

REPORT on a MEETING of the  
"CONDITIONS" sub-COMMITTEE of the  
SCOTTISH POTATO TRADE ASSOCIATION  
held at 25 South Methven Street,  
PERTH at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, 25th  
MAY, 1982.

PRESENT: Messrs. K.A. McKenzie (Convenor), R.G. Ramsay, J.O. Robertson,  
and R. David Hunter with D. Blackmore (Assistant Secretary) in  
attendance.

APOLOGY: Mr. Blackmore intimated an apology for absence on behalf of  
Mr. J. Henderson.

DISCUSSION: Following from the previous meeting Mr. Hunter confirmed that each  
sub-Committee Member had now received copies of background notes re  
Conditions of Sale for Ware Potatoes, a copy of a first draft of  
Conditions of Sale of Seed Potatoes (Export) and copies of notes re a  
Frost Ban. It was agreed to consider each of these three items in  
turn.

CONDITIONS OF SALE FOR WARE POTATOES: Such Conditions were felt to be more desirable than necessary,  
principally to define and establish time limits for complaints and to  
provide an authoritative basis for the trade in ware. It was felt  
such Conditions need not be as extensive as for seed potatoes. After  
clause by clause consideration of the latter it was agreed the  
Secretariat prepare a first draft, in which "seed" had been changed to  
"ware" throughout, "7-Tolerances" be changed to refer to the P.M.B.  
Ware Standard, complaints had been limited (after much careful  
discussion) to "within 24 hours of arrival of the ware potatoes at  
their destination", "15-Payment" to be required within fourteen days and  
non-relevant seed conditions deleted. This first draft to be copied to  
each sub-Committee member for perusal and to consider its possible  
subsequent adaptation to Conditions of Purchase of Ware Potatoes.

CONDITIONS OF SALE FOR SEED POTATOES (EXPORT): The sub-Committee discussed the pre-circulated first draft clause  
by clause. It was agreed that Clause 3(i) should be deleted and in  
Clause 4 (and throughout the rest of the Conditions) the word  
"certified" should be changed to "classified". Clause 6 was amended  
after "frost" to read "during transport to the destination".

There was extensive discussion of Clauses 7 and 8 in respect of  
country-specific phytosanitary certificates and time-scales of  
provisional notices to dress and to load. In respect of Clause 7 it was  
agreed to insert the full wording (as in Clause 4(i)) between the words  
"Agriculture" and "shall" and after the last word ("potatoes") to add  
the phrase "appropriate to the country to which the seed potatoes are  
to be exported".

Clause 8 presented particular difficulty. While sub.para.(1) met  
with approval, Mr. Hunter felt that the last part of sub.para.(3) should  
be added to sub.para.(2) (wherein "provisional" be added also between  
"Seller" and "loading". It was eventually agreed that sub.para.(2) be  
revised completely to provide precision and sub.para.(3) also be revised  
completely to provide elasticity to (2) in respect of bad weather, late  
arrival of a vessel, etc. It was also agreed that sub.para.(5) should  
delete (1) and end at "delivery" and that the note commencing "For the  
purpose ....." should become (a new) sub.para.(b), wherein, between  
"Conditions" and "if", should be inserted "a working day".....  
Proclamation and" [from (5)(ii)]

Clause 9(i)(c) was agreed to require revision to become consistent  
with the (to be) revised form of Clause 8 (explained above), in the  
light of earlier discussion and delayed arrival of a vessel. Mr.  
Ramsay also explained the problem arising when the phytosanitary  
certificate of a consignment sold for (say) "November delivery" expires  
on (say) 15th November and the consignment fails its renewal  
re-inspection/

re-inspection with half the specified delivery time still unexpired.

Clause 10 was approved. Clause 11(2) in Mr. Ramsay's view was unfair to the exporter, since it stipulated proper storage during a permitted ten day complaints period (as for internal U.K. trade) whereas in exporting the time between delivery and loading could be as little as two or three hours. It was felt that to be ready for the Development Council to take over formulation of standard Conditions for exporters, it would be advisable to resume the last meeting's discussion to bring in relevant RUCIP rules. This point was not clearly resolved, although it was agreed adoption of this course would also require reconsideration of Clause 12.

Following completion of consideration of the remaining Clauses it was decided the Secretariat would incorporate the agreed changes into a second draft to be copied to each sub-Committee member for further consideration.

FROST BAN:

Mr. Hunter stated that although the thrust of suggestions contained in the pre-circulated notes regarding a possible frost ban seemed to be in the right direction, he did not agree that amendment of the Seed Potato Regulations 1978 was the correct vehicle for providing statutory backing for a ban. It was agreed the involvement of the Meteorological Office in any arrangements could be advantageous. To maintain momentum it was also agreed to try to obtain documentation of Northern Ireland legislation supporting their arrangements and also to make initial approaches to the Seed Trade Committee to discuss this matter.

The meeting was thereupon concluded.