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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 Dry and Dried Produce

Sixty-ninth session

Geneva, 15—17 June 2022

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Provisional agenda and annotations *

Session to be held as a hybrid meeting (with interpretation) at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting on 15 June 2022.

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the 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. Preparations for the seventieth session of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.
4. Analysis of the impact of agricultural quality standards on the trade of produce.
5. Capacity-building and promotional activities.
6. Revisions to the Standard Layout.
7. Development of new standards:
 - (a) Dried persimmons;
 - (b) Raw and roasted inshell peanuts;
 - (c) Raw and roasted peanut kernels;
 - (d) Inshell pecans;

* Documents for the meeting and electronic registration information will be made available online at <https://unece.org/trade/wp7/ge2-69th-2022>. In the event of difficulties with electronic registration, please contact the secretariat by e-mail (Subashini.Narasimhan@un.org).



- (e) Pecan kernels.
- 8. Review of existing standards:
 - Cashew kernels.
- 9. Explanatory materials:
 - (a) Cashew kernels;
 - (b) Almond kernels.
- 10. Sampling plan for tree nuts and dried produce and guidelines for inspections of dry and dried produce, and related workshops.
- 11. Sustainable Development Goal 12 and sustainable practices: food loss and waste prevention related to standards.
- 12. Other business.
- 13. Future work.
- 14. Election of officers.
- 15. Adoption of the report.

II. Annotations

1. Adoption of the agenda

The Specialized Section will adopt the agenda.

Documentation: Provisional agenda and annotations (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.2/2022/1)

2. Matters arising since the last session

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

The secretariat will present matters arising from the United Nations, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards (SCTCS) 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 session of the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2021/2)

(b) Recent developments in other organizations

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

3. Preparations for the seventieth session of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

At its meeting on 16 December 2021, the Executive Committee of the Economic Commission for Europe decided that the cross-cutting theme of the seventieth session of the Commission, to be held in 2023, will be “Digital and green transformations for sustainable development in the ECE region”. It also decided to invite relevant subsidiary bodies of ECE and the secretariat to consider how they may contribute, as appropriate, to the cross-cutting theme of the seventieth Commission session within their respective mandates, ongoing work and existing resources, and while making full use of the existing nexuses.

The Specialized Section is invited to consider potential contributions, action items, and draft proposals for consideration by the Commission related to the theme of its seventieth session in 2023.

4. Analysis of the impact of agricultural quality standards on the trade of produce

Following discussions at the 2021 sessions of the Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables and the Specialized Section on Standardization of Dry and Dried Produce, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) expressed interest in implementing a joint study with the ECE on the impact of agricultural quality standards on the trade of fruit and vegetables. The results of the study are expected to be available by May 2022. The Specialized Section is invited to review the results of the study.

Documentation: Results of the study (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.2/2022/INF.1)

5. 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.

6. Revisions to the Standard Layout

The Specialized Section is invited to review proposed amendments to the 2020 Standard Layout for UNECE Standards on Dry and Dried Produce, submitted by the delegation of the United States.

Documentation: Proposed revisions to the Standard Layout for UNECE Standards on Dry and Dried Produce (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.2/2022/3)

7. Development of new standards

(a) Dried persimmons

At its 2021 session, the Specialized Section decided to submit the draft standard for dried persimmons to the 2021 Working Party session for adoption as a new ECE recommendation for a one-year trial period. The Working Party adopted the recommendation for a one-year trial period.

The Specialized Section is invited to review the recommendation.

Documentation: Dried persimmons (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2021/8)

Dried persimmons, proposal by the delegation of Germany (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.2/2022/4)

(b) Raw and roasted inshell peanuts

At its 2020 session, the Specialized Section agreed on the inclusion of roasted peanuts in the draft new standard on raw inshell peanuts, thus changing its title to raw and roasted inshell peanuts. At its 2021 session, the Specialized Section decided to amend the sections on moisture content, classification and provisions concerning sizing and tolerances, and submit the draft standard for adoption by the Working Party as a recommendation for a one-year trial period, following the consultation period. The Working Party adopted the recommendation for a one-year trial period.

The Specialized Section is invited to review the recommendation.

Documentation: Raw and roasted inshell peanuts (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2021/9)

Raw and roasted inshell peanuts, proposal by the delegation of Germany (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.2/2022/5)

(c) Raw and roasted peanut kernels

At its 2020 session, the Specialized Section agreed on the inclusion of roasted peanut kernels in the draft new standard on raw peanut kernels, thus changing its title to raw and roasted peanut kernels. At its 2021 session, the Specialized Section reviewed the revised draft proposal, amending several sections, and decided to submit the draft standard for adoption by the Working Party as a recommendation for a one-year trial period, following the consultation period. The Working Party adopted the recommendation for a one-year trial period.

The Specialized Section is invited to review the recommendation.

Documentation: Raw and roasted peanut kernels (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2021/10)

Raw and roasted peanut kernels, proposal by the delegation of Germany (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.2/2022/6)

(d) Inshell pecans

At its 2020 session, the Working Party adopted the draft standard for inshell pecans as a recommendation for a one-year trial period. At its 2021 session, the Specialized Section reviewed the recommendation, particularly the text related to colour classification and minimum requirements and submitted it to the Working Party, which adopted an extension of the trial period for the recommendation for inshell pecans by one year.

The Specialized Section is invited to review the recommendation.

Documentation: Inshell pecans (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2021/6)

(e) Pecan kernels

At its 2020 session, the Working Party adopted a draft standard for pecan kernels as a recommendation for a one-year trial period. At its 2021 session the Specialized Section reviewed the recommendation, particularly the text related to minimum requirements and provisions concerning tolerances, and submitted it to the 2021 session of the Working Party which adopted an extension of the trial period by one year.

The Specialized Section is invited to review the recommendation.

Documentation: Pecan kernels (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2021/7)

8. Review of existing standards

Cashew kernels

At its 2020 session, the Specialized Section decided to initiate the revision of the ECE standard for cashew kernels. At its 2021 session, the Specialized Section decided to postpone the discussion on a revision of the standard for cashew kernels to the 2022 session of the Specialized Section.

Documentation: Proposed revisions to the standard for cashew kernels (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.2/2022/7)

9. Explanatory materials

(a) Cashew kernels

At its 2021 session, the Specialized Section agreed to postpone the review and finalization of the explanatory poster on cashew kernels until after the revision of the cashew kernel standard.

Documentation: Draft poster for cashew kernels (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.2/2022/INF.2)

(b) Almond kernels

At its 2021 session, the delegation of Germany asked if producing countries could develop a poster on almond kernels, considering that the posters prepared so far have been well received and almond kernels are a very important produce in international trade. The delegation of the United States informed the Specialized Section of an almond kernel poster developed by the United States almond industry that was already circulated to some member countries and the Specialized Section secretariat and was available for all members. The Specialized Section decided to establish a working group consisting of Germany (rapporteur), the International Nut and Dried Fruit Council (INC), Tajikistan, and the United States, to discuss the draft. The Specialized Section agreed that the Working Group would review the draft in a follow-up session and prepare a draft almond kernel poster for the review of the Specialized Section at its 2022 session.

Documentation: Draft poster for almond kernels (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.2/2022/8)

10. Sampling plan for tree nuts and dried produce and guidelines for inspections of dry and dried produce, and related workshops

At its 2021 session the Specialized Section finalized the draft sampling plan for tree nuts and dried produce and guidelines for inspections of dry and dried produce and approved it through an intersessional approval procedure. The sampling plan was subsequently submitted to the 2021 session of the Working Party for approval. As only minor editorial and picture layout remained to be done, the Working Party decided to adopt the text of the sampling plan, and to submit the full document, including pictures, for adoption through an intersessional procedure. The intersessional procedure was finalized in early 2022, and the document approved.

Following its adoption, the Specialized Section is invited to discuss the potential organization of workshops on the sampling plan for tree nuts and dried produce and guidelines for inspections of dry and dried produce.

Documentation: Sampling plan for tree nuts and dried produce and guidelines for inspections of dry and dried produce (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2021/14)

Proposal by the delegation of the United States for workshops (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.2/2022/9)

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

The Specialized Section is invited to take note of the second edition of the Code of Good Practice – reducing food loss and ensuring optimum handling of fresh fruit and vegetables along the value chain, which was finalized and presented to the Working Party at its 2021 session, and related explanatory materials developed to facilitate its implementation. The document is submitted for information.

The Specialized Section is invited to discuss the possibility of developing similar guidelines for nuts and dried fruit.

Documentation: Code of Good Practice – reducing food loss and ensuring optimum handling of fresh fruit and vegetables along the value chain (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.2/2022/INF.3)

12. Other business

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

13. Future work

The Specialized Section will discuss its future work.

14. Election of officers

The Specialized Section will elect a Chair and Vice-Chair for a one-year term.

At its sixty-seventh session, it had elected Mr. Dorian LaFond (United States) as Chair of the Specialized Section and Mr. Umed Aslanov (Tajikistan) and Ms. Aysegül Uluhan (Turkey) as Vice-Chairs.

15. Adoption of the report

The Specialized Section will adopt the report of the session (to be issued as ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.2/2022/2).

Tentative timetable

Wednesday, 15 June	11:00-13:00	Items 1-5
	15:00-17:00	Items 6-7
Thursday, 16 June	11:00-13:00	Items 7 (cont'd) - 8
	15:00-17:00	Items 9-10
Friday, 17 June	11:00-13:00	Items 11-14
	15:00-17:00	Item 15 (Adoption of the report)