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COMMITTEE ON TRADE

Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards

Specialized Section on Standardization of Seed Potatoes

Thirty-eighth session
Geneva, 17-19 March 2008
Item 9 of the provisional agenda

EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON POST-HARVEST TESTS

Draft questionnaire submitted by the United States

The Specialized Section will discuss this draft questionnaire and decide on its use to collect information on national practices in post-harvest tests.

Questionnaire on post-harvest tests

1. Does the certifying authority conduct post-harvest tests of seed crops as part of the certification scheme?

2. Do seed crops require a post-harvest test?

- a. Before marketing?
- b. Re-planting as seed crop?

3. How many tubers are sampled for each crop and is it affected by the size of the field, generation, class or category?

4. Where and how are the tubers sampled?

5. Is the post-harvest test a grow-out in the field or in a glasshouse for visual disease and/or a laboratory test for viruses or other pathogens?

6. Do you use any dormancy breaking treatment?

- a. Do you also use a heat treatment?
- b. How long (days)?
- c. What is your average emergence per lot or sample?
- d. Do you use a chemical treatment? Please explain methodology.

7. Using your dormancy breaking treatment, which varieties are difficult to break dormancy?

8. Visual post-harvest test

- a. What diseases or pathogens are assessed in the test?
- b. Do you confirm visual assessments by a laboratory test e.g. ELISA?
- c. Would all diseased plants be tested?
- d. List tolerances which are applied.

9. Laboratory post-harvest test

- a. Which seed crops are subject to this test? Explain if testing is targeted to specific varieties?
- b. Do you test plants, sprouts or tubers?
- c. List pathogens for which tests are made and list tolerances applied.

10. Does the Certifying authority apply a tolerance for trueness to variety, type in post harvest test?

11. Is the test result based on the number of plants that emerge or the number of tubers planted?