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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND
ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards

Specialized Section on Standardization of
Seed Potatoes

2 to 4 May 2005, Geneva

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE THIRTY-FIFTH SESSION*

to be held in the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
commencing at 10.00 hrs on Monday, 2 May 2005

NOTE by the secretariat: Document numbers in square brackets have been reserved for papers not received by the secretariat at the time of the preparation of the agenda. They will either be distributed before the meeting in the original language only (if received until 6 weeks before the session) or at the session as informal papers (if received later). They will also be available on the homepage if sent in electronic format.

* This document was submitted after the deadline due to missing secretariat resources.

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|----|---|------------------------|
| 1. | Adoption of the agenda | TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2005/1 |
| 2. | Matters of interest since the last session
from | TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2005/2 |
| - | Working Party on Agricultural Quality
Standards | |
| - | Committee for trade, Industry and
Enterprise Development | |
| - | European Union | |
| - | OECD, WTO, NAPPO, EPPO | |

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| 3. | Information on the results of the meetings of the bureau | TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2005/3 (Report Dublin) |
| 4. | Review of the UNECE Standard for Seed Potatoes | <p>TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2005/4 (Report Grand Forks)
 The present version (2004) of the standard is available on the Internet at:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">http://www.unece.org/trade/agr/standard/potatoes/pot_e.htm</p> <p>INF.1 (Standard containing the proposed changes)</p> |
| (a) | Netted scab | TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2005/4, Item 8 |
| (b) | Proposal for destination tolerances | TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2005/4, Item 1
TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2005/5 (United Kingdom, United States, Netherlands) |
| (c) | Definition of leaf roll | TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2005/4, Item 7 |
| (d) | Further development of Annex VIII: Images for common scab/ netted scab | TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2005/4, Item 9 and Annex 1 [TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2005/6 (Germany)] |
| (e) | Interpretation of the size band | TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2005/4, Item 2 |
| (f) | Inclusion of tomato spotted wilt virus and Potato rot nematode | TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2005/4, Item 11, 12, 20 [TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2005/7 (United Kingdom)] |
| (g) | Provisions concerning presentation | TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2005/4, Item 4 |
| (h) | Homogeneity/size of the lot | TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2005/4, Item 5
TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2005/4, Item 18 |
| (i) | Visual inspection versus testing | TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2005/4, Item 14 |
| (j) | Improvement of annex IX (sampling) | TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2005/4, Item 19 [TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2005/8 (Netherlands)] |
| (k) | Proposal to rename the term “National Designated Authority” to “Designated Authority” | see annotations |
| 5. | Recommended best handling practices | TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2005/4, Item 17 |
| 6. | The concept of LMO's in the Standard | TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2005/4, Item 16 and Annex 2 |
| 7. | Superficial necrosis caused by virus (PTNRD) Mop Top and Tobacco Rattle | <i>TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2004/12</i>
TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2005/4, Item 10
[TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2005/9 (France)] |
| 8. | Further development of the pest list and mentioning of standard test methods | <i>TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2004/16/Add.1</i>
TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2005/4, Item 13 |

9. Prototype training course for seed potato certification TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2005/4, Item 9
10. Information collected by the secretariat: INF.2
 - (a) National catalogues
 - (b) National designated authorities
11. Traceability of seed potatoes TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2005/4, Item 6
TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2005/10 (France)
12. Next meetings and future work TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2005/4, Item 20
13. Preparation of the next session of the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards
14. Other business
15. Election of officers
16. Adoption of the report

Provisional timetable

Note by the secretariat: A technical visit is planned for Thursday, 5 May 2005. Transport from Geneva to Basel and Basel to Geneva will be provided. Interested delegations are invited to inform the secretariat at their earliest convenience if they would like to participate in the visit. Hotel booking information for the night from 4 to 5 May will be provided at a later stage.

Monday, 2 May 2005	10.00-13.00	Item 1 – 4
	15.00-18.00	Item 4
Tuesday, 3 May 2005	10.00-13.00	Item 4 – 7
	15.00-18.00	Item 8 – 15
Wednesday, 4 May 2005	10.00-13.00	Item 16
	14.30-18.00	Transfer from Geneva to Basel
Thursday, 5 May 2005	09.30-14.00	Technical visit to BIOREBA, producer of agrodiagnostics (e.g. ELISA test) www.bioreba.ch
	14.00-17.00	Transfer to Basel or Geneva airport

Annotations

1. Adoption of the agenda

TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2005/1

According to the Commission's Rules of Procedure, the first item on the provisional agenda is the adoption of the agenda.

2. Matters of interest since the last session

TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2005/2

The Specialized Section will be informed on the work of the:

- Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards
- Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development
- European Union
- OECD, FAO, NAPPO, EPPO

3. Information on the results of the meetings of the bureau

TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2005/3 (Report Dublin)

TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2005/4 (Report Grand Forks)

These documents contain summaries of the extended bureau meetings held in Dublin, Ireland (5 to 7 July 2004) and Grand Forks, United States (4-6 October 2004). The report from the Grand Forks meeting contains many of the proposals for amendments to the UNECE standard and will be referred to under different agenda items.

4. Review of the UNECE Standard for Seed Potatoes

The updated version of the standard is available on the Internet at:

http://www.unece.org/trade/agr/standard/potatoes/pot_e.htm

The standard including the changes proposed at this session is contained in INF.1.

(a) Netted scab

TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2005/4, Item 8

In discussions of the list of pests and diseases and the assessment key it was found that there are different kinds of scab which are not distinguished in the standard (netted scab caused by *Streptomyces reticuliscabies*). The proposal aims at clarifying this issue in the standard.

(b) Proposal for destination tolerances

TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2005/4, Item 1

TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2005/5 (United Kingdom, United States, Netherlands)

The UNECE Seed Potato Standard defines quality tolerances at the export control point. However, there is a perception by the importing country that these are the quality standards to be applied at the point of import. This expectation is achievable for most of the diseases and defects listed in Annex III as they do

not develop during storage. However, a number of potato pathogens cause diseases which can progress during storage and, hence, during shipment, so that there is a risk that a tolerance may not be met at the point of import even although the tolerance was met at the point of export. The paper 2005/5 provided the background for the discussions and proposal contained in 2005/4.

(c) Definition of leaf roll

TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2005/4, Item 7

To complete the work on ensuring the consistency of definitions in the standard, a definition for leaf roll was developed.

(d) Further development of Annex VIII: Images for common scab/ netted scab

TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2005/4, Item 9 and Annex 1

TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2005/6 (Germany)

New images for common scab were developed to replace the existing ones (see 2005/4). New images for netted scab will be proposed by Germany.

(e) Interpretation of the size band

TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2005/4, Item 2

At the last session it was found that the size band could be interpreted in different ways. The bureau meeting suggests a harmonized interpretation to be endorsed by the Specialized Section.

(f) Inclusion of tomato spotted wilt virus and potato rot nematode

TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2005/4, Item 11, 12, 20

TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2005/7 (United Kingdom)

When reviewing the list of pests and diseases it had been found that these were agents included in other regulations but not in the UNECE standard. The bureau proposes to include the potato rot nematode in the standard. The United Kingdom will prepare a background paper on tomato spotted wilt virus.

(g) Provisions concerning presentation

TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2005/4, Item 4

The bureau proposes to update the current rules concerning presentation.

(h) Homogeneity/size of the lot

TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2005/4, Item 5

TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2005/4, Item 18

Homogeneity is considered as an important value by customers and more related to quality than to presentation. It is proposed to move the requirement to provisions concerning quality and to rename the section on presentation. Further work will concentrate on how to ensure homogeneity.

(i) Visual inspection versus testing

TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2005/4, Item 14

It is proposed to include a description of the methodology for conformity checks which can be either a visual examination or testing. The definition for testing was updated.

(j) Improvement of annex IX (sampling)

TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2005/4, Item 19

TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2005/8 (Netherlands)

It is suggested to clarify practical use of annex IX on sampling and to add 0,5 % and 2 % in the table of tolerances, considering that these tolerance are now part of the standard for virus. An exchange of practices of taking samples for tuber inspection will take place at next extended Bureau meeting.

(k) Proposal to rename the term “National Designated Authority” to “Designated Authority”

The delegation of the United States suggests this change because in their country seed potato certification is under state authority.

5. Recommended best handling practices

TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2005/4, Item 17

Canada, that previously suggested the item, is no longer interested in discussing it. The item will be deleted from the agenda.

6. The concept of LMO's in the Standard

TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2005/4, Item 16 and Annex 2

The discussion concerning living modified organisms was continued in the bureau and the proposal made at the last session by the Chairman was amended.

7. Superficial necrosis caused by virus (PTNRD) Mop Top and Tobacco Rattle

TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2004/12

TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2005/4, Item 10

TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2005/9 (France)

France will prepare a paper to address the constraints identified in paper TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2004/12.

8. Further development of the list of pests and diseases and mentioning of standard test methods

TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2004/16/Add.1

TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2005/4, Item 13

Several amendments are proposed to the list of pests and diseases.

9. Prototype training course for seed potato certification

TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2005/4, Item 9 and Annex

A prototype training course was developed in the bureau meetings. The Specialized Section is invited to discuss how to offer this training course to countries and how to ensure its financing.

10. Information collected by the secretariat:

(a) National catalogues

(b) National designated authorities

Any information received will be distributed at the meeting in INF.2.

11. Traceability of seed potatoes

TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2005/4, Item 6
TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2005/11 (France)

The bureau discussed how the concept of traceability could be included in the standard. A proposal has been drafted for discussion by the Specialized Section.

12. Next meetings and future work

TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2005/4, Items 20 and 21

The Specialized Section will be informed about plans for meetings of the extended bureau. The next meeting of the Specialized Section has been scheduled tentatively to take place from

13. Preparation of the next session of the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards

The Specialized Section is invited to decide which decisions /information should be transmitted to the annual session of the Working Party

14. Other business

Any other area of interest can be discussed under this agenda item.

15. Election of officers

According to the Commission's Rules of Procedure and established practice, the Specialized Section is expected to elect a Chairman and Vice-Chairman. At its thirty-third session the group elected Mr. P.G. Bianchi (Italy) as its Chairman and Mr. P. Miauton (Switzerland) as its Vice-Chairman.

16. Adoption of the report

The Specialized Section will adopt the report of the session on the basis of a draft prepared by the secretariat.

NOTE BY THE SECRETARIAT:

Contributions should be sent to the secretariat either on diskette by mail to :

**Agricultural Standards Unit
UNECE Trade Development and Timber Division
Palais des Nations
Office 432
1211 Geneva 10
Tel: (41) 22 917 2450 Fax: (41) 22 917 0041**

or by e-mail to:

agrstandards@unece.org

Meeting documentation will be available on our homepage:

<http://www.unece.org/trade/agr/welcome.htm>