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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****Seventy-first session**

Geneva, 9–11 May 2023

Item 7 (a) of the provisional agenda

Review of existing standards:**Discussion of proposals resulting from the last session****Proposal by the delegation of Sweden to amend the standard
for peas****Submitted by the delegation of Sweden**

At its 2022 session, the Specialized Section discussed a proposal for revisions to the standard for beans as regards the cutting of ends, to align it with the standard for peas. To avoid food loss and waste, the Specialized Section agreed to amend the standard of peas instead of the standard for beans. The delegation of Sweden volunteered to submit a proposal for revisions to the standard for peas to the next session.

The following proposal was submitted to the Specialized Section for consideration.

I. Proposal

Sweden proposes the following changes to the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Standard FFV-27 concerning the marketing and commercial quality control of peas.

Under section II. Provisions concerning quality A. Minimum requirements:

“In all classes, subject to the special provisions for each class and the tolerances allowed,

- The pods must be:
 - intact; ~~however mange-tout peas and sugar snap peas may have their ends removed~~”

Under section VI. Provisions concerning marking B. Nature of produce:

- ““Shelling peas”, “Mange-tout peas”, “Sugar snap peas” or equivalent denomination if the contents are not visible from the outside



- ~~“Trimmed”, “Topped and tailed”, or equivalent denomination, where mange-tout peas and sugar-snap peas are presented without the peduncle and/or the pistil, as the case may be if the contents are not visible from the outside.”~~

II. Justification

The marketing standards for peas and for beans marketed in pods vary on one point, even though the products are in many ways similar. While peas in pods may be trimmed (i.e. ends cut off) and still be covered by the marketing standard, this is not the case for beans.

The delegates of the Specialized Section on Fresh Fruit and Vegetables have expressed a wish to harmonize the two standards and during some years have discussed which way to go: in the direction of the standard for peas which allows trimming, or in the direction of the standard for bean which excludes trimmed beans from the standard.

Already at the meeting of the Specialized Section in 2021, a majority of the countries wanted to see a change in the pea standard, i.e. eliminating trimmed peas from it, and at the 2022 meeting, this was confirmed. The argumentation is that trimming the ends off in order for the pods to fit into packages of a certain size causes unnecessary waste, and also risks shortening product shelf-life when the cut increases water loss and exposes unprotected tissue to pathogens.

In order to move the question forward Sweden, at the meeting of the Specialized Section in May 2022, volunteered to submit a proposal to change the pea standard for the 2023 meeting.
