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COMMITTEE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND
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Working Party on Standardization of
Perishable Produce and Quality Development

Specialized Section on Co-ordination of
Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables
Forty fifth session, 26 to 29 October 1999, Geneva

Item 3(c) of the Provisional Agenda

PROPOSALS TO REVISE UN/ECE STANDARDS
CITRUS FRUIT

Note by the secretariat

Background: At the last session a revision of the standard was adopted by the Specialized Section which was subsequently adopted by the Working Party. No consensus was found on the question of maturity requirements and the inclusion of provisions for green skinned oranges. Delegations were invited to send comments to the rapporteurs Israel and Germany. At the 8th CCFFV a document on oranges combining the UN/ECE and Codex text was presented and several parts of the Codex text were harmonised with the UN/ECE text. This document outlines the major differences between the two texts. The sizing provisions have not been compared because they remain in square brackets in the Codex text and will be discussed again at the next session.

II. A. Minimum requirements

This text is contained in the UN/ECE standard but not in the draft Codex standard:

“Citrus fruit meeting this ripeness requirement may be "degreened". This treatment is permitted only if the other natural organoleptic characteristics are not modified. It shall be carried out in the manner prescribed by the administrative authorities in each country and under their supervision.”

II. B. Maturity requirements

UN/ECE text:

“Colouring: must be typical of the variety. However, fruits with light green colour are allowed, provided it does not exceed one-fifth of the total surface of the fruit. “

Codex text:

“Colouring must be typical of the variety, account being taken of the variety and harvest period² ”

Footnote 2 reads:

“Oranges grown in the tropics can be of a green colour, provided the fruit meets the maturity requirements of the standard.”