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Working Party on Standardization of
Perishable Produce and Quality Development

Specialized Section on Standardization of Meat
10th session, 25-27 April 2001, Geneva

Item 3 (b) of the provisional agenda

Further Development of the Bovine Standard

Transmitted by the European Community, France and the United Kingdom

Note by the secretariat : This document contains proposals for future revisions, possible changes and additional material to be included in the Standard for discussion by the rapporteurs.

FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE BOVINE STANDARD

1. In the bovine specific section 2 in 1.4.5.1. Delete the categories

- Young Cows under 5 years
- Older Cows over 5 years

Replace these with one category

- Cows

This would remove a probably superfluous and confusing distinction.

2. Consider additional photographic material, if required and as appropriate, to allow a better representation of commonly traded cuts.

3. Implement the proposed 3rd section of the Standard – Appendices – to include details on buyer options such as:

- Various classification / grading methods such as EU, USA, Australian etc.
- Specific traceability requirements for different markets.
- Organic derivation requirements for the major markets.
- Either labelling requirements for the major markets or a reference to information databases to access this legislation.
- A cross-coding table giving the main customs / tariff nomenclature for the various carcasses / cuts.

These references could be either detailed or specify information sources or a web-site where the information could be accessed.

Establish a timetable to implement these changes and agree on who will progress each item.

6. Consider the wording in bovine specific section 2. In 1.4.4.2

Production & Feeding and Animal Identification Systems

- The description of rearing / feeding systems. Do several of these carry negative messages such as: '*to promote rapid growth*'?
- Should it be pointed out that the words 'intensive' and 'extensive' do not exclude organic?
- Consider introducing the term '*welfare friendly*' with accepted definitions as an option.

Intensive systems describe production methods which, include restricted stocking, housing and feeding regimes developed to promote rapid growth. Specific standards need to be defined between buyer and seller

Extensive systems describe production methods, which include relatively unrestricted access to natural forage, '*forage fed*', for the majority of the animals' lives.

Specific standards need to be defined between buyer and seller

Organic systems describe production methods, which follow Internationally recognised standards or national standards if they are More restrictive. Organic systems can be intensive or extensive. Specific standards need to be defined between buyer and seller

Husbandry systems that control specific animal treatments (such as Hormonal Growth Promotants) which follow internationally recognised standards or national standards if they are more restrictive.

Other systems must be described by the seller.

5. General Requirements

In section 0.4.7

Given the current emphasis on traceability could the word traceability be added as a further bullet point?