



# Economic and Social Council

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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 Seed Potatoes

**Fifty-first session**

Geneva, 26-28 March 2024

Item 7 of the provisional agenda

**Revision of the position of the Specialized Section on vigour of seed potatoes**

## The position of the Specialized Section on vigour of seed potatoes

Submitted by the secretariat

### *Summary*

At its 2022 meeting, the Specialized Section decided to set up a rapporteur's group to conduct a review of the Specialized Section's position papers. Following the review, at its 2023 session, the Specialized Section agreed to changes to several of its position papers. For the position on vigour of seed potatoes, following some discussion on its relevance, the Specialized Section concluded that more research would be required to properly update it.

This document consists of the text of the 2008 position of the Specialized Section on vigour of seed potatoes, with minor editorial changes proposed by the rapporteur's group ahead of the 2023 session marked in underline and strikethrough. The Specialized Section is invited to discuss its position on vigour of seed potatoes, and to consider the establishment of the rapporteur's group to review it. Delegations are invited to volunteer for the rapporteur's group.



## I. The position of the Specialized Section on vigour of seed potatoes

(Agreed at the thirty-eighth session of the Specialized Section in March 2008)

- Plant vigour is a very important quality aspect of seed potatoes, particularly ~~especially~~ in the southern regions with higher temperatures.
- Genotype determines loss of vigour; some varieties are very susceptible, while others are more tolerant. Growing and storage conditions, especially temperature, influence plant vigour.
- Determining plant vigour is still very difficult in seed lots.
- The only indirect reference to vigour in the UNECE Standard for Seed Potatoes is a tolerance for shrivelled tubers.
- Stricter requirements for plant vigour cannot yet be prescribed by the UNECE Standard for Seed Potatoes.

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