

# codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE  
ORGANIZATION  
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD  
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Agenda Item 2(b)

CX/FFV 05/12/3  
April 2005

## JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

### CODEX COMMITTEE ON FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

*12<sup>th</sup> Session,  
Mexico City, Mexico, 16 - 20 May 2005*

#### MATTERS ARISING FROM OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS ON THE STANDARDIZATION OF FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

This document is divided into two parts: Part I refers to the activities of the OECD Scheme for the Application of International Standards for Fruit and Vegetables and Part II to the UN/ECE work in the field of standardization of fresh fruits and vegetables.

## **ORGANIZATION FOR THE ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT (OECD)**

(1) Main issues of interest to the Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables that were discussed at the 61<sup>st</sup> (October 2003) and 62<sup>nd</sup> (October 2004) Sessions of the OECD Scheme for the Application of International Standards for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables are summarized below<sup>1</sup>.

### **61<sup>ST</sup> SESSION OF THE OECD SCHEME FOR THE APPLICATION OF INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS FOR FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES**

#### **Publications**

(2) The OECD publishes interpretative brochures of commercial quality standards for fresh fruits and vegetables which comprise an explanation of the terms contained in the Standard as well as illustrations of produce defects and the provisions ruling the produce under the different quality classes. These brochures are available worldwide through the OECD sale points as well as on the Internet at <http://www.oecd.org> either as printed copies or electronic files in pdf format. Some of the explanatory brochures are trilingual publications (English, French and Spanish).

(3) In this regard, an explanatory brochure for avocados has been published in English, French and Spanish on paper and electronic support.

#### **Ongoing Work**

(4) The OECD Scheme continues work on exchange of information between national inspection services, a revised guide to the implementation of quality control especially concerning sampling for internal quality, the priority of controls and the control certificate. The document for exchange of non-conformity information was also being revised.

(5) With respect to internal quality, the following wording was adopted as the definition of internal quality (in the context of the Scheme): “*The degree, measured with objective criteria, to which a commodity has reached a sufficient stage of development such as to enable its quality, after harvesting and post harvest handling (including ripening, where required), to be at least the minimum acceptable to the final consumer*”.

#### **Independent Review of the Scheme**

(6) The OECD Scheme for the Application of International Standards for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables has undergone an independent review of its mandate, strategic focus and work programme, its relevance and value to member countries’ regulatory bodies, industries and consumers as well as the costs and benefits (qualitative and quantitative) of operating it. One of the objectives of the reform is to strengthen cooperation with the other international organizations dealing with fruit and vegetable standardization.

#### **Revision of Council Decision C(99)/FINAL**

##### ***Revision of the main text (Decision proper, excluding Annexes)***

(7) The Plenary Meeting referred to the agreement reached at its last session that the wording of the first primary objective of Council Decision C(99)10/FINAL namely “*to promote the establishment of one single grade standard setting body*” no longer adequately reflected the concerns of the Scheme; and that the purpose of the Scheme was, in fact, to enhance cooperation between international Organisations involved in the standardisation of fruit and vegetables. To that end, the Plenary Meeting emphasised its strong commitment to revise Council Decision C(99)10/FINAL as a priority in light of the greatly improved cooperation between the 3 Organizations.

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<sup>1</sup> AGR/CA/FVS/M(2003)1 - Summary Record of the 61<sup>st</sup> Plenary Meeting of the OECD Scheme (Paris, October 2003) and AGR/CA/FVS/M(2004)1 - draft Summary Record of the 62<sup>nd</sup> Plenary Meeting of the OECD Scheme (Paris, October 2004). The latter is yet to be adopted by the forthcoming 63<sup>rd</sup> Plenary Meeting of the OECD Scheme.

(8) Other amendments, including the first sentence of Article I.2 to the Council Decision relating to the primary objectives of the Scheme are yet to be adopted by the 63<sup>rd</sup> Session of the OECD in 2005.

## **62<sup>ND</sup> SESSION OF THE OECD SCHEME FOR THE APPLICATION OF INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS FOR FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES**

### **Interpretative Brochures**

(9) The 62<sup>nd</sup> Session of the OECD Scheme adopted the following explanatory brochures: Cultivated Mushrooms, Beans and Strawberries. The brochure for strawberries would be published in three languages: English, French and Spanish. The following work is planned to be finalized:

- In 2005: Table Grapes, Potatoes, Cucumbers, Kiwi Fruit and the revision of the guidelines on objective tests.
- In 2006: Apples, Pears and Citrus Fruit.

### **Independent Review of the Scheme**

(10) The major part of the Plenary Meeting was dedicated to discussing the reform of the Scheme. The following decisions were taken:

- To employ technical assistance (private person or institute) for creating draft brochures. This work was currently being done by national delegations and it was hoped that outsourcing the work would speed up the creation of explanatory material, which should be available for all standards (possibly not for all in the form of brochures, but sometimes only explaining specific parts).
- To create a steering committee to supervise the technical assistance work; the committee would be selected from the members of the Plenary Meeting who were interested in the produce in question.
- To improve the electronic publication of brochures (currently in pdf format), possibly publishing the text in a Word document and the photographs in a PowerPoint presentation for easier use at training sessions.
- To increase cooperation with other organizations. To develop a memorandum of understanding with UNECE, making the existing cooperation more visible, and intensifying it if possible.
- To create technical support for the training of inspectors and define a curriculum for such training.
- To create distance learning tools in cooperation with FAO.
- To improve the presentation of results on the website.

## **UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE (UN/ECE)**

(1) Main issues of interest to the Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables that were discussed at the 59<sup>th</sup> (Geneva, November 2003)<sup>1</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup> (Geneva, November 2004)<sup>2</sup> Sessions of the UN/ECE Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards and the 50<sup>th</sup> Session (Geneva, May 2004)<sup>3</sup> of its Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables are summarized below<sup>4</sup>.

(2) This document should be read in conjunction with CX/FFV 05/12/3-Add.1 which contains selected matters of interest to the Committee arising from the 51<sup>st</sup> Session of the Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (Geneva, March 2005). CX/FFV 05/12/4 containing the UN/ECE Standards and Recommendations in force relevant to the work of the Committee is also complementary to this document.

### **59<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE WORKING PARTY ON AGRICULTURAL QUALITY STANDARDS**

#### **UN/ECE Standard for Apples**

(3) The Working Party adopted the UN/ECE Standard for Apples as proposed by the 49<sup>th</sup> Session of the Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (Geneva, June 2003). The request for the addition of new apple varieties received from Turkey was referred to the Specialized Section (see paras. 10 - 21).

#### **UN/ECE Recommendation for Apples**

(4) The Working Party adopted the UN/ECE Recommendation for Apples as proposed by the 49<sup>th</sup> Session of the Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables. The Recommendation included new provisions for minimum sizes and size tolerances for a two-year trial period (until November 2005) (see paras. 22 - 29).

#### **UN/ECE Standard for Citrus Fruits**

(5) The Working Party adopted a revised UN/ECE Standard for Citrus Fruits based on the Recommendation in force including amendments to align the text with the corresponding Codex standards for citrus fruits.

#### **UN/ECE Recommendation for Citrus Fruits**

(6) The Working Party adopted a UN/ECE Recommendation for Citrus Fruits including provisions for maturity requirements for green skinned oranges for a one-year trial period. The Working Party asked the Specialized Section to take into account the changes made at the 11<sup>th</sup> session of the Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (Mexico City, September 2003) when reviewing this text at its next session (see paras. 37 - 42).

#### **UN/ECE Recommendation for Table Grapes**

(7) The Working Party adopted the existing UN/ECE Recommendation for Table Grapes as a revised UN/ECE Standard with some editorial amendments (see paras. 34 - 36).

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<sup>1</sup> TRADE/WP.7/2003/6.

<sup>2</sup> TRADE/WP.7/2004/10

<sup>3</sup> TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/2004/25.

<sup>4</sup> UN/ECE documentation is available for downloading at the UN/ECE website:  
<http://www.unece.org/trade/agr/meetings/hist2005.htm>

## **Revision to the UN/ECE Standard Layout<sup>5</sup> for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables**

### ***Title of the Standard***

(8) The Working Party considered proposals for amending the UN/ECE Standard Layout and agreed that the phrase following the name of the produce in the title of the Standard can be deleted to read: “*UN/ECE Standard FFV-... concerning the marketing and commercial quality control of...*”.

(9) In addition, Section V (Provisions concerning Sizing), Point B (Packaging), 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph, was amended to introduce the following: “*Stickers individually affixed on product shall be such as, when removed, neither to leave visible traces of glue, nor to lead to skin defects.*” (see para. 46).

## **50<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE UN/ECE SPECIALIZED SECTION ON STANDARDIZATION OF FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES**

### **UN/ECE Standard for Apples**

(10) The Specialized Section noted the issues under discussion related to the introduction of weight sizing in the Standard as follows:

- the relationship of weight and diameter for determination of minimum size and uniformity provisions;
- maturity requirements needed to avoid unsatisfactory produce on the markets;
- additions to the lists of varieties.

### ***Maturity Requirements***

(11) The delegation of the European Community said that the new EC Standard for Apples included provisions on weight sizing and uniformity as in the UN/ECE Recommendation. The minimum sizes in the EC Standard had also been aligned with those in the UN/ECE Standard. The old sizes would continue to apply until 31 July 2005 to allow establishment of maturity requirements in the Standard. The Delegation said that there was a link between size and maturity and it had to be ensured that immature produce could be kept from the market. The Delegation proposed to include the parameters minimum Brix and flesh firmness in the UN/ECE Standard as soon as possible.

(12) The Delegation proposed a three-step approach for sampling based on the following principles:

- to verify the criteria only if there is a suspicion that they are not met;
- in this case to check on a reduced sample;
- if the suspicion remains or is confirmed, to check a less reduced sample.

(13) The Delegation stressed that the goal of the introduction of maturity requirements was to define the minimum values below which apples would no longer be satisfactory to any consumer. It believed that this definition did not relate to the climate.

### ***Flesh Firmness***

(14) The delegation of the European Community proposed including a parameter for minimum firmness 4.5 kg/cm<sup>2</sup> at export stage to exclude overripe fruit and a maximum firmness of 9 - 12 kg/cm<sup>2</sup>, varying according to variety, to exclude immature fruit.

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<sup>5</sup> The UN/ECE Standard Layout for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables is available for downloading at the UN/ECE website: <http://www.unece.org/trade/agr/info/layout/layout.htm>

(15) No major objections were raised to including a minimum firmness. Some delegations said that a value of 4.5 kg/cm<sup>2</sup> was rather soft and that their industry preferred 5 kg/cm<sup>2</sup>. Others said that the value depended on the environmental condition and that they would need more time to check the available data to see if the values were realistic.

(16) Many delegations considered it unnecessary to include a maximum firmness because immature fruit could be excluded through a minimum Brix value.

### ***Minimum Brix Values***

(17) The European Commission Services proposed three levels according to variety while concentrating on a minimum list of varieties covering the majority of international trade.

(18) There were no objections raised in principle to including a minimum Brix value in the UN/ECE Standard nor to the figures proposed by the delegation of the EC although many delegations felt that more time was needed to check with their industry.

(19) The delegation of Sweden informed of major concerns and scepticism expressed by Swedish producers and traders. The delegation of New Zealand supported a simple approach, and that criteria for Brix should allow fruit to mature in the market place.

(20) Many interventions focused on the importance of defining how to test the criteria and the testing equipment (e.g. non destructive testing). The OECD delegation informed that the Scheme were currently revising its document on sampling and methods to include methods for testing of internal quality. The Delegation hoped that progress would be made on this issue at the next Plenary Meeting of the Scheme in October 2004.

### **Conclusion**

(21) All interested delegations were invited to provide data on Brix values and flesh firmness to the UN/ECE Secretariat. The subject would be re-discussed at the next session of the Specialized Section on the basis of the information received and a summary document prepared by the Chairperson and the UN/ECE Secretariat.

### **UN/ECE Recommendation for Apples**

#### ***Weight sizing/uniformity***

(22) The delegation of New Zealand presented three different options:

- to maintain the existing wording with some clarifications on determination of the average weight and changes to the marking provisions;
- specific weight limits i.e. use of a fixed weight as a suitable limit for uniformity. This option is not recommended as it is considered to be too complicated;
- to use the diameter uniformity limits for weight and diameter.

(23) The delegation of the European Community said that it did not favour the third option because it would mean that sizing would not be by weight but still be done by diameter. Concerning the first option it said that it had noted the problems with determination of the average weight, and proposed to use the "median weight" (term to be clarified) instead, which could be considered as a fourth option.

(24) The delegation of France presented a table which had been created by its producers to facilitate the application of weight sizing. The delegation of New Zealand said that more time was needed to study the options available.

### **Conclusion**

(25) It was decided to continue the trial (up to November 2005) without changing the UN/ECE Recommendation (see paras. 48 - 49).

### ***List of Varieties***

(26) The document from Turkey contained proposals to amend the entries to a number of varieties already contained in the UN/ECE Standard concerning russeting, colour group or size, as well as the introduction of four varieties which were at present not included in the UN/ECE Standard. The delegation of the European Community presented a number of varieties to be added to the list that had been transmitted by Latvia and Estonia.

(27) Concerning the amendment to the characteristics of the varieties already included in the list, the general view of the Specialized Section was that the changes were not justified, as the varieties were listed with the characteristics that correspond to the majority of produce grown from these varieties.

(28) Concerning the addition of new varieties, the Specialized Section regretted that some important information concerning parentage, breeder and trade volume was not available. It was felt that the template might need to be revised to clarify which information was requested.

### **Conclusion**

(29) It was agreed to provisionally admit the new varieties proposed by Turkey and the European Community. They would be added to the UN/ECE Recommendation in a trial period until 2005. After the trial they would be included in the UN/ECE Standard if the information concerning parentage and breeder became available to make sure that they would be added at the correct place in the list (see para. 48).

### **Template for application for inclusion of apple varieties**

(30) A template for application for inclusion of apple varieties was created at the last Session of the Specialized Section to amend the list of varieties of the UN/ECE Standard for Apples. The Specialized Section noted that experience showed that the template needed to be clarified to enable applicants to correctly fill in all necessary fields.

(31) Many delegations felt that at least the information on parentage and breeder needed to be included to ensure that the variety was correctly placed in the UN/ECE Standard. They said that much work had been done to establish consistency in the list, which should be maintained by requesting relevant information before including varieties in the list.

(32) It was stressed that the list of varieties was a non-exhaustive one, which meant that fruits of varieties that were not part of the list might be marketed and should be graded according to their varietal characteristics. It was the intention to include those varieties in the list which were of economic importance in international trade, were large fruited, showed red colouring and/or showed russeting characteristics.

(33) It was decided to clarify in the template:

- the terms "parentage" and "breeder";
- that all information requested in the template was essential for admitting varieties into the UN/ECE Standard to ensure that they are included in the right place;
- that the commercial importance of the variety should be indicated by stating the production volume.

## **UN/ECE Standard for Table Grapes**

(34) The delegation of South Africa prepared an updated list of maturity requirements for table grapes listed according to variety. The delegation of Israel stated that it could agree with the table as proposed by South Africa. The company Sun World stated that for the Sugraone variety, if marketed under the protected name Superior Seedless®, special maturity requirements apply. The delegation of Turkey proposed the addition of a number of Turkish varieties, as well as some changes to varieties already included in the list. The delegation of Greece felt that the sugar/acid ratio was not a reliable maturity indicator as it varied too much according to region. The delegation of France reported that they used 18:1 sugar/acid ratio for all varieties and did not have any problems in applying this value. Several delegations indicated that the current values in the list and in the UN/ECE Standard were rather low and could be reviewed.

(35) It was felt that, in the further development of the list, every effort should be made to keep the Standard as simple as possible i.e. a grouping of about 3-5 different levels of maturity into which the different varieties could be grouped was preferred to a list by variety.

(36) It was decided to:

- propose no changes to the Standard at present;
- ask South Africa to prepare a new proposal based on the comments made and by merging in the list proposed by Turkey;
- ask all other delegations to send any further comments on the issue to South Africa;
- deal with the issue of trade-marked varieties with special requirements once the list was completed;
- hold a working group meeting in connection with the OECD Plenary Meeting in the first week of October 2004.

## **UN/ECE Recommendation for Citrus Fruits**

### ***Maturity requirements***

(37) The Specialized Section noted that the text of the UN/ECE Recommendation would finish its trial period in November 2004. At its last Session, a Working Group on Citrus Fruits was formed to further discuss maturity requirements and the simplification of sizing provisions.

(38) Proposals for inclusion of minimum sugar/acid ratio and changes to the minimum juice content had been submitted by the delegations of Israel and South Africa. The delegation of the European Community said that it was not against looking into the inclusion of additional maturity requirements into the UN/ECE Standard.

(39) The delegation of CLAM recalled that at the last session of the Specialized Section and then later at the Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables, an important consensus had been found on maturity requirements and the question of green oranges. The Delegation felt that there was no need to change anything in the UN/ECE Standard. The research on sensory acceptance of citrus fruits that had been carried out in Spain had shown that the minimum sugar/acid ration was not a reliable parameter to predict acceptance. The Delegation said that further tests were carried out in this season enlarging the trial also to citrus fruits coming from other regions. The Delegation strongly recommended maintaining the existing maturity requirements (colour and juice content). The Delegation felt that the existing text had successfully facilitated trade of citrus fruits. Any further discussion should be held on the basis of the scientific data which would become available at the end of 2004. The position of CLAM was supported by many other delegations.

(40) It was decided to come back to this issue at the next session of the Specialized Section when scientific data would be available.



### ***Sizing***

(41) The delegation of Germany said that the sizing requirements in the UN/ECE Standard were very complicated and should be simplified. It would prefer a solution without size codes. The delegation of CLAM said that the industry was accustomed to these provisions and applied them without problems. The delegation of Germany was invited to present a proposal to the next session of the Specialized Section.

### **Proposal to the Working Party**

(42) It was agreed to align the text of the UN/ECE Recommendation with the text that had been adopted at the last CCFFV meeting (Mexico City, September 2003) and to propose to the Working Party to adopt it as a revised UN/ECE Standard (see para. 47).

### **Compatibility of the UN/ECE Control Certificate<sup>6</sup> and the UN Layout Key for trade documents**

(43) The delegation of the United Kingdom informed that the trade facilitation organization, SITPRO, had informed it that the present UN/ECE Control Certificate was not harmonized with the UN Layout Key for international trade documents recommended by the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT). It also said that one of the problems with the present certificate was that it allowed only a limited number of products to be included on each certificate and it would welcome a revision of the certificate allowing more products to be included.

(44) The delegations of the European Community and the OECD Scheme said that harmonized versions of the UN/ECE certificates were used by their organizations, and indicated their interest in cooperating with UN/ECE on the revision. The delegation of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme said that the CCFFV was considering Guidelines for the Quality Control of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables, which included a model control certificate form based on the relevant UN/ECE and OECD texts.

(45) As a first step, the UN/ECE Secretariat was invited to try to get some information from the UN/CEFACT Secretariat on how to apply the UN Layout Key. The information would be transmitted to the next session of the Working Party and to the next OECD Plenary Meeting (see paras. 50 - 53).

### **UN/ECE Standard Layout for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables**

#### ***Stickers fixed directly on the fruit/vegetable***

(46) The Specialized Section recalled that at its last Session that the UN/ECE Standard Layout was changed to include a sentence concerning stickers directly fixed on the individual fruit/vegetable (see para. 9). The Specialized Section decided that the sentence should be included in all UN/ECE standards because it was a general statement on how stickers should be in case they are used, and neither an indication that stickers had to be used nor an interdiction to do so.

### **60<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE UN/ECE WORKING PARTY ON AGRICULTURAL QUALITY STANDARDS**

#### **UN/ECE Recommendation for Citrus Fruits**

(47) The Working Party adopted the UN/ECE Recommendation for Citrus Fruits as a revised UN/ECE Standard for Citrus Fruits as proposed by the 50<sup>th</sup> Session of the Specialized Section.

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<sup>6</sup> The UN/ECE Control Certificate is part of the Geneva Protocol that can be downloaded at:  
<http://www.unece.org/trade/agr/info/gevprot/gevprot.htm>

### **UN/ECE Recommendation for Apples**

(48) The Working Party took note of the provisional inclusion of new varieties until the end of the trial period in 2005. It stressed that all applicants must demonstrate that the varieties applied for were new and traded internationally.

### **UN/ECE Standard for Apples**

(49) The Working Party clarified that in the UN/ECE Standard no changes to the minimum sizes for apples were currently envisaged but that in the context of aligning with UN/ECE standards, the European legislation scheduled that the minimum sizes for apples in the EU would be aligned with those of the UN/ECE as of 1 August 2005. The Working Party also stressed that any proposal based on scientific data as well as any productive dialogue would be welcome at the next Session of the Specialized Section in March 2005.

### **Compatibility of the Control Certificate and the UN/ECE Layout Key for trade documents**

(50) The delegation of the United Kingdom informed that the country's trade facilitation agency (SITPRO) had informed that the present UN/ECE control certificate was not harmonized with the UN Layout Key for international trade documents recommended by the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT). A further problem was that only a limited number of products were allowed to be included on each certificate.

(51) As this topic would concern more than one Specialized Section, it was decided to discuss the issue in the Working Party.

### ***Presentation by the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT)***

(52) A representative of UN/CEFACT presented the current work on electronic documents. He explained some of the characteristics of modern supply chains. The UN Layout Key is a set of standards describing the format and semantics of trade documents. Aligning a trade document to the UN Layout Key was the first step needed to pass to an electronic document. He said that to migrate the present UN/ECE control certificate it had first to be aligned with the UN Layout Key (defining format and semantics) in line with the United Nations Trade Data Elements Directory (UNTDDED). He said that the World Customs Organization used the same format as described in the UNTDED, which was another advantage to aligning the control certificate with the UN Layout Key.

(53) The Working Party decided to align the control certificate with the UN Layout Key. A working group would prepare a draft proposal, which would be discussed at the session of the Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables.

### **UN/ECE Standard Layout for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables**

#### **Point of application of UN/ECE standards**

(54) The UN/ECE Secretariat informed the Working Party that currently the point of application of UN/ECE standards was fixed at the export-control stage. In practice, although UN/ECE standards were applied by countries in different ways (e.g. within the European Union the standards applied at all stages of marketing), some countries also apply the standards for their national trade. The UN/ECE Secretariat felt that this could usefully be reflected in the UN/ECE Standard Layout.

(55) At the 59<sup>th</sup> session of the Working Party, the proposal had been welcomed by some delegations, but it was felt that if the reference to the point of application were to be deleted, then some sentence allowing for a certain loss of freshness at later stages of distribution was needed. The following sentence concerning the point of application was then proposed: "*The purpose of the Standard is to define the quality requirements of <name of the produce> after preparation and packaging*". Although the proposal was considered interesting, the delegations thought that it should be further discussed.

(56) At the present session, several delegations were of the opinion that the text in the UN/ECE Standard Layout should take into account the fact that, in practice, UN/ECE Standards were applied at all stages of trade. The delegation of the United States felt that if a quality problem were discovered at a later stage of marketing it would be difficult to assign responsibility for this because it might be due to the producer/packer but also to inadequate storage in retail. Delegations were invited to consult with their trade on this question.

(57) The Codex Secretariat informed the Working Party that Codex standards allowed for “free distribution” of the product on the territory of the importing country, and therefore applied both to the point of export or import and to further distribution and sale. Thus, the footnote applying across Codex standards for fresh fruits and vegetables (Section 1 - Definition of Produce) was included to take on board perishability of fresh produce and the application of UN/ECE standards at the export stage by stating that “*Governments, when indicating the acceptance of a Codex Standard for (...) should notify the Commission which provisions of the Standard would be accepted for application at the point of import, and which provisions would be accepted for application at the point of export*”.