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5. Are inspection agencies equipped with bar code and other e-code readers to identify the issuing agency or operator behind a code?
   - Most inspection agencies are not equipped with barcode readers.
6. If the harmonization were to be more basic and focused on the use of alphanumeric characters similar to the ISO 2-letter country prefix required for code mark use, would assigning an alphanumeric character to an issuing agency or further down the chain to the operator be an option?
   - The idea of introducing ISO 2-letter prefix for inspection agencies is supported but only for those countries that do not have any coding system yet. For others, the existing national system should continue to avoid opposition from users.
   - In this context, the UNECE registry could be instrumental as to having the repository of all the systems and a potential enquiry point.

Traceability Discussion Group: Key Points

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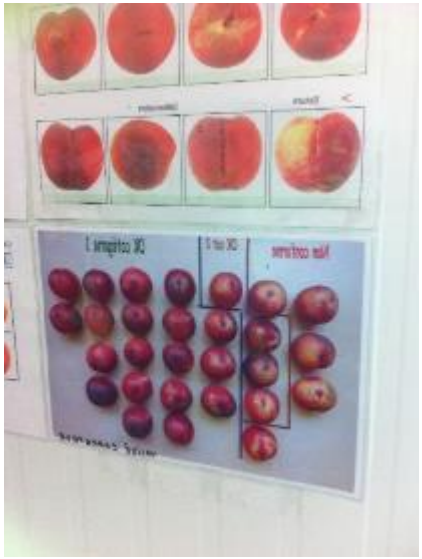
- Next Steps:
  - Finalization of the Recommendations from the Discussion Group
  - Collection of Case Studies on Traceability

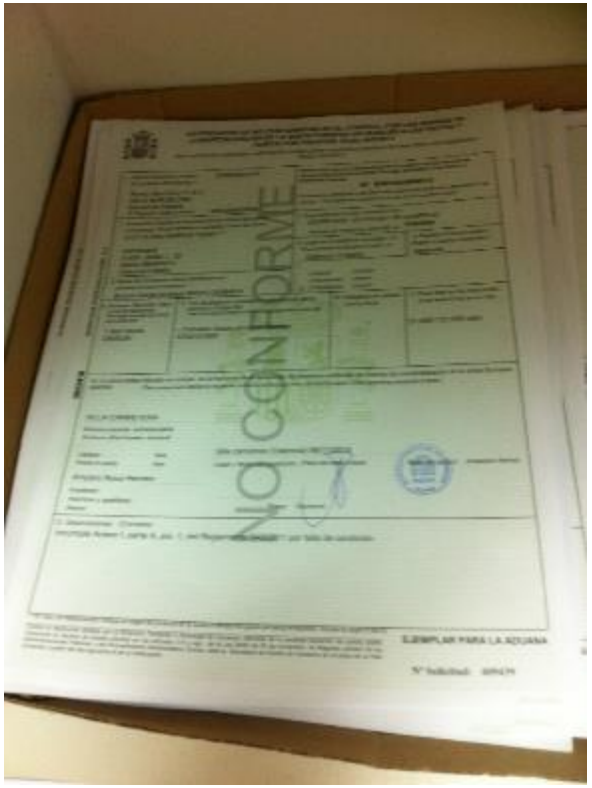
But a cross-border food supply chain is long
To be able to sell, buy or eat this fruit…..

Production, sorting grading – quality and standards

Production, sorting grading – quality and standards

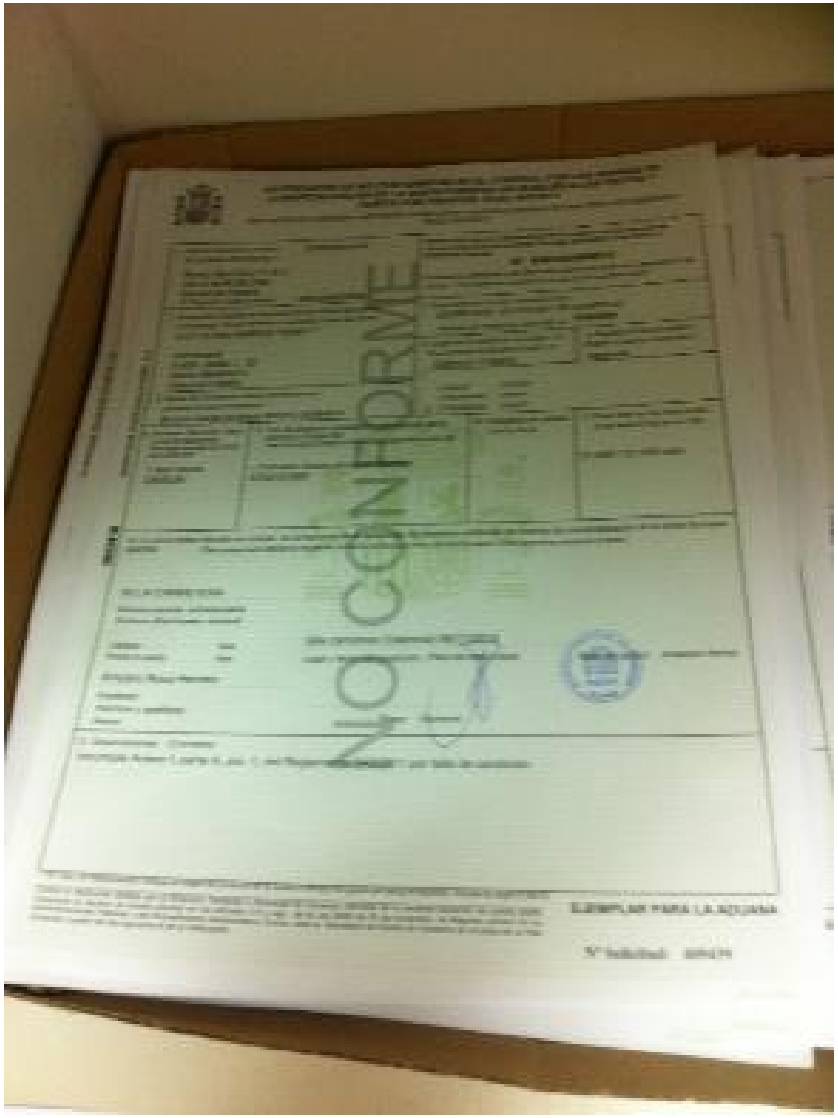


Export, import and standards



Arrival at destination, inspection (import), and standards

Arrival at destination, inspection (import) and standards



E-Quality Certificate

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ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/2006/17
Page 3

Conformity Certificate — Annex

Consignor (Importer/Exporter) 1 4 lines 40 characters per line	Conformity certificate number 2 20 characters	Control service 3 20 characters
	Unique consignment reference 4 40 characters	

Packages (Number and type)		Nature of produce (Variety/commercial type, when specified in standard)	Country of origin	Lot number	Quality class	Net weight (kg) per lot 16
4 char	8 char	30 characters	2 char	10 char	5 char	9 char
		36 lines				

The consignment referred to above conforms, at issue time of the present certificate, with the standards applied. 17

Customs office of departure: 40 characters

Valid until (date): 8 characters (DDMMYYYY)

Observations 18	Seal of control service Signatory (name in block capitals) 19
9 lines 40 characters per line	26 characters
	Place and date of issue 20 26 characters
	Signature 21

See front page for further particulars of this consignment.

ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/2006/17
Page 3

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THANK YOU

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