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Development of Sampling Plans for tree nuts and for dried produce

Sampling plans for tree nuts and for dried produce *

Submitted by the United States

The following document concerning sampling plans for tree nuts and for dried produce was submitted by the United States.

I. Introduction

The intent of this document is to be a general guideline for a minimum control method by which authorized inspectors may assess the conformity of in-the-shell and shelled tree nuts (including peanuts in all tree nut or nut references) according to the EU/UNECE product standards. These methods are intended as a minimum level. Inspectors/Operators must choose the standard set by the EU/UNECE for tolerances and defect levels; however controls of tree nuts including peanuts should be based on at least the level of inspection described in this control document.

This document defines the meaning of terms in section II and outlines the inspection procedure in section III.

* This document was submitted late due to delayed inputs from other sources.

II. Definitions

a) Conformity check

Inspection carried out by an authorized inspector to check that tree nuts including peanuts conform to the Standards for the specified product by the governing body for the European Union and/or UNECE.

This inspection 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 UN/ECE standard, including the provisions on the presentation and marking of packages and packaging.

b) Inspector

Person entrusted and authorized by the competent inspection body that has an appropriate and regular training enabling them to undertake conformity inspections.

c) Consignment

Quantity of product to be sold by a given trader found at the time of control and defined by a document. The consignment may consist of one or several types of in-the-shell or shelled product in bulk bags, super sacks, etc. or packages of various types and styles for retail sale.

d) Lot

Quantity of in-the-shell or shelled tree nuts, which, at the time of control by the authorized inspection service, has similar characteristics with regard to:

- packer and/or dispatcher
- country of origin
- nature of product
- class of product
- size (if the product 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 inspection of consignments, it is not possible 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 nut, dispatcher, country of origin, class and variety or commercial type, if this is provided for in the standard for that nut product.

d i. Type of packages

- Packages of no more than 10 kg - product being loose in the package
- Packages of more than 10 kg but less than 25 kg - product being loose in the package or bulk
- Packages of more than 25 kg - product being loose in the package or bulk
- Packages containing sales units destined for final consumer.

e) Sampling

Collective sample representing subsamples drawn from a lot during conformity check inspection.

f) Primary sample (sub sample)

Package(s) taken from the lot, or, in the case of bulk product, a quantity drawn according to the sample plan from the lot at random for inspection grading purposes. Retail packages may have no more than an individual package removed from a 1 kg or less retail shipper for inspection purposes.

g) Bulk sample

Several representative primary (sub) samples taken from the lot at random by a valid sample plan whose quantity meets the EU and UNECE requirement and will allow the assessment of the lot with regard to all grading criteria required by the UNECE nut standard.

h) Secondary sample

A secondary sample is a representative quantity of product drawn from each primary bulk sample, weighing at least 1.5 kg minimum. If the primary sample is made up of packaged foods, the secondary sample shall be one or more packages as that in aggregate is at least 1.5 kg.

i) Composite sample

A composite sample is a mix, weighing at least 3 kg, of all the secondary samples. Several reduced samples may be taken from a composite sample in order to check the conformity of the lot against different tolerance or size criteria taken from the bulk sample. Products in the composite sample must be thoroughly randomized, before drawing the inspection grading sample.

j) Reduced samples

Representative quantity of product taken from the composite or bulk sample whose size is sufficient to allow the assessment of determining the grade standard for the product being evaluated. In the case of nuts in-the-shell, the reduced sample shall include a minimum of at

ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.2/2012/14

g) Decline in value by conformity check

After the control, the sample is at the disposal of the operator or his representative.

The inspection body is not bound to return the remnants of the sample destroyed during the control.

h) Inspection may be appealed to the EU/UNECE technical staff or the authorized receiving port authorities

The existing samples of the product will be re-evaluated or new samples may be drawn according to the EU/UNECE Standard and the sample plan contained in the body of this regulation. Reference samples may also be used for grading purposes.

i) Handling samples after inspection (food safety/defence (*to be defined*))

The samples will not be reincorporated into the original containers, but clearly marked and placed separately in cold storage holding areas for further evaluation as needed.

Annex: To contain sample UNECE Control Certificate.
