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COMMITTEE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND
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Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards

Specialized Section on Standardization of Meat
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Item 3(a) of the provisional agenda

Chapters 1 to 4 of the draft UNECE
Standard for Chicken Carcases and Parts

Transmitted by the United States of America

Note by the secretariat: This document contains comments and recommendations from the United States on
the draft text for the UNECE Standard for Chicken (see TRADE/WP.7/GE.11/2003/3). The
recommendations are in line with the conclusions of the discussions held at the meeting of rapporteurs in
Rennes in 2002.

US Comments shaded and recommendations underlined to Chicken Standard Chapters 1-4 as follows:

Section 1.1.2

Meat species/ class category	Use Code in the UNECE code for meat (see chapter 4)	Publication/adoption details
Beef – Bovine	1	Adopted 2000. This second edition editorially revised and corrected published 2003
Veal	2	To be developed
Pork meat – Porcine	3	Adopted 1998.
Sheep meat – Ovine	4	Adopted 2002.
Goat meat – Caprine	5	To be developed
Other Mammalian meats and processed meat products	6	To be developed
Chicken meat – Gallus domesticus	7	Under development, planned for 2004
Turkey meat	8	To be developed
Other poultry products	9	To be developed

1.3.3   It is recognized that additional requirements of food standardization and veterinary control must be complied with to market ~~ovine~~ **chicken** products across international borders. The standard does not attempt to prescribe those aspects, which are covered elsewhere, and throughout the standard, such provisions are left for national or international legislation, or requirements of the importing country.

3.5   Quality level

Quality code (data field 6)	Category	Description
0	Not specified	**NOTE: Can this exist if we say that "Quality level is mandatory"?** **Yes, when the purchaser does not prefer graded product.** Quality/grade/classifications not specified
1	Quality Level #1	Product meets highest quality level
2	Quality Level #2	Product meets second quality level
~~3~~	~~Quality Level #3~~	~~product meets third quality level~~
~~4~~	~~Line Run~~	~~product is not assessed for quality level~~
~~5~~ 3-8	Code not used	
9	Other	Quality/grade/classifications other than those described above

3.6 Refrigeration (data field 8)

Refrigeration code (data field 8)	Category	Description
0	Not specified	**NOTE: Can this exist if we say that "Refrigeration is mandatory"?**
1	Chilled	Product maintained at not less than –2.0 °C or more than + 4.0 °C at all times following the post-slaughter chilling process.
2	Chilled, with Ice Added	Product maintained at not less than –2.0 °C or more than +4.0 °C at all times following the post-slaughter chilling process and packed in a container with ice (frozen water, not dry ice).
3	Chilled, with Dry Ice (CO$_2$) Added	Product maintained at not less than –2.0 °C or more than + 4.0 °C at all times following the post-slaughter chilling process and packed in a container with dry ice (CO$_2$).
4	Lightly Frozen	Product maintained at not less than –12.0 °C or more than – 2.0 °C at all times after freezing.
5	Frozen	Product maintained at not more than –12 °C at all times after freezing.
~~6~~	~~Quick Frozen~~	**Description?**
~~7~~ 6	Deep Frozen	Product maintained at not more than –18 °C at all times after freezing.
~~8~~ 7	Individually (Quick) Deep Frozen, without Ice Glazing	**Description?** Product is individually frozen before packaging and maintained at –18 °C or less at all times after freezing.
~~9~~ 8	Individually (Quick) Deep Frozen, with Ice Glazing	**Description?** Product is individually frozen before packaging and maintained at –18 °C or less at all times after freezing. Ice glazing methodology and labeling terminology must be determined by the buyer and seller. Any weight pick-up due to ice glazing must be declared on the label.
9	Other	Must be specified by the buyer or seller.

3.7.2 Chicken category

The purchaser may specify that product be produced from a category of chicken as follows:

Category code (data field 5)	Category	Description
0	Not specified	
1	Young chickens	Less than 12 weeks of age
2	Very young chickens	Less than 4 ~~5~~ weeks of age
3	~~breeding hens and roosters~~ Young roaster	~~More~~ Less than ~~10 months~~ 12 weeks of age

4	Egg-laying hens	More than 10 months of age
5	Breeding hens and roosters	More than 10 months of age
6	Neutered chickens (capons)	Less than 4 months of age
7-8	codes not used	
9	Other	Describe category attributes under "Additional product options"

3.7.3   Production and feeding system

Feeding System

Feeding system code (data field 9)	Category	Description
0	No system specified	
1	Conventional	Protein diet
2	Fish Meal Free	Diet that contains no fish products.
3	Ingredients of Animal Origin Free	Diet that contains no livestock or poultry products.
4	Antibiotic Growth Promoter Free	Diet that contains no antibiotics (antibiotics may still be used for therapeutic reasons).
5	Genetically Modified Organism (GMO) Free	Diet that contains no ingredients that were derived from genetically modified organisms or products.
6	Organic	Chickens are fed Diet in accordance with a buyer, seller, or country agreed upon (certification body/authority) organic management system.
7-8	codes not used	
9	Other	Must be specified by the buyer or seller

Data field 9 is a combination of production methods and feeding systems, the two systems will make up a two digit code (i.e., 00, 11, 12, 14).

Feeding System Code	Feeding System(s) code (data field 10)							
	No System Specified	Conventional	Fish Meal free	IAO free	AGP free	GMO free	Organic?	Other
00	Not Specified							
01		Conventional						
02-09								Codes not used
10			Fish Meal free					
11			Fish Meal free	& IAO free				
12			Fish Meal free,	IAO free,	& AGP free			
13			Fish Meal free,	IAO free,	AGP free,	& GMO free		
14			Fish Meal free,	IAO free,	AGP free,	GMO free,	& Organic	
15			Fish Meal free		& AGP free			
16			Fish Meal free,		AGP free,	& GMO free		

17			Fish Meal free,		AGP free,		& Organic	
18			Fish Meal free			& GMO free	
19			Fish Meal free,			GMO free,	& Organic
20-29								Codes not used
30				IAO free			
31				IAO free	& AGP free		
32				IAO free		& GMO free	
33				IAO free			& Organic
34				IAO free,	AGP free,	& GMO free	
35				IAO free,	AGP free,		& Organic
36				IAO free,	AGP free,	GMO free,	& Organic
37				IAO free,		GMO free,	& Organic
38-49								Codes not used
50					AGP free		
51					AGP free	& GMO free	
52					AGP free		& Organic
53					AGP free,	GMO free,	& Organic
54-59								Codes not used
60						GMO free	
61						GMO free	& Organic
62-69								Codes not used
70							Organic
71-98								Codes not used
99								Other feeding system

IAO free   Free From Ingredients of Animal Origin
AGP free   Free From Antibiotic Growth Promoters
GMO free   Free of Genetically Modified Organisms

3.7.7   Added ingredients

Added ingredients code (data field 15)	Category/Description
0	No ingredients added
1	Ingredients added up to 3 % over product weight (as specified)
2	Ingredients added 3 to 8 % over product weight
3	Ingredients added 8 to 10 % over product weight
4	Ingredients added 10 to 15 % over product weight
5	Ingredients added 15 to 20 % over product weight
6	Ingredients added greater than 20 % over product weight
7 2-8	Codes not used
9	Other added ingredients percentages as specified

[3.7.8 Size reduction

Size reduction code (data field 15)	Category	Description
0	No Size Reduction	product is not diced, sliced, stripped or pulled
1	Diced/Chopped	product is cut to create (approximate) uniformly sized meat cubes
2	Sliced	product is cut to create meat slices that have a uniform thickness but an irregular outline due to the natural shape of the part (e.g. breast slices)
3	Stripped	product is cut to create rectangularly shaped meat strips that have a uniform width but may be of variable length
4	Pulled	product is hand-pulled or mechanically torn to create irregularly sized pieces of meat that have a natural shredded appearance
5	Ground, fine	product is extruded under pressure through openings in a plate attached to an extruder to create soft, pliable muscle fibers with a strand-like appearance. The size of the openings may be specified under "Additional product options."
6	Ground, medium	product is extruded under pressure through openings in a plate attached to an extruder to create soft, pliable muscle fibers with a strand-like appearance. The size of the openings may be specified under "Additional product options."
7	Ground, course	product is extruded under pressure through openings in a plate attached to an extruder to create soft, pliable muscle fibers with a strand-like appearance. The size of the openings may be specified under "Additional product options."
8	Code not used	
9	Other	Describe size reduction requirements under "Additional product options." Specifications regarding the desired slice thickness, strip width, dice/chopped size, grind size, or other dimensions or characteristics of size-reduced pieces shall be specified under "Additional product options." Products shall not be size reduced unless a requirement for size reduction is specified]

3.8.1   Piece weight (unpackaged)

Buyer and seller may agree on individual product piece weight in:

-        Grams as four digits with no decimal places or in kilograms as four digits with two decimal places, or
-        Size ranges which are designated under the "Additional product options".

A "piece" is a whole bird, a bird cut into pieces, or a part from a bird as specified by the product description.

Piece weight code	Category/Description

(data field P1)	
0000	Not specified
0001-9999	Specify four-digit piece weight (0000) in grams or (00.00) in kilograms

3.8.5   Secondary packaging

[Shipping containers are used to protect and identify the product during transport. Shipping containers ~~contain a number~~ consist of one or more primary packages……] Shipping containers must be labeled in accordance with the requirements of the country of destination. The shipping container may be specified as follows:

Secondary packing code (data field P5)	Category	Description
0	Not specified	
1	Box, Unlined and Unwaxed	Container made from corrugated paper. Closed using tape, straps, or other commercially acceptable methods
2	Box, Lined and Unwaxed	Corrugated paper container that has a plastic-film bag lining the inside of the container. Closed using tape, straps, or other commercially acceptable methods
3	Box, Unlined and Waxed	Corrugated paper box impregnated and/or coated with wax to waterproof the container. Closed using tape, straps, or other commercially acceptable methods
4	Plastic Container, Returnable	Plastic container or "tote" that is recovered by the processor after delivery.
5	Bulk Bin, Non-Returnable	Large corrugated paper container that is not recovered by the processor after delivery, which may or may not be wax impregnated or lined with a plastic-film bag.
6	Bulk Bin, Returnable	Large plastic container that is recovered by the processor after delivery.
~~7~~	~~Tray Pack, with Modified Atmosphere~~	
7 ~~8~~ –8 ~~9~~	Codes not used	
9	Other	

[3.8.7   Additional Ordering Information

This data field is reserved for any additional ordering information that may be agreed between buyer and seller, e.g. Country code

Additional ordering information code (data field P7)	Category/Description
000	Not specified
001-999	To be agreed between buyer and seller

]

3.8.7 Country designation

The standard provides for the labeling of product to satisfy the requirements of the country of destination (country labeled for) where the product will be sold or further processed. A three-digit ISO country code is used to indicate the country of destination.]

The buyer may specify a three-digit International Organization for Standardization (ISO) country code. The ISO 3166 three-digit numeric country code for UN-recognized countries is available at http://stiwww.epfl.ch/utile/iso_3166.html

The country code may designate the following: country of origin, country of destination, or the language preference that must be used for labeling. The country code designation use must be specified under "Additional product options."

3.8.8   Poultry meat packaging and packing coding format

The following tables demonstrate the general application of the coding format for describing packaging and packing for poultry species:

Data Field	Code Range	Specified Use	Data Field Ref.
	OPTIONAL		
Piece Weight	0000-9999	0000-9999	1
Packaging	00 – 99	00 – 10 and 99	2
Package Labeling	0 – 9	0, 1, and 9	3
Package Weight	0000 – 9999	0000 – 9999	4
Shipping Container	0 – 9	0 – 6	5
Shipping Container Weight	00000 – 99999	00000 – 99999	6
~~Additional Ordering Information~~ Country Designation	000 – 999	000 – 999	7

3.8.9   Codification example for packaging and packing poultry meat

Field P1 Piece Weight = 0000 (unspecified) (Plastic Bag)
Field P2 Packaging = 01 (Plastic Bag)
Field P3 Package Labeling = 1 (Labeled)
Field P4 Package Weight = 0114 (1.14 Kg)
Field P5 Shipping Container = 2 (Lined box)
Field P6 Shipping Container Weight = 01816 (18.16 Kg)
Field P7 Country ~~of Destination~~ Designation = 380 (ISO country code for Italy)
20-Digit Codification In UNECE Standard Grid Format:

0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	4	2	0	1	8	1	6	3	8	0

[~~3.9.1~~ **move to 3.8.7** ~~Labeling product for~~ **Country** ~~of destination~~ **designation**

~~The standard provides for the labeling of product to satisfy the requirements of the country of destination (country labeled for) where the product will be sold or further processed. A three-digit ISO country code is used to indicate the country of destination.~~]

The buyer may specify a three-digit International Organization for Standardization (ISO) country code. The ISO 3166 three-digit numeric country code for UN-recognized countries is available at http://stiwww.epfl.ch/utile/iso_3166.html

The country code may designate the following: country of origin, country of destination, or the language preference that must be used for labeling. The country code designation use must be specified under "Additional product options."

3.10   Provisions concerning conformity assessment requirements

The purchaser may request third-party conformity assessment of the product's quality/grade/classification, purchaser-specified options of the standard, and/or animal identification. Individual conformity assessments or combinations may be selected as follows:

Quality/Grade/Classification Conformity Assessment (Quality): a third party examines and certifies that the product meets the quality level requested. The name of the third-party certifying authority and quality grade standard to be used must be designated under "Additional product options."

Trade Standard Conformity Assessment (Trade Standard): a third party examines and certifies that the product meets the purchaser-specified options as specified in the trade description, except for quality level. The name of the third-party certifying authority must be designated under "Additional product options." Optionally, the purchaser may indicate specific purchaser specified options to be certified after the name of the third-party certifying authority.

Animal Identification Conformity Assessment (Animal ID): a third party certifies that the product meets specified traceability requirements. The name of the third-party certifying authority and the traceability requirements must be designated under "Additional product options."

Conformity assessment code (data field 7)	Category	Description
0	Not required	
~~1~~	~~Quality/Grade/Classification Conformity Assessment~~	~~A third party examines and certifies that the product meets the quality level requested. The name of the third-party certifying authority and quality grade standard to be used must be designated under "Additional product options."~~
~~2~~	~~Trade Description Conformity Assessment~~	~~A third party examines and certifies that the product meets the purchaser-specified options as specified in the trade description, except for quality level. The name of the third-party certifying authority must be designated under "Additional product options." Optionally, the purchaser may indicate specific purchaser specified options to be certified after the name of the third-party certifying authority.~~
~~3~~	~~Animal Identification Conformity Assessment~~	~~A third party certifies that the product meets specified traceability requirements. The name of the third-party certifying authority and the traceability requirements must be designated under "Additional product options."~~
~~4~~	~~Quality Grade/Classification and Trade Description Conformity Assessment~~	~~A third party examines and certifies that the product meets the quality level and purchaser-specified options specified in the trade description. The name of the third-party certifying authority and quality grade standard to be used must be designated under "Additional product options." Optionally, the purchaser may indicate specific purchaser specified options to be certified after the name of the third-party certifying authority.~~
~~5~~	~~Quality Grade/Classification and Animal Identification Conformity Assessment~~	~~a third party examines and certifies that the product meets the quality level and specified traceability requirements. The name of the third-party certifying authority, the quality grade standard to be used, and the traceability requirements must be designated under "Additional product options."~~
~~6~~	~~Trade Description and Animal Identification Conformity Assessment~~	~~A third party examines and certifies that the product meets the purchaser-specified options specified in the trade description and specified traceability requirements. The name of the third-party certifying authority and the traceability requirements must be designated under "Additional product options." Optionally, the purchaser may indicate specific purchaser specified options to be certified after the name of the third-party certifying authority.~~
~~7~~	~~Quality Grade/Classification, Trade Description, and Animal Identification Conformity Assessment~~	~~A third party examines and certifies that the product meets the specified quality level, the purchaser-specified options specified in the trade description, and specified traceability requirements. The name of the third-party certifying authority, the quality grade standard to be used, and the traceability requirements must be designated under "Additional product options." Optionally, the purchaser may indicate specific purchaser specified options to be certified after the name of the third-party certifying authority.~~
~~8-9~~	~~Codes not used~~	

Conformity assessment code (data field 7)	Category
0	Not required
1	Quality/Grade/Classification (Quality) Conformity Assessment
2	Trade Standard Conformity Assessment
3	Animal Identification (Animal ID) Conformity Assessment
4	Quality and Trade Standard Conformity Assessment
5	Quality and Animal ID Conformity Assessment
6	Trade Standard and Animal ID Conformity Assessment
7	Quality, Trade Standard, and Animal ID Conformity Assessment
8	Code not used
9	Other

4 ~~CHICKEN SPECIFIC~~ CODING **FORMAT**

<mark>Should all coding formats and examples (packaging 3.8.8 and 3.8.9) be in Chapter 4?</mark>
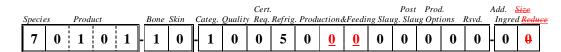
4.1 Chicken-specific EAN/UCC coding format

Data Field	Code Range	Specified Use	Data Field Ref.
	OPTIONAL		
Category	0 – 9	0 – 7	5
Conformity Assessment	0 – 9	0 – 7	7
Production Method/~~Feeding System~~	0~~0~~ – 9~~9~~	0~~0~~ – 9~~9~~	9
Feeding System	00-99	00-99	10
Slaughter System	0 – 9	0 – 3	11
Post Slaughter Processing	0 – 9	0 – 3	12
Additional Product Options	0 – 9	0 - 1	13
Reserved	0 – 9	0 & 0	14
Added Ingredients	0 – 9	0 – 1	15
~~Size Reduction~~	~~0 – 9~~	~~0 – 7~~	~~14~~

4.1.1   Codification example for product identification

Frozen whole young chickens with giblets could be characterized by the EAN/UCC chicken product code 70101-10-100500000000-0, indicating the following:

Field 1	Species	= 7 (Chicken)
Field 2	Product	= 0101 (Whole bird (with giblets))
Field 3	Bone	= 1 (Bone-in)
Field 4	Skin	= 0 (Unspecified)
Field 5	Category	= 1 (Young Chicken)
Field 6	Quality Level	= 0 (Unspecified)
Field 7	Conformity Assessment	= 0 (Unspecified)
Field 8	Refrigeration	= 5 (Frozen)
Field 9	Production Method	= 0 (Unspecified)
Field 10	Feeding System	= 00 (Unspecified)
Field 11	Slaughter System	= 0 (Unspecified)
Field 12	Post Slaughter Processing	= 0 (Unspecified)
Field 13	Additional Product Options	= 0 (Unspecified)
Field 14	Reserved Codes	= 0 & 0
Field 15	Added Ingredients	= 0 (Unspecified)
Field 15	Size Reduction	= 0 (Unspecified)

20-Digit Codification In UNECE Grid

Species	Product				Bone	Skin	Categ.	Quality	Cert. Req.	Refrig.	Production	&Feeding	Slaug.	Post Slaug.	Prod. Options	Rsvd.		Add. Ingred	Size Reduce
7	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

3.8.8 4.2   Poultry meat packaging and packing coding format

3.8.9 4.2.1   Codification example for packaging and packing poultry meat