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**Economic Commission for Europe****Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards****Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards****Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables****Sixty-ninth session**

Geneva, 9—11 June 2021

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

**Adoption of the agenda****Revised provisional agenda and annotations \* \*\***

Session to be held as a webinar on 9 and 11 June (2-5 pm) and as a hybrid session (with interpretation) on 10 June (2-4 pm)

**I. Revised provisional agenda**

1. Adoption of the revised agenda.
2. Matters arising since the last session:
  - (a) United Nations, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and subsidiary bodies;
  - (b) Recent developments in other organizations.
3. Circular economy—Transitioning to circularity in food trade.
4. Sustainable food systems and the 2021 United Nations Food Systems Summit.
5. Micro, small and medium-sized enterprises and agricultural quality standards for resilient supply chains.
6. Nexus on sustainable use of natural resources.
7. Resilient food supply chains and post-COVID recovery.
8. Analysis of the impact of agricultural quality standards on the trade of fruit and vegetables.
9. Sustainable Development Goal 12 and sustainable practices: food loss and waste prevention related to standards.

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\* Documents for the meeting are available online at <https://unece.org/trade/wp7/ge1-69th-2021>. Delegates attending the meeting are encouraged to register online at <https://indico.un.org/event/1000110/registrations/4757/>, or in the event of difficulties, contact the secretariat by e-mail ([Stephen.hatem@un.org](mailto:Stephen.hatem@un.org)).

\*\* Revised to more accurately reflect document topics.

10. Electronic quality certificates for fresh fruit and vegetables.
11. Capacity-building and promotional activities.
12. Development of new standards.
13. Revision of standards:
  - (a) Revisions of standards (further discussion of 2020 proposals);
  - (b) Revisions (new proposals);
  - (c) Revisions to the Standard Layout for fresh fruit and vegetables.
14. Revision of explanatory brochures: Persimmon.
15. Other business.
16. Future work.
17. Election of officers.
18. Adoption of the report.

## **II. Annotations**

### **1. Adoption of the revised agenda**

The delegations will adopt the revised agenda.

*Documentation:* Revised annotated provisional agenda  
(ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.1/2021/1/Rev.1)

### **2. Matters arising since the last session**

#### **(a) United Nations, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and subsidiary bodies**

The secretariat will present recent matters arising from the United Nations, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards and the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards (WP.7) having an impact on the work of the Specialized Section.

*Documentation:* Report of the seventy-sixth (informal) session of the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2020/2)

#### **(b) Recent developments in other organizations**

Representatives of other organizations and country delegations will inform the Specialized Section about activities taking place in their agencies that are of relevance to the work of the Specialized Section.

### **3. Circular economy–Transitioning to circularity in food trade**

Under this item, the secretariat will submit a report and an update on discussions which took place at the 69<sup>th</sup> session of the Economic Commission for Europe on 20-21 April 2021. Delegations are invited to report on national efforts and decide on the development of contributions by the Specialized Section related to policy advice, guidance and capacity building for the fruit and vegetable trade.

*Documentation:* Secretariat report on issues emanating from the 2021 Commission Session (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.1/2021/20)

#### **4. Sustainable food systems and the 2021 United Nations Food Systems Summit**

The secretariat will update the Specialized Section on national and regional preparations and the integration of food system approaches into national and international food policy agendas. Specialized Section delegations are invited to report on country efforts and exchange experiences.

*Documentation:* Secretariat report on issues emanating from the 2021 Commission Session (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.1/2021/20)

#### **5. Micro, small and medium-sized enterprises and agricultural quality standards for resilient supply chains**

The secretariat will present the work accomplished on e-learning material (under its dedicated COVID-19 project). Delegations are invited to report on their countries' work and available e-learning and other related material, The Specialized Section is invited to discuss and decide on the development of further guidance material and other contributions.

*Documentation:* Secretariat report on issues emanating from the 2021 Commission Session (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.1/2021/20)

#### **6. Nexus of sustainable use of natural resources**

The secretariat will update delegations on the work of the nexus on the sustainable use of natural resources and recent discussion at the 69<sup>th</sup> session of the Economic Commission for Europe. The Specialized Section is invited to discuss the development of new tools and guidelines for the fruit and vegetable sector and the organization of conferences/workshops to promote their use and implementation.

*Documentation:* UNECE nexus publication on the sustainable use of natural resources

#### **7. Resilient food supply chains and post-COVID recovery**

Delegation are invited to report on country-based approaches and discuss the development of contributions by the Specialized Section to guidance material for fruit and vegetable supply chains.

#### **8. Analysis of the impact of agricultural quality standards on the trade of fruit and vegetables**

The Specialized Section is invited to review a proposal to launch a UNECE-wide analysis to support data collection on impact and supply chain improvement measures related to the use of UNECE's agricultural quality standards.

#### **9. Sustainable Development Goal 12 and sustainable practices: food loss and waste prevention related to standards**

The Specialized Section is invited to discuss the launch of a country-based review of measures taken and a compilation of practical measures and tools for agricultural supply chains (especially fruit and vegetables) to prevent and avoid food loss and waste.

The Specialized Section is also invited to review a background report prepared by the secretariat on the possibility of a digital certification scheme of operators taking food loss and waste measures and decide on the establishment of an ad-hoc working group to explore the possible modalities of such a scheme.

The Specialized Section is also invited to take note of the extended Code of Good Practice for Reducing Food Loss in Handling Fruit and Vegetables developed over the past year by a working group led by the delegation of Sweden. The document is submitted for information only.

*Documentation:* Background report: Certification related to food loss and waste (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.1/2021/21)

Code of Good Practice for Reducing Food Loss in Handling Fruit and Vegetables (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.1/2021/22)

## 10. Electronic quality certificates for fresh fruit and vegetables

The secretariat will update the Specialized Section on the events held in 2020 on the possible implementation modalities of electronic quality (e-quality) certificates. The Specialized Section is invited to decide on the establishment of an ad-hoc working group to explore possible further work and pilot testing of e-quality certificates.

## 11. Capacity-building and promotional activities

The secretariat and delegations will provide information about their promotional and capacity-building activities in the past year and preview upcoming events and training.

## 12. Development of new standards

### Pomegranates

The Specialized Section is invited to discuss the proposal by the delegation from Spain to develop a UNECE standard for pomegranates on the basis of a review of the current Codex Standard.

*Documentation:* Codex Standard for pomegranate (CODEX STAN 310-2013)  
[http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/sh-proxy/en/?lnk=1&url=https%253A%252F%252Fworkspace.fao.org%252Fsites%252Fcodex%252Fstandards%252FCXS%2B310-2013%252FCXS\\_310e.pdf](http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/sh-proxy/en/?lnk=1&url=https%253A%252F%252Fworkspace.fao.org%252Fsites%252Fcodex%252Fstandards%252FCXS%2B310-2013%252FCXS_310e.pdf)

## 13. Revision of standards

### (a) Revisions of standards (further discussion of 2020 proposals)

The Specialized Section is invited to review the proposed changes and continue the discussions on outstanding issues in view of a possible approval of the following standards: carrots, beans, strawberries.

*Documentation:* Proposed revised standard for carrots (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.1/2021/9)

Proposed revised standard for beans (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.1/2021/10)

Proposed revised standard for strawberries (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.1/2021/12)

### (b) Revisions (new proposals)

The Specialized Section is invited to review the proposed changes to the following standards: berries (Sweden), fresh figs (Sweden), carrots (Sweden), broccoli (Sweden), Chinese cabbage (Sweden), cucumbers (Germany), onions (Spain), watermelons (Germany), apricots (Germany), early and ware potatoes (Germany), cauliflower (Germany), avocados, pineapples and citrus fruits (Sweden).

*Documentation:* Proposed revisions to the standard for berries (Sweden) (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.1/2021/4)

Proposed revisions to the standard for fresh figs (Sweden)  
(ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.1/2021/5)

Proposed revisions to the standard for carrots (Sweden)  
(ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.1/2021/6)

Proposed revisions to the standard for broccoli (Sweden)  
(ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.1/2021/7)

Proposed revisions to the standard for Chinese cabbage (Sweden)  
(ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.1/2021/8)

Proposed revisions to the standard for cucumbers (Germany)  
(ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.1/2021/11)

Proposed revisions of the standard for onions (Spain)  
(ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.1/2021/13)

Proposed revisions of the standard for watermelons (Germany)  
(ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.1/2021/14)

Proposed revisions of the standard for apricots (Germany)  
(ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.1/2021/15)

Proposed revision to the standard for early and ware potatoes (Germany)  
(ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.1/2021/16)

Proposed revisions to the standard for cauliflower (Germany)  
(ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.1/2021/17)

Proposed revisions to the standards for avocados, pineapples and citrus fruits (Sweden) (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.1/2021/18)

**(c) Revisions to the Standard Layout for fresh fruit and vegetables**

The Specialized Section is invited to continue discussions on the proposed amendment of the tolerances for quality and size within Class II proposed at the 2020 session as well as on a new proposal by the delegation of Spain.

*Documentation:* Proposals to amend the Standard Layout for fresh fruit and vegetables (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.1/2021/3)

**14. Revision of explanatory brochures: Persimmon**

The Specialized Section is invited to discuss a proposal by the delegation of Germany to amend the explanatory brochure for persimmon.

*Documentation:* Proposal by the delegation of Germany to amend the explanatory brochure for persimmon (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.1/2020/19)

**15. Other business**

Any other issues of interest for the work of the Specialized Section can be discussed under this agenda item.

**16. Future work**

The Specialized Section will discuss its future work.

**17. Election of officers**

The Specialized Section will elect a Chair and Vice-Chair. At its sixty-eighth session, it elected Ms. Ulrike Bickelmann (Germany) as Chair and Mr. Cyril Julius (South Africa) as Vice-Chair.

**18. Adoption of the report**

The Specialized Section will adopt the report of the session (to be issued as ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.1/2021/2).

**Tentative timetable**

Wednesday, 9 June	Online session 14:00-17:00	Items 1-6
Thursday, 10 June	Hybrid session with interpretation 14:00-16:00	Items 7-10
Friday, 11 June	Online session 14:00-17:00	Items 11-18

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