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Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards

Specialized Section on Standardization of Meat

Sixteenth session

Geneva, 30 April – 3 May 2007

**REPORT OF THE SPECIALIZED SECTION ON STANDARDIZATION OF MEAT
ON ITS SIXTEENTH SESSION**

Summary

The Specialized Section agreed on the following decisions:

Revision of the UNECE Standard for Bovine Meat – Carcasses and Cuts: Following the decision to revise UNECE Standards for meat three years after publication, the Specialized Section discussed the proposal in detail and made some amendments. The text of the standard was finalized and new pictures will be proposed to the Working Party for adoption. A new edition of the standard will then be published in 2008.

Proposal for a new UNECE Standard for Caprine Meat – Carcasses and Cuts: The Specialized Section discussed the proposal in detail and made some amendments. The text of the standard was finalized and will be proposed to the Working Party for adoption.

Proposal for a new UNECE Standard for Fancy Meats: The Specialized Section discussed the proposal in detail and made some amendments. The delegation of France (rapporteur) will prepare a consolidated text and liaise with delegations to collect pictures. It is planned to finalize the standard at the next Specialized Section meeting, in April 2008. The Working Party will be informed on the progress on the proposal for a new standard.

Summary (cont'd)

Revision of the UNECE Standard for Turkey Meat – Carcasses and Parts: At a request of France, to take into account European Union legislation, the Specialized Section reviewed and recommended to amend section 3.5.2 “Turkey category”. Some other minor amendments were also introduced to the standard. The amendments to the text of the standard will be proposed to the Working Party for adoption.

Publications: The final English and French drafts of the publications for Ovine and Chicken meat standards were presented to the Section. The delegation of France will submit their comments on the language or terminology in early June. The secretariat will proceed with the publication by 30 September 2007 at the latest.

Future work: At the next session the following draft texts of the standards will be discussed: Fancy Meats, Duck meat and a preliminary draft for Veal meat.

INTRODUCTION

1. The meeting was opened by Ms. Virginia Cram-Martos, Director of the Trade and Timber Division of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). She thanked and congratulated Mr. Ian King, CEO of AUS-MEAT, and his team for having successfully organized the fifteenth session of the Specialized Section on Standardization of Meat, in Brisbane, Australia, in April 2006. She also thanked Mr. Barry Carpenter, former Chair of the Specialized Section, for his valuable contribution to the work.
2. A meeting of the rapporteurs of the UNECE Standard for Fancy Meats had been held in Paris in October 2006. She thanked Mr. Alain Boismartel and the “Direction Générale de la Concurrence, de la Consommation et de la Répression de Fraudes” of France, for organizing and hosting this meeting and the excellent technical visit to Rungis.
3. She mentioned the work on the Codification System and the importance in working together with other organizations and bodies such as the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT), the World Customs Organization (WCO) and GS1 International to explore ways to advance on e-Certification, traceability, etc.
4. She informed participants that a list server had been created for the Section, that the website was being revised and that a documents library database was being developed. All these tools would enable the Specialized Section to be better informed on what is being discussed and should increase the participation of experts and delegates.
5. Representatives of the following countries attended the meeting: Australia, Czech Republic, France, Poland, Russian Federation, Slovakia and the United States of America.
6. A representative of the following non-governmental organization participated in the session: GS1 International.

7. The representatives of Brazil, China, Lithuania and Uruguay could not attend the session and sent their apologies.

I. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (AGENDA ITEM 1)

Documentation: ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.11/2007/1

8. The delegations adopted the provisional agenda, to which the following informal documents were added:

Code	Title	Source*
INF.1	Review of the UNECE Standard for Bovine Meat – Carcasses and Cuts	Secretariat (E)
INF.2	Meeting of the Rapporteurs on Fancy Meats, Paris, France, 30-31 October 2007	Secretariat (E)
INF.3	List of Fancy Meats	United States (E)
INF.4	List of Fancy Meats	Australia (E)
INF.5	Information on blood of slaughter animals intended for human consumption	Poland (E/F)
INF.6	List of Fancy Meats - Veal	France (F)
INF.7	List of Fancy Meats - Pork	France (F)
INF.8	List of Fancy Meats - Lamb/Sheep	France (F)
INF.9	List of Fancy Meats - Bovine	France (F)
INF.10	Review of the UNECE Standard for Bovine Meat – Carcasses and Cuts	United States (E)
INF.11	Proposal for a new UNECE Standard for Duck Meat – Carcasses and Parts	China (E)
INF.12	List of National Authorities for Inspection of the Commercial Quality of Meat	Secretariat (E)
INF.13	Review of the UNECE Standard for Bovine Meat – Carcasses and Cuts: Amendments on Chinese names of Cuts	China (E)
INF.14	Review of the UNECE Standard for Bovine Meat – Carcasses and Cuts	France (F)
INF.15	Status of publications on existing standards	Secretariat (E)
INF.16	Document “Requirements for transition countries to export meat products to the European Union”	Secretariat (E)

* E = English; F = French.

9. The Section welcomed document INF.16, “Requirements for transition countries to export meat products to the European Union”. The paper presented policy decisions to be made and the institutional, legal and technical infrastructure to be developed for the meat sector in

order to export meat to the European Union and other countries. The Section requested the secretariat to submit the document as an addendum to the report. It would thereby reach a wider audience in Russian-speaking countries and would serve as a basis for capacity-building activities in the Central Asian region.

II. MATTERS OF INTEREST SINCE THE LAST SESSION (AGENDA ITEM 2)

Documentation: ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/2006/20
ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/2006/19/Rev.1
ECE/TRADE/C/2006/18
Informal documentation: INF.2

10. The secretariat presented the main decisions taken at the sixty-second session of the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards (WP.7), concerning the work of the Specialized Section (document ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/2006/20, paragraphs 35 to 40, 49 and 53).

11. The delegations took also note of the information collected by the secretariat through the survey of the work of the Working Party (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/2006/19/Rev.1).

12. The Chair informed the Section on the results of the meeting of rapporteurs on Fancy Meats, which was held in Paris in October 2006.

III. STATUS OF PUBLICATIONS ON EXISTING STANDARDS (AGENDA ITEM 3)

Documentation: Informal documentation: INF.15

13. The secretariat informed the participants about the status of the publications on existing standards. Final drafts of publications for Chicken and Ovine Meat had been prepared in English, French and Russian and would be circulated to the Bureau and working groups to detect any discrepancy that might still exist regarding terminology, layout and/or colouring. The publications must all be submitted for printing by 30 September 2007.

14. The first draft layout of the Porcine Standard has been prepared in English. A paper copy was presented to the Working Group (Australia and the United States) for information. Priorities for the next publications are the Llama/Alpaca and Turkey Meat standards.

IV. REVIEW OF THE UNECE STANDARD FOR BOVINE MEAT – CARCASSES AND CUTS (AGENDA ITEM 4)

Documentation: ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/2006/11
Informal documentation: INF.1; INF.10; INF.13 and INF.14

15. The secretariat presented the revised Standard for Bovine Meat – Carcasses and Cuts (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/2006/11), which incorporates editorial and layout amendments to the 2004 edition. Document INF.1 incorporates the latest comments and amendments received by the secretariat.

16. The delegations discussed various proposals presented by Australia, France and the United States. The linguistic amendments to the French version of the standard requested by the delegation of France (INF.14) will be directly included in the French version of the Standard.

17. The Section discussed different ways to improve section 5.7 “Quality Standards” with new pictures and texts.

18. The delegations agreed to:

- (a) Discuss the cuts 1510, 1643, 1617, 1604, 1680, 2150 and 2203 in a working group (Australia, France, Russian Federation and United States). The group should agree on a new definition for each of them. These definitions will be reported to the Section and the secretariat in writing to complete the final revision of the Standard;
- (b) Include in the Standard the requested additions of new cuts proposed by the United States (INF.10). The delegation of the United States will provide the secretariat with the new pictures and coding for each cut. The document will be submitted as an addendum to this report;
- (c) Remove from section 5.7, paragraph 1, the sentence “by the Australian Meat Industry and AUS-MEAT Limited”;
- (d) Request the secretariat to amend section 5.7 “Meat Quality Standards” with text and pictures which will be submitted by delegations not later than 31 May 2007;
- (e) Provide the secretariat with final comments on the standard by end of May 2007 (delegations of Australia and the United States).

V. PROPOSAL FOR A NEW UNECE STANDARD FOR CAPRINE MEAT – CARCASSES AND CUTS (AGENDA ITEM 5)

Documentation: ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.11/2007/3

19. The Specialized Section discussed this agenda item on the basis of a document prepared by the United States.

20. The delegations agreed to amend the following texts:

- (a) Section 3.4.
Add to table on Refrigeration, category “0 – Not specified”;
- (b) Section 3.5.2.
Change category 1 to read “Kid (Chevreau)” instead of “Young kid”;
Change category 3 to read “Wether (Capra)” instead of “Wether”;

- (c) Section 3.5.4. Replace table by the following one (as used in the Standard for Ovine);

Feeding system code (data field 7)	Category	Description
0	Not specified	
1	Grain fed	Grain is the predominant component of the diet
2	Forage fed	Forage is the predominant component of the diet, with some grain supplement
3	Exclusively forage fed	Forage is the only component of the diet
4	Milk fed	Feeding system based on mother's milk
5	Formula fed	Feeding systems that are milk or milk substitute based
6 - 8	Codes not used	
9	Other	Can be used to describe any other feeding system agreed between buyer and seller

- (d) Section 3.6.1. Remove figure 1 and its references;

- (e) Section 3.9. Replace table of weight ranges by:

Weight range code (data field 12)	Category	Description
0	Not specified	
1	Specified	Less than 9 kg
2	Specified	9 to less than 19 kg
3	Specified	19 kg or more
4 - 9	Not used	

- (f) Section 3.11.1. Remove from table the sentence “(number of pieces)” in entry for Quantity;

- (g) Section 5.1. Add new cut “Boneless Shoulder Oyster Cut”. The delegations of France and United States will provide the code and definition for this cut;

- (h) Section 5.4:

Delete cut “Back 5100”.

Amend cut “Carcase” by removing explicit item number. Delegations will provide the secretariat with a new coding and categories for this cut.

Add new cuts:

- (i) Leg pair and saddle – 4946;
- (ii) Shoulder rack pair – 4727;

- (iii) Outside shoulder (oyster cut) – 4980;
- (iv) Outside shoulder (oyster cut) boneless – 5055;
- (v) Leg pair and loin saddle - 4901.

Since the definition of these cuts is the same as that used for similar cuts in the current Standard for Ovine, they are not described here;

Remove from cut “Leg, bottom - 5067”, the text “Chump, sirloin and”;
Insert an alternative name for cut “Saddle”. Alternative description: “Back”;

Since the cut “Breast – 5010” is not part of the standard, remove every reference to it;

Amend cuts “Goat assorted pieces” to read:

“Goat assorted pieces – special trim”:

“Goat assorted pieces – special trim” consists of the Leg Pair and Saddle (4901) bones removed and the Outside Shoulder (5055). Boneless or partially boneless is to be specified.”

21. The Specialized Section decided to submit the text of the proposal for a new UNECE Standard for Caprine Meat – Carcasses and Cuts to the Working Party at its forthcoming session for approval. Delegations will provide the secretariat with the images to start preparing the publication for the next session of the Specialized Section in 2008. The images should be sent to the secretariat not later than 30 September 2007.

VI. PROPOSAL FOR A NEW UNECE STANDARD FOR FANCY MEATS (AGENDA ITEM 6)

Documentation: ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.11/2007/4
Informal documentation: INF.3; INF.4; INF.5; INF.6; INF.7; INF.8; INF.9

22. The Specialized Section considered this item on the basis of the document prepared at the rapporteurs meeting that was held in Paris in October 2006.

23. The delegations decided to amend the proposed texts as follows:

- (a) Section 3.4, add category “0 – Not specified”;
- (b) Section 3.5.3, Production system. Remove categories 1 and 2. Redefine categories 1 and 2 as “Codes not used”;
- (c) Section 3.9.2. Align the list of “Additional information” with the lists used for this section in other UNECE Standards for Meat. The sequence of the list should be similar.

24. Further to the revision of the informal documents, the Specialized Section agreed in considering such documents as the reference to complete the text of the new UNECE Standard for Fancy Meats. The delegation of France (Rapporteur) will be responsible for liaising with

delegations to collect pictures and finalize the document. The Working Party will be informed on the progress on the proposal for a new Standard for Fancy Meats.

25. The delegations of the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Poland supported the inclusion of Blood in the list of products of the Standard.

VII. CODING SYSTEM FOR UNECE STANDARDS FOR MEAT (AGENDA ITEM 7)

26. The delegation of the United States reported on the progress made in the use of coding systems and standards in global electronic commerce in the United States. They described the work done by the Meat and Poultry B2B Data Standards Organization (mpXML) <www.mpxml.org> in harmonizing the use of different coding systems in the meat and poultry industry. That project started in mid-March 2007 and is expected to be finished in 18 months.

27. The chairperson also presented a succinct report on the new project developed by GS1 to integrate the United Nations Standard Products and Services Code® (UNSPSC®) and the Global Product Classification (GPC) system. The project was launched in January 2007 and will be completed in December 2007. This project would satisfy the needs of Australia and other countries that do not use either system.

28. The Specialized Section discussed the implications of these new developments for the work on standards and for the work of the Section.

29. A Working Group (Australia, United States (Rapporteur)) was created to prepare a document to inform the Section on the progress made in the above-mentioned projects during 2007.

VIII. PREPARATION OF MEETINGS OF RAPPORTEURS AND THE NEXT SESSION OF THE SPECIALIZED SECTION (AGENDA ITEM 8)

30. The Specialized Section agreed on the items for the provisional agenda, the dates and the venue of its seventeenth session and of the meetings of rapporteurs.

31. The delegation of China offered to host a rapporteurs meeting on a Duck standard in October or November 2007. Delegations were asked to inform the secretariat about their potential participation.

32. The delegation of Russia offered to host a rapporteurs meeting on Eggs and Egg Products and Duck Meat from 29 October to 2 November 2007. Delegations were asked to inform the secretariat about their potential participation. Ideally, the rapporteurs meeting should cover both Eggs and Egg Products and Duck meat. The delegation of China will be invited to come to Russia with the draft duck standard.

33. The next session of the Specialized Section has been tentatively scheduled to take place from 21 to 24 April 2008 in Geneva. The delegation of France proposed to host a rapporteurs

meeting on Veal at a venue close to Geneva the week before the next session of the Section (17-18 April 2008).

34. Annex 1 contains the agreed provisional agenda for the seventeenth session. Further proposals should be submitted to the secretariat at least 12 weeks before the session. The deadline for submitting documents is 1 February 2008.

IX. PREPARATION OF 2007 SESSION OF WORKING PARTY ON AGRICULTURAL QUALITY STANDARDS (AGENDA ITEM 9)

Documentation: ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/2006/19
Informal documentation: INF.1

35. The secretariat presented the results of the survey “Review of the work of the Working Party”, which was conducted in December 2005. Additionally, delegations were informed about the draft questionnaire on the implementation of UNECE standards at national level and the importance of having this information at the secretariat to better plan its activities and future work.

36. The Specialized Section decided to submit the amendments to the Standard for Bovine Meat – Carcasses and Cuts, which were discussed and agreed upon under item 4, to the forthcoming session of the Working Party for approval. A new edition of the revised publication would then be published.

37. The secretariat will inform the Working Party about the results of the meeting of rapporteurs on Eggs and Eggs Products.

X. FUTURE WORK (AGENDA ITEM 10)

38. The Specialized Section proposed the following items for future work:

- (a) Evaluation of the implementation of UNECE Standards;
- (b) New UNECE Standard for Duck Meat – Carcasses and Parts (Rapporteur: China);
- (c) Initiate the process of drafting a preliminary UNECE Standard for Veal Meat – Carcasses and Cuts. Since the definition of Veal is still under discussion in the EU, the delegations decided to proceed with the definition of the main cuts that should be included in this standard. A working group (to be defined) will be formed to prepare the first draft of the standard and will submit its results to the next session of the Specialized Section;
- (d) Complete the work on the UNECE Standard for Fancy Meats. The Rapporteur (France) will collect contributions (images and text) from delegations;
- (e) Complete the work on the new standard for Caprine Meat – Carcasses and Cuts. The Section will submit the final text and images of the standard for approval at the next session of the Working Party in November 2007;

- (f) At the request of several countries to the Working Party in 2006, expressing interest in revising the Standards on Eggs and Egg Products, a working group (Czech Republic, Poland, Russian Federation and United States) has been created. The delegation of the United States will revise the existing texts and circulate, by the end of May, first proposals for the revision. One of its goals is to prepare a report summarizing the main activities and resources that would be involved to execute its mandate. A meeting of rapporteurs has been proposed by Russia next November;
- (g) Retail cuts. The delegations of Australia and United States suggested that this subject should be considered in the near future. Although retail cuts may be considered domestic products, i.e. traded in local markets, retail companies are increasingly turning to international suppliers;
- (h) Use of International Anatomical Names in the standards. The delegation of France will provide the secretariat with specific references to be distributed to the Section.

XI. OTHER BUSINESS (AGENDA ITEM 11)

Documentation: ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/2006/10

39. At a request of the delegation of France, the Specialized Section revised and recommended the following specific changes in the Standard for Turkey Meat – Carcasses and Parts, (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/2006/10) approved by the Working Party in 2006:

- (a) Translation of the French version:
 - (i) Page 8: section 3.4. Replace the word « réfrigération » by « refroidissement ». The word « réfrigération » cannot be used for temperatures below the freezing point, i.e. below -2° C.
 - (ii) Page 9: section 3.4, category 4. Replace word « réfrigéré » by « légèrement congelé » ou « refroidie à très basse température ».
 - (iii) Page 13: Replace the word « réfrigération » by « refroidissement ».
 - (iv) Page 24: In parts codes 0615 and 0616, add the word « internes » to the filets (French for internal tenderloin).
 - (v) Page 24, In part codes 0617 and 0618, use product description proposed by France;
- (b) Section 3.5.2. Turkey category. Taking into account EU legislation, replace current table by the following one:

Category code (data field 5)	Category	Description
0	Not specified	
1	Young turkeys (without gender distinction)	Turkeys less than 4 months of age.
2	Young turkeys (without gender distinction)	Turkeys less than 8 months of age. Tip of sternum is flexible
3	Young hen turkeys	Female turkeys less than 8 months of age. Tip of sternum is flexible
4	Young tom turkeys	Male (stag) turkeys less than 8 months of age. Tip of sternum is flexible
5	Yearling turkeys	Fully mature hen and tom turkeys that are usually between 8 - 15 months of age
6	Mature/breeder turkeys	Mature hen and tom turkeys that are usually over 15 months of age
7	Mature/breeder hen turkeys	Mature female turkeys that are usually over 15 months of age
8	Mature/breeder tom turkeys	Mature male (stag) turkeys that are usually over 15 months of age
9	Other	

- (c) Section 3.5.3, Production system. Amend category 2 to read “140 days” instead of “11 weeks”;
- (d) Remove from the Standard the following parts: 5001, 5002, 5003, 5004, 5201, 5202, 5203, 5204, 5205 and 5211.

XII. ELECTION OF OFFICERS (AGENDA ITEM 12)

40. The Specialized Section elected Mr. Ian King (Australia) as Chairperson and Mr. Craig Morris (United States) as Vice-Chairperson.

XIII. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT (AGENDA ITEM 13)

41. The Specialized Section adopted its report.

ANNEX
PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE SEVENTEENTH SESSION (2008)

1.	Adoption of the agenda
2.	Matters of interest since the last session
3.	Status of publications on existing standards
4.	Draft UNECE Standard for Caprine Meat - Carcasses and Cuts
5.	Draft UNECE Standard for Fancy Meats
6.	Coding system for UNECE Standards for Meat
7.	Preparation of the meetings of rapporteurs and next session of the Specialized Section
8.	Preparation of the next session of Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards
9.	Promotion of the standards
10.	Future work
11.	Other business
12.	Election of officers
13.	Adoption of the report