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Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards

Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables

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Code Mark Registry

Information Exchange of views on the Code Mark Registry

This discussion paper was submitted by the delegation from Germany for the attention of the Specialized Section. The Specialized Section is invited to exchange views on and practical experiences with the UNECE code mark registry.

Background, experiences in Germany and proposals for discussion

The UNECE Code Mark Registry, established in 2019 and maintained by a number of countries on a voluntary basis, is very well received by inspectors in Germany. This is the first and only registry of its kind.

The inspection services in Germany have decided to accept a packer/dispatcher code only in case the respective, issuing or recognizing country is part of the UNECE code mark registry.

The delegation of Germany would like to share their experiences with the code mark registry with the Specialized Section.

1. It is not very convenient, to open a number of word files and to read the information provided by the respective authority. For daily business, a table providing the respective information would be more convenient. – Please, find an example of such a table in INF.3.
2. A table would also provide more guidance for the authorities providing the information. Moreover, some introductory notes could provide some guidance to the reader/user of this registry (see table in INF.3).
3. With respect to the codes, we have observed that many countries provide codes that are issued or recognized in the context of food control and not specifically for marketing standards. Does the Specialized Section agree to accept this? Would the Specialized Section agree to accept codes that have been issued to meet phytosanitary requirements or codes that are tax numbers?
4. The photos given as an example for the codes issued or recognized by the respective countries mainly do not fulfil the provisions of the standard. However, publication in the UNECE registry gives the impression that the photos/ labels are correct. – Therefore, the German delegation proposes not to show any photos and to delete all photos from the UNECE code mark registry.

5. Unfortunately, not all countries have provided a working email address. – The German delegation would like to ask the UNECE secretariat to insist that such a communication tool be provided.
6. During an inspection, the most frequent defect found is the missing introduction/ abbreviation that should precede the code mark on the package. In case the issuing country is not the country of origin of the produce packed, the ISO alpha code of the issuing country is missing. – Therefore, the delegation of Germany proposes to provide some information preceding the table (see the table contained in INF.3).
