

codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



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Agenda Item 3(d)

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

14th Session

Mexico City, Mexico, 12 - 17 May 2008

DRAFT CODEX GUIDELINES FOR THE INSPECTION AND CERTIFICATION OF FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES FOR CONFORMITY TO QUALITY STANDARDS

Council Decision C(2006)95 revising the OECD Scheme for the Application of International Standards for Fruits and Vegetables

1. The 30th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (July 2007) recognized that the Guidelines addressed inspection, certification and sampling matters specific to fresh fruits and vegetables and therefore, agreed to forward the document to the Committees on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems as well as on Methods of Analysis and Sampling to provide observations from a horizontal perspective on certification, inspection and sampling provisions in order to ensure consistency in the approach followed on these matters within Codex.¹

2. Following the request of the Commission, the 29th Session of the Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (March 2008) considered the sections on sampling and recommended that the Committee on Fresh Fruit and Vegetables should take into account the *OECD Scheme for the Application of International Standards for Fruits and Vegetables* in order to avoid contradictions and duplication of work.²

3. In view of the above, the Council Decision C(2006)95 revising the *OECD Scheme for the Application of International Standards for Fruits and Vegetables* as adopted in July 2006 is attached to this document in order to facilitate the consideration of the *draft Guidelines for the Inspection and Certification of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables for Conformity to Quality Standards* by the Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables. Annex II to this Decision contains the operating rules for the conformity checks of produce exported under the Scheme that is relevant for the consideration of the draft Guidelines. This document is only available in English and French.

¹ ALINORM 07/30/REP. para 93.

² ALINORM 08/31/23, paras 9 – 10.



COUNCIL

C(2006)95
For Official Use

Council

**DRAFT COUNCIL DECISION REVISING THE OECD "SCHEME" FOR THE APPLICATION OF
INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS FOR FRUIT AND VEGETABLES**

(Note by the Secretary-General)

This document is submitted to Council for approval under the written procedure.

JT03210749

1. At their 63rd session held on 15-17 November 2005, the National Representatives responsible for the implementation of the OECD “Scheme” for the Application of International Standards for Fruit and Vegetables agreed to recommend the adoption of the attached draft Council Decision revising the OECD “Scheme” for the Application of International Standards for Fruit and Vegetables [AGR/CA/FVS/M(2005)1, Items 9 & 10].

2. The proposed amendments were made with a view to:

- Removing the objective of encouraging the establishment of one single international grade standard setting body;
- Carrying-out peer reviews on the implementation of the Scheme’s rules;
- Increasing the efficiency of the work thanks to the creation of a Steering Committee for the development and preparation of explanatory guidelines for the various standards;
- Streamlining the participation procedure for non-Member countries;
- Deleting the obsolete notions to adapt the text to market developments;
- Improving specificity on quality inspection procedures.

3. On 1 June 2006, the Committee for Agriculture endorsed this proposal under the written procedure [AGR/CA(2006)10/REV].

4. In the light of the preceding, the Secretary-General invites the Council to adopt the following draft conclusions:

THE COUNCIL

- a) noted document C(2006)95;
- b) adopted the draft Decision of the Council revising the OECD “Scheme” for the Application of International Standards for Fruit and Vegetables set out in the Annex to C(2006)95.

ANNEX

DRAFT DECISION OF THE COUNCIL

revising the OECD “Scheme” for the Application of International Standards
for Fruit and Vegetables

THE COUNCIL,

Having regard to Article 5 a) and c) of the Convention on the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development of 14 December 1960;

Having regard to the Decision of the Council, of 8 April 1999, revising the OECD "Scheme" for the Application of International Standards for Fruit and Vegetables [C(99)10/FINAL];

Having regard to the standards for fruit and vegetables adopted by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe;

Noting the benefits resulting from the implementation of the OECD "Scheme" for the Application of International Standards for Fruit and Vegetables and, in particular, the explanatory brochures published on the authority of the Secretary-General with a view to facilitating the common interpretation of standards in force, by both the quality control services and professional bodies responsible for the application of standards or interested in the international trade in these products, which are a unique and original contribution to the expansion of international trade in fruit and vegetables;

On the proposal of the Committee for Agriculture;

I. DECIDES:

1. The OECD "Scheme" for the Application of International Standards for Fruit and Vegetables (hereinafter called the "Scheme") is revised pursuant to the provisions of this Decision.

2. The "Scheme" has as its primary objective

to facilitate international trade in fruit and vegetables through the harmonisation of implementation and interpretation of international marketing standards. Hence, the “Scheme” shall:

- a) facilitate the international harmonisation and adaptation of marketing standards, to production, trade and marketing conditions;
- b) propose revisions to those standards subject to Annex I to this Decision as well as new standards;
- c) promote uniform quality control procedures and the use of the model control certificate;
- d) set up meetings of officers in charge of national quality control services;

- e) reinforce the framework to facilitate mutual recognition of inspections by participating countries;
- f) develop the "Scheme's" operational guidelines and training tools;
- g) study quality assurance conditions and operations, taking into account new methods of marketing, to ensure that consumer interest in product quality is properly addressed;
- h) carry-out voluntary peer reviews on the implementation of the Scheme's rules and guidelines by participating countries;
- i) review the operation and progress of its activities at Plenary Meetings of the national representatives appointed by their Governments to be responsible for its implementation (hereafter called the "Plenary Meeting").

3. The "Scheme" may establish a Steering Committee which is a subsidiary body of the Plenary Meeting for the development and preparation of explanatory guidelines for the various standards.

4. The standards adopted by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and by the FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme of the United Nations, once approved by the Plenary Meeting, shall be applied under the "Scheme" to the products specified in Annex I to this Decision, at the export stage, when these products enter into international trade between countries participating in the "Scheme".

5. Each time a new standard is approved, each country participating in the "Scheme" willing to conform thereto shall inform the Secretary-General within a period of six months. Once a standard has been approved, participating countries willing to conform thereto may inform the Secretary-General at any time.

6. The Secretary-General shall bring to the attention of participating countries of the "Scheme" all notifications and information conveyed within the framework of the "Scheme".

7. Within three years of joining the Scheme, participating countries shall establish an export quality control of the produce in accordance with the guidelines set out in Annex II of this Decision, by virtue of which they participate in the Scheme.

8. Participation in the "Scheme" shall be open to any member of the United Nations or one of its specialised agencies or the World Trade Organization which desire to participate therein as regards all or some of the produce concerned and is willing, as an exporting country, to conform with the standards referred to in paragraph 4 and, as an importing country, to recognise them as standards which are to be applied to exported fruit and vegetables produced in the country of origin. The procedure for participation is set out in Annex III to this Decision. Any country desiring to participate in the "Scheme" shall notify the Secretary-General indicating the institution responsible for quality control and a contact person.

9. Any participating country wishing to withdraw from the "Scheme" shall give no less than twelve months' notice in writing to the Secretary-General.

10. The following international organisations, represented by their Secretariats:

- United Nations Economic Commission for Europe,
- Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme of the United Nations,

- European Association of Fresh Produce Importers, Exporters, Wholesalers and Distributors, and Retailers (Freshfel Europe),
- Liaison Committee for Mediterranean Citrus Fruit Culture (CLAM),
- Liaison Committee for the Promotion of Tropical Fruits and Out-of-Season Vegetables imported from ACP Countries into the EU (COLEACP),

shall be invited to be represented as observers at the Plenary Meeting and its Steering Committee.

11. Other International Governmental or Non Governmental Organisations which have responsibilities in the sector covered by the "Scheme" may be invited to designate an ad-hoc observer or an expert to sessions of the Plenary Meetings of the "Scheme" or its Steering Committee.

12. Sessions of the Plenary Meeting and its Steering Committee may take place in any participating country of the "Scheme". If the meetings take place outside the OECD headquarters, no additional cost shall be incurred by the OECD Secretariat.

13. a) Expenditures required for the functioning of the "Scheme" shall be defrayed from the appropriations authorised for it under Part II of the Budget of the Organisation.

b) The annual contributions of participating countries in the "Scheme" shall be calculated according to the following scale:

- a basic fee of € 3 000;
- an additional part calculated according to the criteria used for the contributions of OECD member countries set out in the Resolution of the Council [C(63)155(Final) as amended] as they may be modified from time to time.

c) The annualised contribution of a new participating country shall be an addition to the budget of the Scheme.

II. DECIDES that the countries listed in Annex IV shall participate in the "Scheme" established by this Decision subject to notification of the contrary to the Secretary-General within three months following the adoption of the present Decision.

III. DECIDES that within a period of six months after the adoption of this Decision, the participating countries shall inform the Secretary-General of the standards currently in force with which they are willing to conform.

IV. INSTRUCTS the Committee for Agriculture to report to the Council, when appropriate, on the operation of the "Scheme", and to submit to the Council, where necessary, proposals for its modification.

V. DECIDES that the Decision of the Council of 8 April 1999 referred to above is repealed and replaced by this Decision.

ANNEX I

STANDARDS APPLICABLE UNDER THE OECD “SCHEME”¹

Annonas
Apples (dried)
Apples (x)
Apricots (x)
Apricots (dried)
Artichokes (x)
Asparagus (x)
Aubergines (x)
Avocados (x)
Beans (x)
Bilberries and blueberries
Broccoli (x)
Brussels sprouts
Cabbages (headed) (x)
Carrots (x)
Cashew kernels
Cauliflowers (x)
Celery (ribbed)
Cherries (x)
Chinese cabbages
Citrus fruit (oranges, clementines,
mandarins, lemons, grapefruits) (x)
Courgettes
Cucumbers(x)
Dates (whole)
Edible sweet chestnuts
Fennel
Figs (fresh)
Figs (dried)
Garlic (x)
Grapes (dried)
Hazelnut kernels
Hazelnuts (inshell) (x)
Horse-radish
Kiwifruit (x)
Leeks
Lettuces, curled-leaved endives,
broad-leaved (Batavian) endives (x)
Mangoes (x)

1. These standards are - available from the UNECE web site
<http://www.unece.org/trade/agr/welcome.htm>

The products with explanatory material already published or in preparation are indicated by the sign (x).
Explanatory material is available from the OECD web site <http://www.oecd.org/agr/fv>

Melons
Mushrooms (cultivated) (x)
Onions (x)
Peaches and nectarines (x)
Peas (x)
Pears
Pears (dried)
Pineapples
Pine nuts (decorticated peeled)
Pistachio nuts (unshelled) (x)
Pistachio nuts (decorticated and
Decorticated peeled) (x)
Plums (x)
Prunes (x)
Potatoes (x)
Radishes
Raspberries
Rhubarb
Scorzonera
Spinach
Strawberries (x)
Sweet almonds (decorticated)
Sweet almonds (unshelled) (x)
Sweet peppers (x)
Table grapes (x)
Tomatoes (x)
Walnut kernels (x)
Walnuts (inshell)
Watermelons
Witloof chicory (x)

ANNEX II

OPERATING RULES FOR THE CONFORMITY CHECKS OF PRODUCE EXPORTED UNDER THE "SCHEME"

I. OPERATING RULES CONCERNING CONFORMITY CHECKS

1. The purpose of conformity checks is to ascertain that the quality and classification of the produce exported are in conformity with the standards applied under the "Scheme".

2. Control operations are to be carried out according to the guidelines set out in Section II below by the control service authorised by each country participating in the "Scheme" (authorized control service) to issue the conformity certificate comparable to the model set out in Appendix I to this Annex. Its use is described in the explanatory note appearing in Appendix II to this Annex.

3. The purpose of the conformity certificate is to attest that the authorized control service has verified, according to the methods set out hereafter in Section II of this Annex, that the consignment in question conforms with the standard applied under the "Scheme" at the time of inspection. That service is responsible to the corresponding service of the importing country participating in the "Scheme" for the statements attesting quality in the conformity certificate.

4. The aim of this document is to define an appropriate control method by which inspectors will assess the conformity of produce (fresh fruit and vegetables or dry and dried produce) against standards. These methods set a minimum level whenever produce fails to meet the benchmark requirements of the standard. Operators/inspectors may choose to adopt more extensive methods, however, controls of produce will be based at least on the level of inspection described above.

II. CONFORMITY CHECK OPERATIONS FOR PRODUCE EXPORTED UNDER THE "SCHEME"

1. Definitions

1.1 Conformity check

Inspection carried out by an inspector to check the conformity of fresh, dry and dried fruit and vegetables with the standards.

This conformity check includes:

- an identity and documentary inspection: an inspection of the documents or certificates accompanying the lot and an inspection of the goods and the particulars in these documents, to check that they match.
- a physical inspection, by means of sampling of the goods in the lot to ensure that it satisfies all the conditions laid down by the standard, including the provisions on the presentation and marking of packages and packaging.

1.2 Inspector

Person entrusted by the authorized control service who has appropriate and regular training enabling him or her to undertake conformity checks.

1.3 Consignment

Quantity of produce to be sold by a given trader found at the time of inspection and defined by a document. The consignment may consist of one or several types of produce: it may contain one or several lots of fresh, dry or dried fruit and vegetables.

1.4 Lot

Quantity of produce which, at the time of inspection at one place, has similar characteristics with regard to:

- packer and/or dispatcher
- country of origin
- nature of produce
- class of produce
- size (if the produce is graded according to size)
- variety or commercial type (according to the relevant provisions of the standard)
- type of packaging and presentation.

However, if during the conformity check of consignments (see 1.3), it is difficult to distinguish between different lots and/or presentation of individual lots is not possible, all lots of a specific consignment may be treated as one lot if they are similar in regard to type of produce, dispatcher, country of origin, class and variety or commercial type, if this is provided for in the standard.

1.5 Sampling

Collective sample taken temporarily from a lot during conformity check.

1.6 Primary sample

Package taken at random from the lot or, in the case of bulk produce (direct loading into a transport vehicle or compartment thereof), a quantity taken at random from a point in the lot.

1.7 Bulk sample

Several primary samples supposed to be representative for the lot and whose quantity should be sufficient to allow the assessment of the lot with regard to all criteria.

1.8 Secondary sample (dry and dried produce only)

A secondary sample is a quantity of produce taken at random from the primary sample, weighing between 300 g and 1 kilo. If the primary sample is made up of packages containing sales packages, the secondary sample shall be one or more sales packages that in aggregate are at least 300 g.

1.9 Composite sample (dry and dried produce only)

A composite sample is a mix, weighing at least 3 kg, of all the secondary samples taken from the bulk sample. Produce in the composite sample must be evenly mixed.

1.10 Reduced sample

Quantity of produce taken at random from the bulk or composite sample whose size is restricted to the minimum quantity necessary but sufficient to allow the assessment of certain individual criteria.

If the inspection method would destroy the produce, the size of the reduced sample shall not exceed 10 % of the bulk sample or, in the case of nuts in shell, 100 nuts taken from the composite sample. In the case of small dry or dried products (i.e. 100 g include more than 100 units) the reduced sample shall not exceed 300 g.

For the assessment of criteria on the degree of the development and/or ripeness, the constitution of the sampling shall be done according to the provisions of document AGR/CA/FVS(2005)3/REV1 – Guidance on objective tests to determine quality of fruit and vegetables and dry and dried produce.

Several reduced samples may be taken from a bulk or composite sample in order to check the conformity of the lot against different criteria.

Fresh Produce		
Sample	Packaged produce	Produce in bulk (in the transport vehicle or compartment thereof)
Primary sample	One package	A quantity taken from a point in the lot
Bulk sample	Several primary samples supposed to be representative for the lot. The total quantity must be sufficient to allow the assessment of the lot with regard to all criteria	
Reduced sample	A quantity not exceeding 10 % of the bulk sample. Several reduced samples can be taken if necessary.	

Dry and dried produce		
Sample	Packaged produce	Produce in bulk (in the transport vehicle or compartment thereof)
Primary sample	One package	A quantity taken from a point in the lot
Bulk sample	Several primary samples supposed to be representative for the lot. The total quantity must be sufficient to allow the assessment of the lot with regard to all criteria	
Secondary sample	An equal quantity of produce taken from each primary sample and put together making a sample of 300 g – 1 kg or one or more sales packages out of each primary sample that in aggregate are at least 300 g	An equal quantity of produce taken from each primary sample and put together making a sample of 300 g – 1 kg
Composite sample	A mix of at least 3 kg of all the secondary samples taken. All produce must be evenly mixed (produce in sales packages must be taken out of their packages).	
Reduced sample	100 nuts in case of nuts in shell or 300 g in case of small dry or dried produce taken from the composite sample. Several reduced samples can be taken if necessary.	

1.11 Package

Individually packaged part of a lot, including contents. The packaging is conceived so as to facilitate handling and transport of a number of sales units or of products loose or arranged, in order to prevent damage by physical handling and transport. Road, rail, ship and air containers are not considered as packages. In some cases, the package constitutes a sales package.

1.12 Sales package

Individually packaged part of a lot, including contents. The packaging of sales packages is conceived so as to constitute a sales unit to the final user or consumer at the point of purchase. Among sales packages, pre-packages are such as the packaging encloses the foodstuff completely or only partially, but in such a way that the contents cannot be altered without opening or changing the packaging.

2. Implementation of conformity check

2.1 General remark

A conformity check shall be made by assessing the bulk/composite sample. It is based on the principle of presumption that the quality of the bulk/composite sample is representative of the quality of the lot.

2.2 Place of control

A conformity check may be carried out during the packing operation or at the point of dispatch or during transport.

2.3 Identification of lots and/or getting a general impression of the consignment:

The identification of lots shall be carried out on the basis of their marking or other criteria. In the case of consignments which are made up of several lots it is necessary for the inspector to get a general impression of the consignment with the aid of accompanying documents or declarations concerning the consignments. The inspector then determines how far the lots presented comply with the information in these documents.

If the produce is to be, or has been, loaded onto a means of transport, the registration number of the latter shall also be used for identification of the consignment.

2.4 Presentation of produce:

The exporter or their representative is to inform the authorized control service whenever a consignment is to be exported.

The inspector decides which lot is to be inspected. The presentation is made by the operator and includes the presentation of the bulk sample (see 2.5.3) as well as the supply of all information necessary for the identification of the consignment or lot.

2.5 Physical check

2.5.1 *Assessment of packaging and presentation on the basis of primary samples:*

The packaging, including the material used within the package, shall be tested for suitability and cleanness according to the provisions of the relevant standard. If only certain types of packaging or presentation are permitted, the inspector checks whether these are being used.

2.5.2 *Verification of marking on the basis of primary samples:*

The inspector checks whether the produce is marked according to the relevant standard. This includes a check on the accuracy of marking and/or the extent of amendment required.

Unless legal provisions so specify, fruit and vegetables individually wrapped in plastic are not considered as pre-packed foodstuff and do not necessarily need to be marked in accordance with the standards. In such cases, the plastic wrapping can be considered a simple protection for fragile products.

2.5.3 *Verification of conformity of the produce using bulk sampling or composite and/or reduced sampling*

The inspector shall determine the size of the bulk sample in such a way as to be able to assess the lot. The inspector selects at random the packages to be inspected or in the case of bulk produce the points of the lot from which individual samples shall be taken.

Care should be taken to ensure that the removal of samples does not adversely affect the quality of the produce.

Damaged packages should not be used as part of the bulk sample. They should be set aside and may, if necessary, be subject to a separate examination and report.

The bulk sample shall comprise the following minimum quantities whenever a lot is declared unsatisfactory:

Packed produce *)	
Number of packages in the lot	Number of packages to be taken (primary samples)
up to 100	5
101 to 300	7
301 to 500	9
501 to 1000	10
over 1000	minimum 15
*) In case of packages containing sales packages, at least five sales packages have to be taken at random from each primary sample to carry out the inspection of the produce.	
Produce in bulk (excluding nuts) ¹⁾ (direct loading into a transport vehicle or compartment thereof)	
Quantity of lot	Quantity of primary samples to be taken ²⁾
up to 200 kg	10 kg
201 to 500 kg	20 kg
501 to 1000 kg	30 kg
1001 to 5000 kg	60 kg
over 5000 kg	minimum 100 kg
¹⁾ Nuts in bulk: if the produce is presented in bulk, a minimum of 15 secondary samples must be taken.	
²⁾ In the case of bulky fresh fruit and vegetables (over 2 kg. per unit), the primary samples shall be made up of at least five units.	

If reduced or secondary samples are required, these are selected by the inspector from the bulk sample.

If the inspector discovers after an inspection that a decision cannot be reached, another physical check is to be undertaken and the overall result reported as an average of the two checks.

2.6 Control of produce

The produce has to be removed entirely from its packaging for the conformity check. The inspector may only dispense with this in the case of nuts and other small produce (dry and dried produce) where the sampling is based on secondary samples. The inspection of uniformity, minimum requirements, classes and size shall be carried out on the basis of the bulk/composite sample. In the case where defects are detected, the inspector shall ascertain the respective percentage of the produce not in conformity with the standard by number or weight.

For nuts, the criteria on the degree of development and/or moisture content can be checked using the instruments and methods laid down to this end in the standards.

The criteria on the degree of development and/or ripeness should be checked using the instruments and methods laid down to this end in the relevant standard or in accordance with document AGR/CA/FVS(2005)3/REV1 – Guidance on objective tests to determine quality of fruit and vegetables and dry and dried produce.

2.7 Report of control results:

According to the respective legal provisions of the individual countries and depending on the results of control, a report on the findings may be made in the form of a statement, a control certificate, a complaint, etc. For the report on the results of control several lots may be taken together if these are uniform with respect to the key criteria.

The authorised control service may issue a certificate of conformity as set out in Appendix I, if the produce is in conformity with the relevant standard.

If defects are found leading to non conformity, the trader or his representative must be informed about these defects and the percentage found as well as the reasons of complaint. This information must be made according to the legal provisions of the individual countries. If the compliance of produce with the standard is possible by a change in marking, the operator or their representative must be informed.

The control services shall develop and maintain a system of recording their inspection results.

2.8 Non-conforming produce:

The operator or his representative, shall ensure that there is no shipment of the non-conforming produce.

2.9 Decline in value by quality control:

After the conformity check, the bulk/composite sample is put at the disposal of the operator or his representative.

Unless legal provisions so specify, the control service is not bound to hand back the elements of the bulk/composite sample destroyed during the conformity check.

Unless legal provisions so specify, no compensation can be claimed from the authorised control service if the commercial value of the produce has suffered a loss.

ANNEX III**PROCEDURE FOR THE EXTENSION OF THE OECD "SCHEME" FOR THE APPLICATION OF INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS FOR FRUIT AND VEGETABLES TO NON-PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES****1. Eligibility of a country for the OECD "Scheme"**

1.1 OECD Member countries may participate in the Scheme on the basis of a written notification to the Secretary-General of the OECD:

1.2 Non-Member countries of the OECD, as defined in Section I, paragraph 8 of the Decision, may submit a written application to the Secretary-General of the Organisation if they wish to join the "Scheme":

1.3 The technical criteria necessary to operate the Schemes shall apply equally to OECD Members and non-Member countries:

2. Technical criteria

Technical criteria to be satisfied by the notifying/applicant country are set out in the rules of the OECD "Scheme" in force and include the following:

2.1 The country shall provide a description of:

- a) The nature and terms of the national legislation applicable to fruit and vegetables entering into international trade;
- b) The standard or standards included in the OECD "Scheme" with which the requesting country is prepared to conform;
- c) The steps to be taken for the acceptance of the standards or the adaptation of existing national standards to those of the "Scheme", and the period of time necessary;
- d) The organisation and methods of control of exports.

2.2 The request must also state that the appropriate national authorities are aware of the regulations of the "Scheme" and are prepared to conform with them, including particularly the sending of qualified representatives to the Plenary Meetings.

2.3 The notifying/applicant country must also undertake to take part in studies or measures designed to ensure:

- i) the harmonisation of control operations;
- ii) the possible revision of the standards;
- iii) the adoption of new standards.

3. Evaluation mission

The OECD Secretariat shall acknowledge receipt of the notification/application and shall examine the attached technical documentation. If the technical documentation is considered to be satisfactory, the

Secretariat shall visit the notifying/applicant country with a representative of a National Designated Authority.

The tasks of the mission shall be:

- 3.1 To explain to the responsible authorities the technical and administrative requirements involved in adherence to the "Scheme", as well as its organisation and coordination at the international level.
- 3.2 To make sure that sufficient technical and administrative facilities exist to enable the provisions of the "Scheme" to be satisfactorily applied.
- 3.3 To consider the need for expert assistance during the initial period of the "Scheme"'s operation.

The cost of the mission shall be borne by the notifying/applicant country.

4. Final assessment of the application

4.1 If the result of the examination provided for in paragraph 3 is satisfactory, the Plenary Meeting of the "Scheme" will advise the Committee for Agriculture to endorse the acceptance of the request for adherence. The Committee for Agriculture of the Organisation will then be invited to recommend to the Council that it approves the admission of the country concerned.

4.2 The Secretary-General of the Organisation will notify the applicant country and the already participating countries of the Decision at the end of the procedure.

5. Annual contribution

The notifying/applicant country agrees to the payment to OECD of an annual fee, irrespective of the number of products for which it has declared it was prepared to conform with the Standards of the "Scheme".

6. Participation in the Plenary Meetings and its subsidiary body during the application procedure

Before admission, the notifying/applicant country shall be authorised to attend the Plenary Meeting and its subsidiary body as an observer, with a view to presenting the documentation submitted according to section 2 above.

APPENDIX I: MODEL CONFORMITY CERTIFICATE

1 Exporter		OECD SCHEME	CONFORMITY CERTIFICATE N°	
		This certificate is for the exclusive use of control services		
2 Packer as indicated on packing (if other than exporter)		3 Control service		
		4 Country of origin *	5 Country of destination	
6 Identification of means of transport		7 Space reserved for national regulations **		
8 Number (and kind **) of packages	9 Nature of produce (variety when specified by the standard)	10 Quality class	11 Total weight in kg gross/net ***	
<p>The consignment referred to above conforms, at issue time , with the standards .</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Customs office of departure **</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Place and date of issue</p> <p>Duration of validity days</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Signatory (name in block capitals)</p> <p>Signature</p> <p>Seal of Authorized Control Service</p>				
13 Observations				
<p>* When the produce is re-exported, indicate its origin after the nature of the produce</p> <p>** Optional</p> <p>****</p>				

Format of the certificate: printed on a 297 mm x 210 mm sheet

APPENDIX II

EXPLANATORY NOTES ON THE USE OF THE MODEL CONFORMITY CERTIFICATE

The following notes are intended to help inspectors in the use of the conformity certificate.

Box No. 1

Name and address of the exporter or exporting firm. An identification code issued or approved by the authorized control service may also be used.

Box No. 2

Name and address or identification code indicated on the packages if they differ from those given in Box No. 1. It is not necessary to complete this box when the exporter and packer are one and the same person. The entry "various" may be used if there are several packers, but in that case box no. 1 must be completed.

Box No. 3

Title or acronym of the authorized control service.

Box No. 4

Name of the producing country when the produce is inspected in that country. When the produce is re-exported or is of various origins (national and foreign), the country of origin must be indicated in Box No. 9 immediately after specification of the nature of the produce. Box No. 4 must then remain empty or be deleted.

Box No. 5

Name of country to which the produce is being sent. However, if the country of final destination is not yet known at the time of inspection -- particularly in the case of transport by sea or air -- this entry may be replaced by the indication "unknown".

Box No. 6

Number of wagon, registration number of lorry, number of container, name of vessel (possibly indicating "by sea" or "by air").

Box No. 7

Specify any national regulations relating to the export of the produce in question, or any specific information related to national provisions.

Box No. 8

Number and type of packages of each produce (e.g. boxes, trays, cartons, etc.). Specification of the type of package is optional.

Box No. 9

Type of produce (apples, peaches, etc.) for each lot followed by the name of the country of origin where produce is re-exported or is of various origins (national and foreign). Name of the variety (Golden Delicious, Dixired, etc.) when specified by the standard. The entry "various" or "mixed produce" is not allowed as this combines several lots.

Box No. 10

Specify the class: EXTRA, I or II.

Box No. 11

Specify the net or gross weight of each produce indicated on the consignment note; specifying the total weight of the consignment is optional.

Boxes Nos. 8, 9, 10 and 11

Several lots from the same exporter/packer constituting a shipment or part of a shipment can be subjects of a single certificate, as long as each lot is checked. In this case, boxes 8 to 11 can be divided in lines, each line giving the concerned information for a lot in the shipment (or the part of shipment).

Box No. 12

- Customs office of departure: specify the place where the consignment must be cleared. This entry is optional.
- Duration of validity: specify the number of days for which the certificate is valid, (including the day of inspection). The number of days is fixed by the inspector on the basis of criteria specific to the nature of produce and their destination.
- Signatory: authorised by the control service
- Place and date of issue: place where the goods are inspected and date on which the certificate is issued.

Box No. 13

Reserved for any additional observations. The inspector shall delete this box when no observations are entered.

ANNEX IV

**COUNTRIES PARTICIPATING IN THE OECD “SCHEME” FOR THE APPLICATION OF
INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS FOR FRUIT AND VEGETABLES**

Austria
Belgium
Bulgaria
Finland
France
Germany
Greece
Hungary
Ireland
Israel
Italy
Luxembourg
Morocco
Netherlands
New Zealand
Poland
Romania
Slovakia
South Africa
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
Turkey