



**Food and Agriculture  
Organization of  
the United Nations**



**World Health  
Organization**

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**CAC/38 INF/8**

## JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

### CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

**38<sup>th</sup> Session, CICG**

**Geneva, Switzerland, 6-11 July 2015**

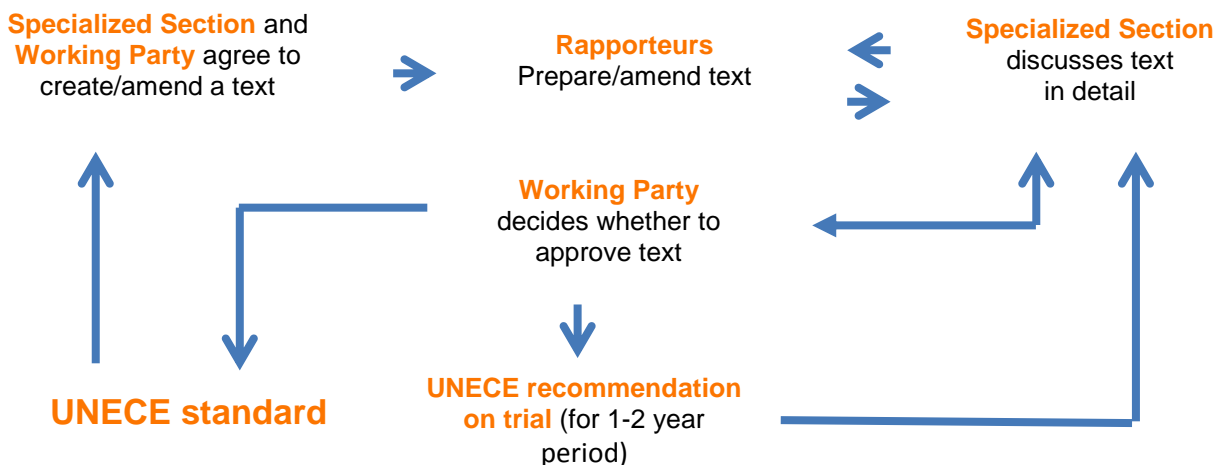
### UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE (UNECE<sup>1</sup>)

#### (Report of activities relevant to Codex work)

UNECE agricultural quality and marketing standards set minimum requirements so that consumers receive the best quality produce; build a common trading language; facilitate fair international trade and increase transparency on international and national markets; and allow producers to improve and maintain product quality which, in turn, opens new export opportunities. To increase integration into international supply chains, UNECE and its Specialized Sections develop quality standards for fresh fruit and vegetables, dried produce (nuts, dried fruit and dried vegetables) as well as meat. UNECE collaborates with professionals who produce, buy, sell, export, import and inspect these products.

UNECE works with the biggest but also small producing and importing countries worldwide. The organization's rapid development - (no more than 2 to 3 years for a new standard) and revision cycles (1 year; and, in urgent cases, 2 months and between sessions), its practice of submitting new drafts for trial by industry before adoption and its open, consensus-based, inclusive and participatory approach to standardization have made UNECE into a widely recognized platform for standards used in international trade. In the area of fresh fruit and vegetables, UNECE today has 50 standards; in the area of nuts and dried fruit/vegetables UNECE has developed close to 30 standards. They are used in the international trade of fresh fruit and vegetables, nuts and dried fruit and are recognized by the sectors' largest industry associations. UNECE marketing standards are used worldwide as the basis for national or regional legislation as well as contractual provisions in commercial contracts.

#### UNECE standards go through the following adoption process:



UNECE actively collaborates with other international and regional organizations such as other UN bodies including UNDP, UN regional Economic Commissions, the Codex Alimentarius Commission, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the European Union (EU), or development agencies. The involvement of the private sector in UNECE's standardization, revision and promotion efforts is vital to the success and use of these standards. This close collaboration has a long

<sup>1</sup> This document has been prepared by and under the responsibility of UNECE.

tradition and is the essential ingredient for the commercial relevance of UNECE's standards in international trade.

To complement and strengthen its standardization activities UNECE and its Specialized Sections are organizing training courses to improve countries' technical and legal infrastructure, increase the use of standards and advise national inspection services. UNECE publishes and distributes free of charge practical, explanatory guides and other materials such as colour charts or size gauges and soon also videos for inspectors, producers or traders (in English, French and Russian). UNECE also organizes exhibitions and international promotional events to present and explain its work to government delegates as well as the general public.

UNECE's agricultural activities are multifaceted and are linked to its work in trade, trade facilitation and environment. This is reflected in its business process analysis of priority agricultural supply chains; its analysis of procedural and regulatory barriers to trade; and its work on traceability of agricultural produce or food waste issues in international trade.

**UNECE's activities including its workshops, conferences and regular meetings are open to delegates from all UN member countries.**

**For further information, please contact:**

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#### **Work on standards 2014 – 2015**

Fresh Fruit and Vegetables:

- new standard for quince;
- revised standards for plums, chicory, figs, chanterelles, apricots and Chinese cabbage;
- new recommendations on trial for sweet chestnuts and lambs lettuce;
- discussed amendments to the list of varieties of apples and introduced miniature varieties;
- discussed the labelling provisions for citrus fruit to clarify and simplify current provisions and add as a reference a list of citrus varieties.

Dry and Dried Produce

- new UNECE standard for dried pineapples;
- revised text of the UNECE standard for inshell walnuts and for inshell pistachio nuts, dried grapes;
- published an explanatory guide/brochure for inshell walnuts;
- worked on new UNECE sampling plans for tree nuts and dried produce.

#### **Meeting dates 2015:**

- Dry and Dried Produce: 29 June – 3 July – Izmir- Turkey
- Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards 2 to 4 November 2015
- 3 November 2015 – International Conference on Traceability in Agriculture Trade

## Annex

### UNECE Standards for Fresh Fruit and Vegetables

- Annonas
- Apples
- Apricots
- Artichokes
- Asparagus
- Aubergines
- Avocados
- Beans
- Berry fruits
- Broccoli
- Brussels sprouts
- Headed cabbages
- Carrots
- Cauliflowers
- Ceps
- Chanterelles
- Cherries
- Chicory (Witloof)
- Chilli peppers
- Chinese cabbages
- Citrus fruit
- Courgettes
- Cucumbers
- Cultivated mushrooms
- Fennel
- Fresh figs
- Garlic
- Kiwifruit
- Leafy vegetables
- Leeks
- Lettuce and endives
- Mangoes
- Melons
- Onions
- Peaches and nectarines
- Pears
- Peas
- Pineapples
- Plums
- Potatoes, early and ware
- Quince
- Ribbed celery
- Rhubarb
- Root and tubercle vegetables
- Shallots
- Strawberries
- Sweet chestnuts
- Sweet peppers
- Table grapes
- Table grapes (List of varieties)
- Tomatoes
- Truffles
- Watermelons

### UNECE Standards for Dry and Dried Produce

- Almonds, inshell
- Almond kernels, blanched
- Almond kernels
- Apples, dried
- Apricots, dried
- Brazil nuts, inshell
- Brazil nut kernels
- Cashew kernels
- Chilli peppers, whole dried
- Dates
- Figs, dried
- Grapes, dried
- Hazelnut kernels
- Hazelnuts, inshell
- Macadamia kernels
- Macadamia nuts, inshell
- Mangoes, dried
- Peaches, dried
- Pears, dried
- Pineapples, dried
- Pine nut kernels
- Pistachio kernels and peeled pistachio kernels
- Pistachio nuts, inshell
- Prunes
- Tomatoes, dried
- Walnut kernels
- Walnuts, Inshell

### Explanatory Guides:

- Pineapples
- Sweet peppers
- Chilli pepper
- Whole dried chilli peppers
- Walnuts
- Potato diseases and pests
- Potato field inspection guide
- Colour gauges and colour guides for walnuts