

# UNECE Commercial Agricultural Quality Standards

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**FAO Regional Training Workshop for CIS countries**  
**WTO accession and Agricultural Policy**  
**Kiev, Ukraine, November 2013**



# 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**

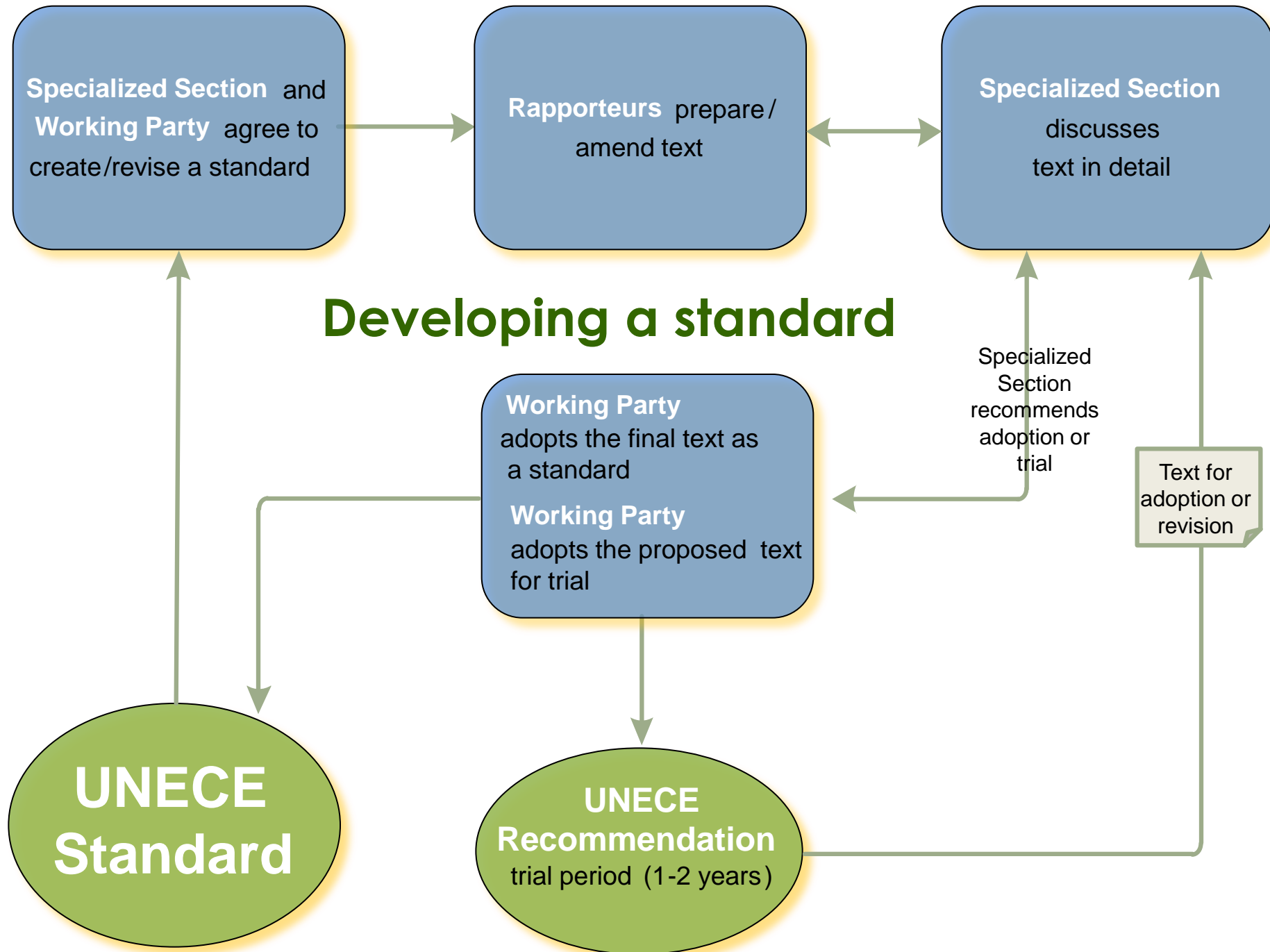
# UNECE Commercial Agricultural Quality Standards

## 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



# 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

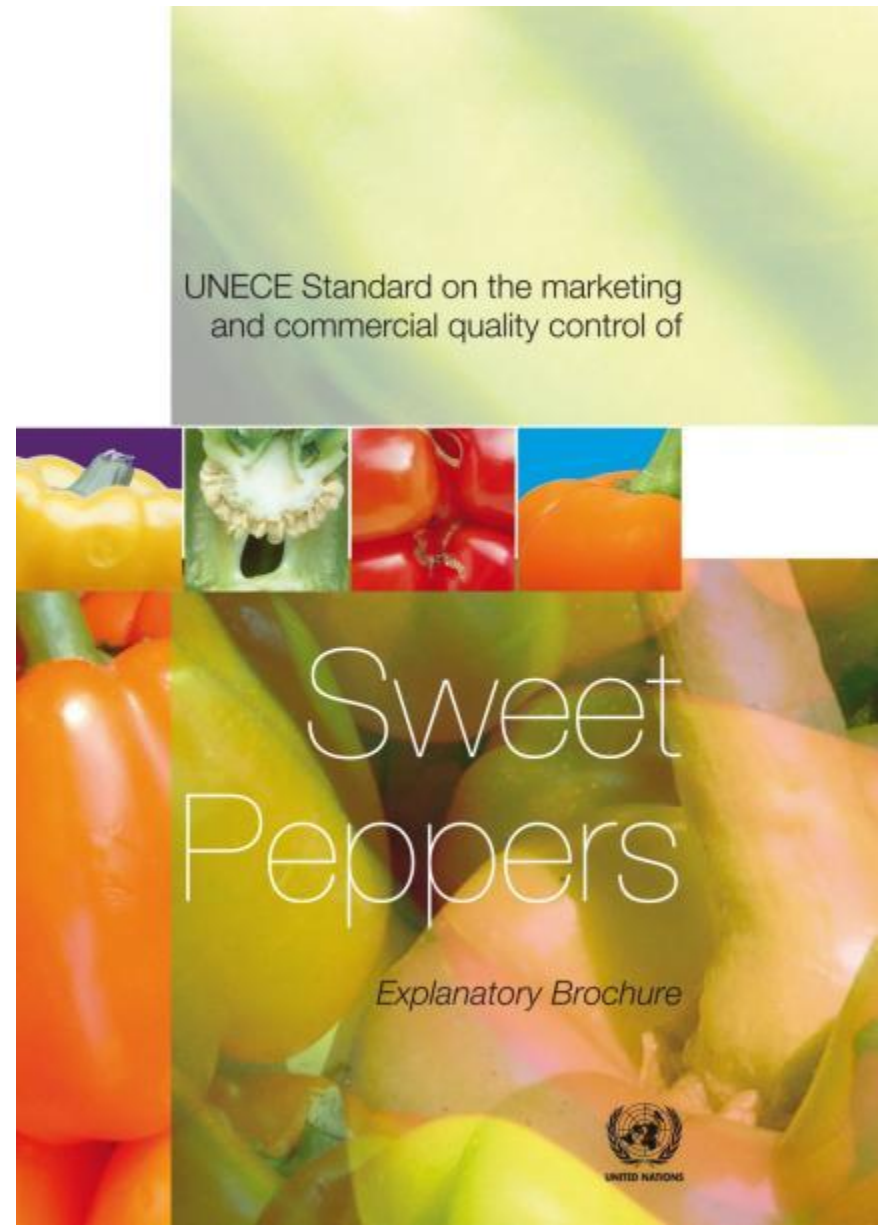


**Class II  
marking**

# 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

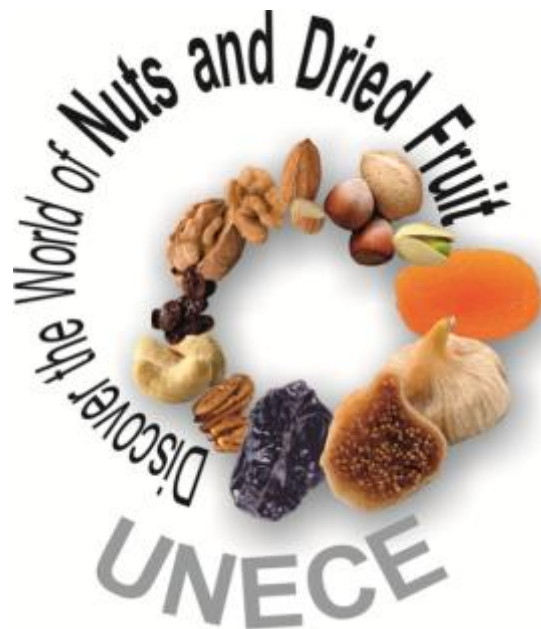
- **Standards : Currently 27 Standards**
- **Explanatory material (brochures for Walnut Kernels, Whole Dried Chilli Peppers in addition to colour scales and gauges**
- **Promotional events, seminars and exhibitions**
- **Workshops and training on dry and dried produce (e.g. Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Moldova,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

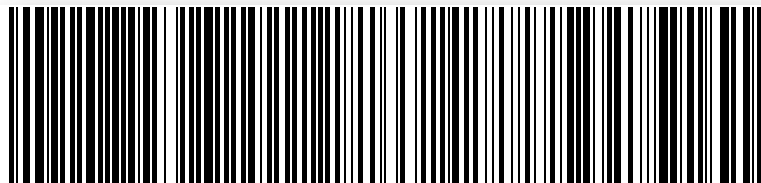
- Bovine meat
- Caprine meat
- Chicken, Turkey, Duck , Goose meat
- Deer meat
- Edible meat co-products
- Horse meat
- Llama/Alpaca meat
- Ovine meat
- Porcine meat
- Rabbit meat
- Retail meat cuts
- Veal meat
- Processed Poultry meat (in progress)



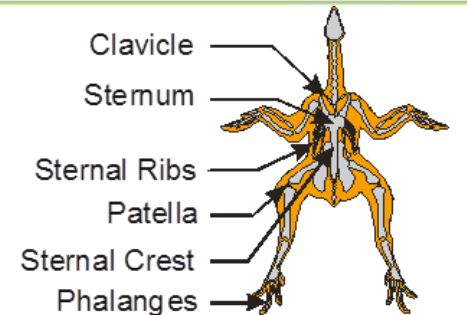
# UNECE Specialized Section on Standardization of Meat

More than a Standard.....

- Explanatory Brochure
- and a defined
- Coding System  
for communication and  
electronic trade with  
information combined in  
20 digits



(01) 91234567890121(3102) 000376(7002) 15111110205142111



VENTRAL VIEW

# 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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Management Division**

**United Nations Economic Commission for Europe  
Geneva, Switzerland**

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

