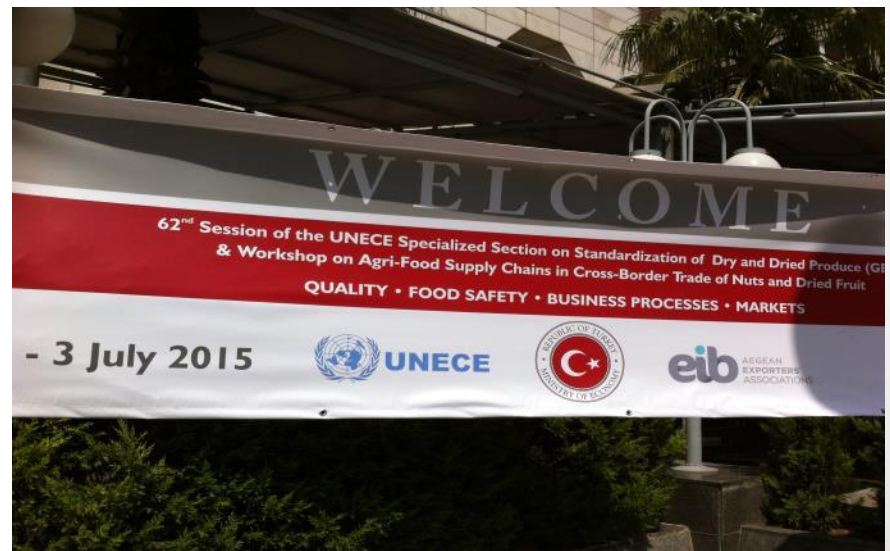


Report of the Sixty-second session
of the **UNECE Specialized Section on
Standardization of Dry and Dried Produce**
and
Workshop on “**Agri-food Supply Chains in
Cross-border Trade of Nuts and Dried Fruit**”.
Izmir, Turkey, 29 June – 3 July 2015



UNECE



Meetings were hosted by Turkey

Over 60 participants attended the Specialized Section meeting and/or the workshop. They represented the following:

- 18 countries
- United Nations Development Program
- Intergovernmental Organizations
- Donor agencies



The opening ceremony was addressed by:

Mr. Adnan Yildirim – the Vice-Minister of Economy of Turkey

Dr. Mehmet Karabay – Director General, Product Safety and Inspection (Ministry of Economy)

Mr. Sabri Ünlütürk – Chairman of the Aegean Exporters' Association and co-organizer of the event.

Mr. Christian Friis Bach – UNECE Executive Secretary (via video-call)



Review of UNECE Recommendations

The following UNECE Recommendations were amended as follows:

Dried Apricots (*Turkey*):

- Definition of Produce: Amended the definition of the style “slabs.
- Moisture Content: It was decided to replace the term “soft fruit” by “high moisture or equivalent denomination” and to define the term “high moisture” in the Standard Layout.
- Tolerances: Separate the tolerance levels for fermented fruits and revise size tolerances

Decision: The Specialized Section requests the 71st Working Party 7 Session to extend the trial of revised Recommendation for another year.



Dried Figs (Turkey)



- Moisture Content: The term “soft fruit” was replaced by “high moisture or equivalent denomination “(when appropriate).
- Provisions concerning sizing: Concern about a minimum size linked to quality classification; a uniformity in sizing table (to be discussed in 2016 session).
- Tolerances: Presence of the Pollinating Bee unresolved

Decision: The Specialized Section requests the 71st Working Party 7 Session to extend the trial of revised Recommendation for another year.

Dried Grapes - seedless, seeded ,and currants (Turkey)

- Moisture content: Exception made for the Monukka variety
- Tolerances: New Total Tolerance proposals made and are being studied:
 - Tolerance levels for “pieces of stem” and “sugared required” further discussion
 - The combination of three tolerance tables (seedless, seeded and currants)

Decision: The Specialized Section requests the 71st Working Party 7 Session to extend the trial of revised Recommendation for another year.



REVIEW OF EXISTING UNECE STANDARDS and ALIGNMENT WITH THE 2011 STANDARD LAYOUT



The following existing UNECE Standards were aligned with the 2011 Standard layout as follows:

Dried Dates (*Germany*)

- Tolerances: Total tolerance for Classes I and II were raised due to “pest damage”
New tolerance levels for pest damage were agreed along with an accompanying footnote on the United States maximum tolerance limit for pest damage

Decision: The Specialized Section request to the 71st Working Party 7 Session to adopt the revised standard.

Inshell Pistachios (*United States*)

The following two sections requiring more study/evaluation and discussion placed in square brackets:

- Provisions concerning sizing
- Table of Tolerances – percentage of area for dark stained shell and tolerances for cracked shells

Decision: The Specialized Section submits the revised document to the 71st Working Party session for adoption as a Recommendation for a 1-year trial period.

Almond Kernels (*United States*)



- Minimum Requirements: Maximum percentage missing to be considered as a whole
- Provisions concerning sizing: “Mandatory” sizing for Extra Class and Class I.
- Tolerances: Bitter almonds, foreign matter/loose shells, doubles/twins

Decision: The Specialized Section submits the draft document to 71st session of the Working Party 7 Session for adoption as a Recommendation for a 1-year trial period.

Walnut Kernels (*United States*)

The revised draft standard was aligned document a previously submitted document as well as proposed changes by an informal working group. This draft text is retained as work in progress for further elaboration.

ELECTRONIC UNECE BROCHURE FOR WALNUT KERNELS (*United States*)

A rough draft/outline of the proposed Brochure for Walnut Kernels was presented and discussed with the following outcomes:

- The need for more photos depicting the quality classes was highlighted and to include newly internationally traded Livermore variety (red walnut) along with its impact on widening the existing color gauge.
- A formal draft brochure will be produce prior to the 2016 Specialized Section session.



DEVELOPMENT OF A SAMPLING PLAN FOR TREE NUTS AND DRIED PRODUCE (*GERMANY/INC*)

Since the 2014 session no comments were received.

- It was agreed to request from the OECD the possibility of separating the dried fruit and nuts sampling plan from the fresh fruit sampling plan, thereby making them two autonomous documents.
- INC made progress in taking pictures to illustrate plan and producing a training video to illustrate the content of the sampling plan. The video would be made available for training purposes worldwide.
- The Sampling plan was posted for review on the UNECE website with a comment deadline of mid-August 2015.
- In August 2015 the Rapporteur prepared a new document which was submitted for inter-sessional approval and, if approved, to the 2015 session of the Working Party for final adoption.



REVIEW OF THE DDP STANDARD LAYOUT ANNEX III: RECOMMENDED TERMS AND DEFINITIONS OF DEFECTS.

Though no new comments were received in writing, during this session several issues had been raised and noted for discussion . They were posted for comments and will be discussed at the 2016 Session.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The current bureau was retained with a new second Vice-chairperson Ms. Elif Ulug Sakalsiz (*Turkey*) added.



REVIEW OF THE DDP STANDARD LAYOUT ANNEX III – RECOMMENDED TERMS AND DEFINITIONS OF DEFECTS.

Though no new comments were received in writing, but during this session several issues had been raised and noted for discussion which were posted for comments and will be discussed at the 2016 Session.

FOOD WASTE AND STANDARDS

The Specialized Section was provided with information on the topic and asked to consider if this topic would be appropriate for their work. Issues raised in this context included the too stringent provisions of the standards, the issue of non-exportable product or the re-grading of non-conforming produce

FUTURE WORK

- Development of a Layout for an explanatory poster
- Development of a guideline for inspections (for dry and dried produce)
- New Standard for Pecan Kernels
- New Standard for Dried Sour Cherries
- Development of a generic poster layout. This could illustrate the standards' provisions in a targeted and more cost-effective way



SUMMARY

Sixty-second session of the UNECE Specialized Section on Standardization of Dry and Dried Produce submits to the 71st Session of UNECE Working Party 7:

Submitted for Adoption are:

Dried Dates

(ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2015/13)

New UNECE Recommendations for 1 year trials:

Inshell Pistachio Nuts

(ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2015/15)

Almond Kernels

(ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2015/16)

Extension of Trial Period by 1 year are:

Dried Apricots

(ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/2014/19)

Dried Figs

(ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/2014/18)

Dried Grapes

(ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/2014/17)

Sampling Plan for Tree Nuts and Dried Produce

(ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2015/14)

