



**Economic and
Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

ECE/TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2006/6
1 February 2006

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE ON TRADE

Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards

Specialized Section on Standardization of Seed Potatoes
(Thirty-sixth session, 20 - 22 March 2006)
Item 4 (c) of the Provisional Agenda

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO CHAPTER III, SECTION E
(COMPARATIVE TESTS) AND TO ANNEX VI***

Submitted by the Netherlands and the United States

This document proposes amendments, agreed by the Bureau, to Section E and Annex VI of the Standard.

* The present document has been submitted after the official documentation deadline by the Trade and Timber Division due to resource constraints.

1. Proposed changes to Chapter III. PROVISIONS CONCERNING QUALITY, Section E of the Standard, to read as follows:

‘E. Comparative tests

It is recommended that trials be established by the DA to ascertain the condition of the seed potatoes certified according to Annex IV of this Standard. The guidelines for organizing such tests given in Annex VI of this standard could be followed.”

2. Proposed changes to Annex VI, to read as follows

Annex VI

GUIDELINE FOR ORGANIZING THE INSPECTION TESTING OF CROPS GROWN FROM SAMPLE LOTS OF SEED POTATOES

(certified according to the standard)

I. PURPOSE OF THE INSPECTION TEST

The examination of seed potatoes in crop tests enables the quality (~~vigour, purity, healthiness, productivity~~ see Annex IV) of ~~home grown and imported~~ seed lots put on the market to be checked at random.

II. ORGANIZATION

1. Place of sampling

~~Depending on the mode of transport (road, rail or waterway), the sample should preferably be taken when the lot arrives at its destination.~~

2. Organs Responsibility for the sampling

The sampling shall be done by under the authority of the DA.

3. Sampling

(a) The lot as defined in Annex VII is the unit represented by at least one a-sample. ~~If the lot is a large one, the number of samples shall be increased to:~~

~~- One sample per wagon or vehicle, in the case of transport by rail or road;~~

~~- One sample for every 50 tonnes, in the case of transport by ship.~~

(b) A sample consists of 110 tubers, taken at random from the lot ~~different places in the container or from at least 10 sacks.~~

(c) The sample shall be placed in a sealed sack; its label shall bear the ~~number of the wagon or the name of the ship, in addition to the~~ information mentioned in Annex VI.

4. ~~Preservation~~ Storage of samples

Samples shall be preserved stored in a uniform manner in favourable conditions.

5. *Trial fields*

~~(a) The land must be suitable for potato growing.~~

~~(b)~~ (a) Planting should be done in plots of 100 plants. The plots should be grouped by variety in order to facilitate comparison.

(b) Fertilization must be moderate, especially N to facilitate virus expression.

~~(c) Manuring must be adapted to the needs of the crop, but moderate; the use of nitrogen during growth should be prohibited.~~

~~(d) The usual cultural care must be conducive to keeping the field clean and the foliage intact.~~

6. *List of plots*

~~A nomenclature of all the samples planted in the same field with the number of the plot concerned shall be sent to the organs responsible for evaluating them.~~

7. ~~Evaluation of the crop inspection~~ Visual examination.

In order to be accurate, the ~~evaluation~~ visual examination shall in principle general be carried out in two stages, with an interval of 10-15 days between them. Visual examination may be supported by laboratory testing. Primary virus infections ~~should~~ shall not be taken into consideration.”