

UNECE Commercial Agricultural Quality Standards

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UNECE Commercial Agricultural Quality Standards



United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNECE



UNECE Commercial Agricultural Quality Standards

General Assembly

Economic and Social Council

UNECE

UNECE Committee on Trade

UNECE Working Party of Agricultural Quality Standards (WP.7)



UNECE Specialized Sections

**Fresh Fruit and
vegetables**

**Dry and dried
Produce**

**Seed
potatoes**

Meat

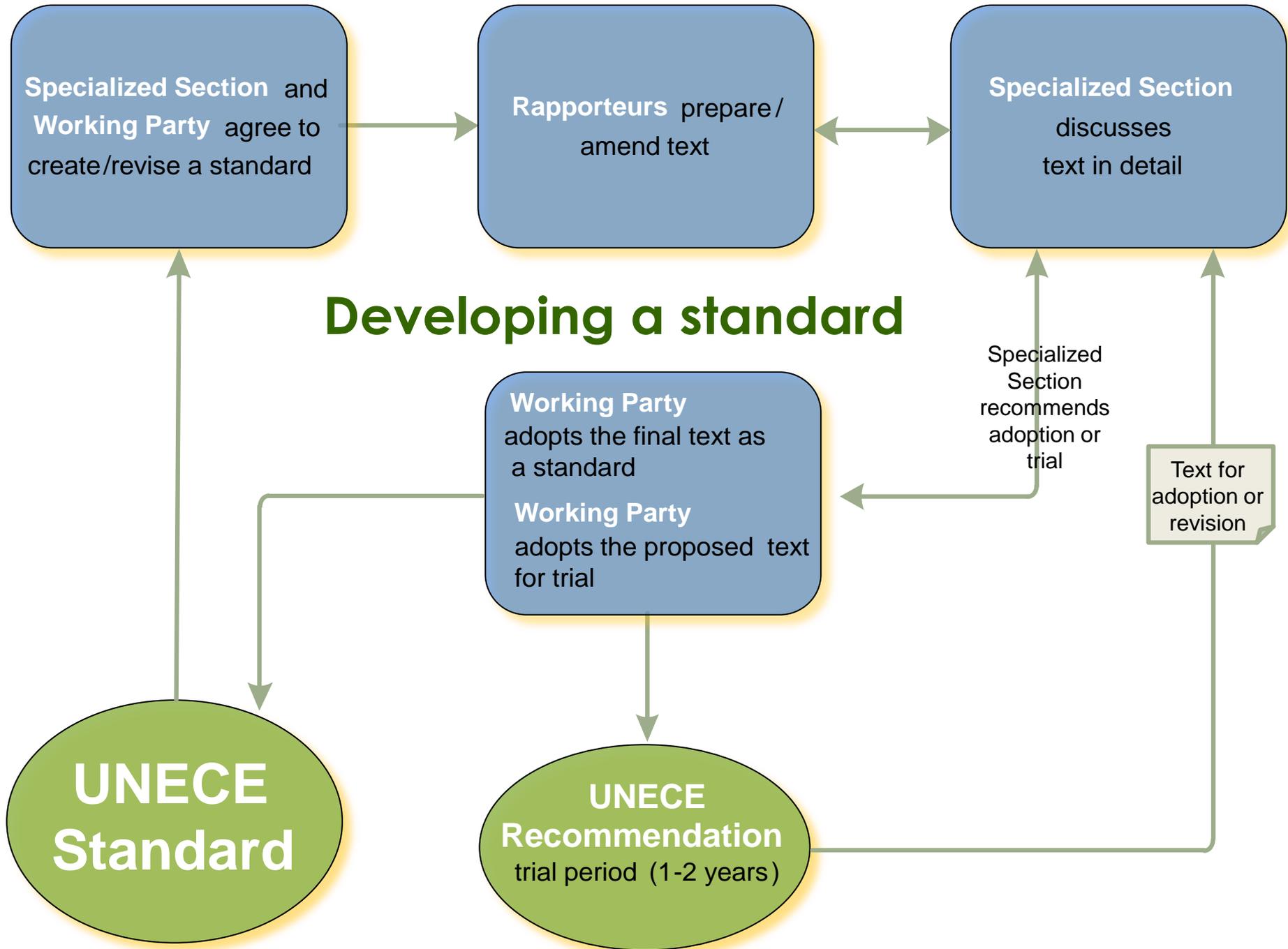
UNECE Commercial Agricultural Quality Standards

Terms of Reference

- 🍏 All UN member states have equal rights
- 🍏 Governments nominate participating organizations responsible for quality control
- 🍏 Participation from NGOs
- 🍏 Participation from private sector
- 🍏 Decision-making based on consensus



Developing a standard



Specialized Section and Working Party agree to create/revise a standard

Rapporteurs prepare/amend text

Specialized Section discusses text in detail

Developing a standard

Working Party adopts the final text as a standard

Working Party adopts the proposed text for trial

Specialized Section recommends adoption or trial

Text for adoption or revision

UNECE Standard

UNECE Recommendation trial period (1-2 years)

UNECE Commercial Agricultural Quality Standards

Purpose of agricultural quality standards

- 🍏 Facilitate international trade
- 🍏 Create market transparency
- 🍏 Promote quality agricultural products
- 🍏 Improve profitability
- 🍏 Protect consumers



UNECE Commercial Agricultural Quality Standards

UNECE standards are recommendations used on a voluntary basis to make trading easier.

UNECE standards are standards for use in international trade



**UNECE
STANDARD**

Implementing a UNECE Standard

GOVERNMENT

EU

**FAO/WHO
Codex
Alimentarius**

OECD

**PRIVATE
SECTOR**

**National
Standard**

**EU
Regulation**

**Codex
Standard**

**Explanatory
Brochures**

**Reference in
Contracts**

Compliance with TBT agreement

“Where international standards exist countries shall use them as a basis for their technical regulations except when such standards would be an ineffective or inappropriate means for the fulfillment of the objectives”

(TBT, Art. 2.4)



UNECE and the European Union

Close collaboration since 1962

Since 2009:

- **EU adopted 10 UNECE standards in EC regulations (“Specific Marketing Standards”)**
- **General marketing standard (GMS)**
- **GMS products use EU class labels that are based on UNECE standards**



RECENT EXAMPLES OF ADOPTIONS OF UNECE STANDARDS - FRESH FRUIT/VEGETABLES, NUTS, DRIED FRUIT AND MEAT - IN THE CIS and EASTERN EUROPEAN REGION



Russia: 13 meat standards based on UNECE standards

Russia and Customs Union: 27 standards for fresh fruit/vegetables,

Ukraine: Adopted most of UNECE standards for fresh fruit/vegetables

Tajikistan: Standards for dried apples, prunes, dried apricots (soon)

Moldova: National Agency for Rural Development promotes use of UNECE standards by individual farmers (Associations of Small Producers).

Concern: implementation of standards; training in their use; training in quality production methods (quality produce), storage and packaging.

UNECE Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards

Mission:

- 🍏 Develop quality standards setting minimum requirements (commercial quality, maturity, sizing, tolerances, presentation, marking)
- 🍏 Prepare explanatory material
- 🍏 Promote UNECE standards worldwide
- 🍏 Provide technical support

Participation :

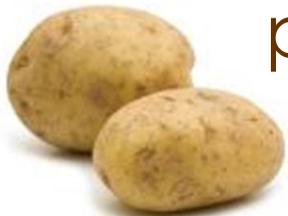
- 🍏 **Global**



UNECE Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards

Four Specialized Sections

- 🍏 **Fresh Fruit and Vegetables** (59 standards)
- 🍏 **Dry and Dried Produce** (27 standards)
- 🍏 **Seed Potatoes** (1)
- 🍏 **Meat** (15 and 1 in progress, plus 2 updated egg standards)



UNECE Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables

- **Currently 59 Standards**

See

<http://www.unece.org/trade/agr/standard/fresh/ffv-standardse.html>

- **Explanatory brochures for sweet peppers, pineapples, chilli peppers**

- **Training worldwide**



UNECE Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables

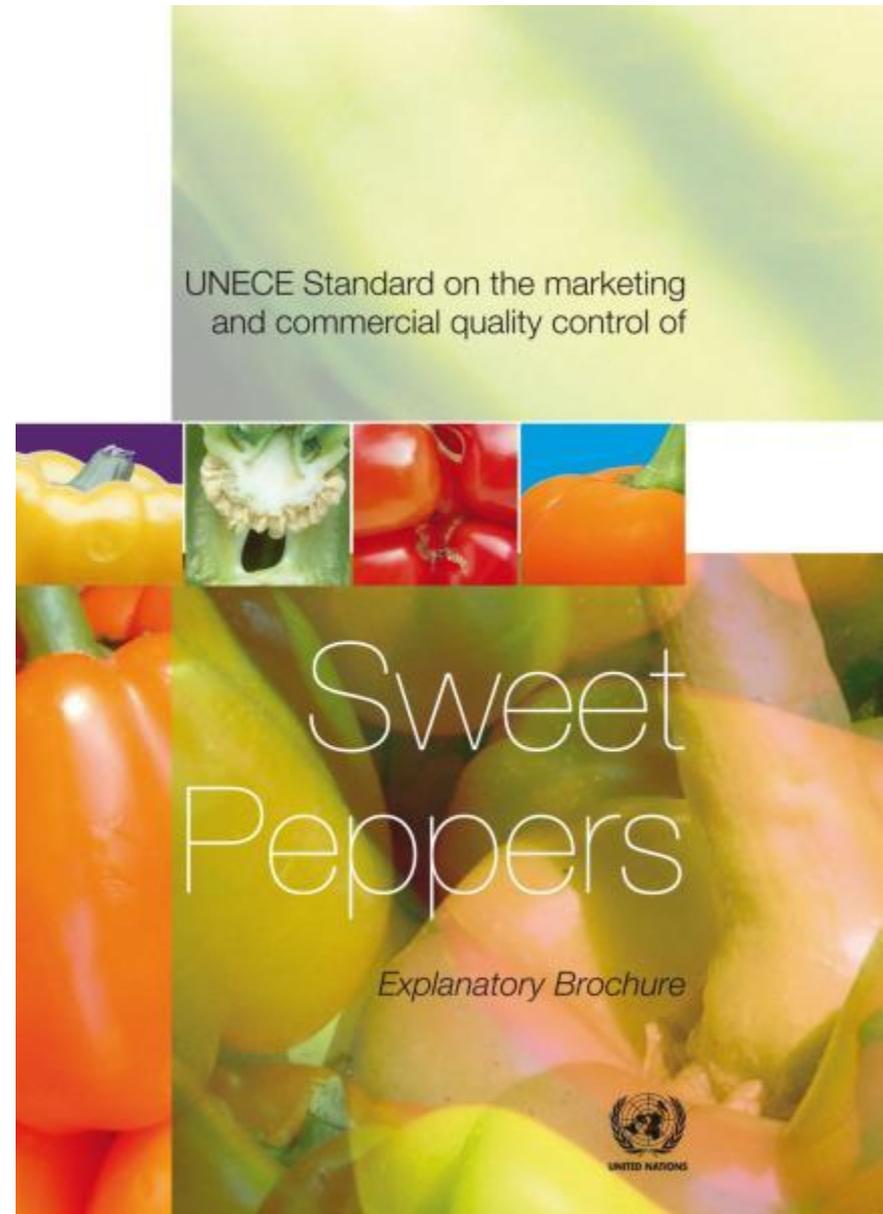


**Class II
marking**

UNECE Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables

Explanatory brochures interpret the provisions of the standards:

- 🍏 Help with the grading of produce
- 🍏 Ensure uniform interpretation
- 🍏 Reduce risk of rejection
- 🍏 Help resolve disputes



UNECE Specialized Section on Standardization of Dry and Dried Produce

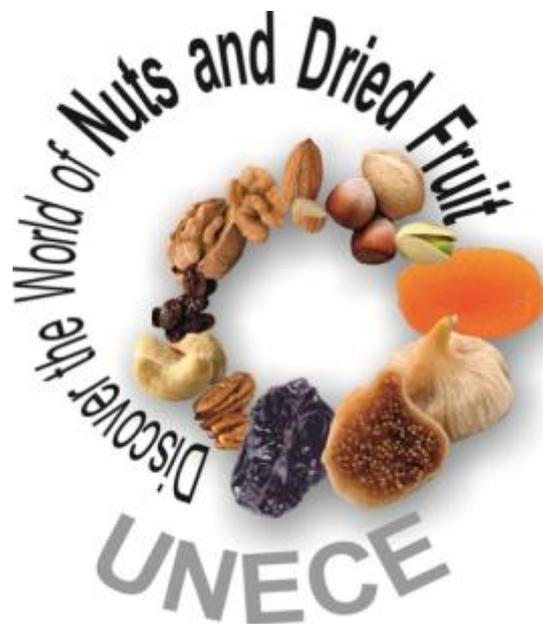
- **Standards : Currently 27 Standards**
- **Explanatory material (brochures for Walnut Kernels, Whole Dried Chilli Peppers in addition to colour scales and gauges**
- **Promotional events, seminars and exhibitions**
- **Workshops and training on dry and dried produce (e.g. Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Moldova, Tajikistan)**



UNECE Specialized Section on Standardization of Dry and Dried Produce

**Presenting the standards and the
produce covered:**

**UNECE Nuts and Dried Fruit
Standards
in International Trade
Exhibition**



Geneva, Switzerland, June 2013

UNECE Specialized Section on Standardization of Meat

Develops Standards with agreed specifications for meat items commonly traded internationally.

Currently 15 Standards for:

- **Bovine meat**
- **Caprine meat**
- **Chicken, Turkey, Duck , Goose meat**
- **Deer meat**
- **Edible meat co-products**
- **Horse meat**
- **Llama/Alpaca meat**
- **Ovine meat**
- **Porcine meat**
- **Rabbit meat**
- **Retail meat cuts**
- **Veal meat**
- **Processed Poultry meat (in progress)**



UNECE Specialized Section on Standardization of Seed Potatoes

UNECE Quality Standard for Seed Potatoes

- Unique reference covering all aspects of seed potato certification
- Technical assistance worldwide



UNECE Specialized Section on Standardization of Seed Potatoes



Internship in Switzerland

Technical support
in North Ossetia



UNECE Commercial Agricultural Quality Standards

- 🍏 **UNECE cooperates extensively with many international governmental organizations (such as OECD, FAO, EU) and NGOs (observers)**
- 🍏 **UNECE works with professional organizations and the private sector**



UNECE Commercial Agricultural Quality Standards

Today the UNECE, national, regional, international regulators and the private sector have to:

- take into account new import and export markets beyond the traditional
- Deal with more, and diverse players, more complex international supply chains and retailers that operate globally
- Address concerns of consumers about the origin of their food, its safety and quality

UNECE Commercial Agricultural Quality Standards

What UNECE can offer:

Over the years UNECE has evolved into an international platform for the development of agreed trading language/standards for global trade in agricultural produce

- Demand-driven, inclusive, open and fast development, revision and adoption process
- Standards and tools reflecting actual market and trading realities and not “should be” product requirements
- Standards with simple structure and produce – specific tolerances





THANK YOU

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

