



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
6 September 2016

Original: English

Economic Commission for Europe

Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards

Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards

Seventy-second session

Geneva, 9-11 November 2016

Item 3 of the provisional agenda

Specialized Section on Standardization of Seed Potatoes

UNECE Standard for Seed Potatoes - amendments

The following amendments to the UNECE Standard for Seed Potatoes are submitted to the Working Party for adoption.

Amendments to Annex II

“Minimum conditions to be satisfied by the crop; field inspection procedures”

B. Field inspection procedures

2. *Level and timing of inspection*

A minimum of two inspections is recommended for growing plants. Where possible, inspections should start at or shortly before the flowering stage.

The DA shall specify the inspection procedures. In general, the procedures should allow the inspector to inspect at random a representative sample of plants from a crop.

The number of plants inspected should be sufficient to ensure that, with an appropriate level of confidence, the tolerances given in Annex II A are not exceeded.

The number of plants affected by the diseases listed in annex II, section A, points 2 and 3 and those not true to variety or of another variety (annex II, section A, point 4) should be recorded separately in the field inspection report and each expressed as a percentage of the total number of plants inspected in the sample.

Observation of symptoms of the diseases specified in Annex II A 5, during inspection, or at any other time, will result in the crop being rejected, if confirmed by appropriate diagnostics.

During each crop inspection the inspector should verify the purity and identity of the variety. The first generation derived from Pre-basic TC class seed potatoes should be inspected at a more intensive rate to identify off-types.

Amendments to Annex VII

“Definitions of terms applicable to the Standard”

1. Deletion of the sections on “severe virus”, “mild virus”, and “severe virus diseases”
2. Amendments and additions:

Crop

A defined area of seed potatoes that is limited to one variety and class and is registered as a single unit for certification. The origin is documented.

Lot

A quantity of seed potatoes of the same variety and class, derived from the same crop and bearing a unique reference number. There may be multiple lots per crop.

Origin

The crop from which the seed potatoes are derived and which can be identified.

Virus diseases

Manifest themselves by deformations of the foliage with or without discolouration. The determination is based on the count of plants with virus symptoms in a crop at the time of the inspection. Simple diagnostic field kits are available that can aid identification of many

of the viruses and there are laboratories that offer comprehensive testing, if required. If a virus is suspected the inspector may seek confirmation using approved diagnostic tests.

Virus symptoms in potato plants can be discolouration, mottling, rugosity, crinkling, rolling and brittleness of the leaves or dwarfing of the plant, as with mosaic or/and potato leaf roll disease. It is important to note that the actual virus, virus strain, potato variety, environmental conditions all may affect the expression of the virus symptoms.

The following viruses or virus combinations are normally associated with symptoms of virus

- PLRV, PVY, PVA or PVM
- PVY + PVX, PVA + PVX or PVX + PVS.

PVS, PVX, and other viruses, depending on the strain and variety, may be latent or show mild symptoms.
