

REPORT on a MEETING between the joint SEED TRADE COMMITTEE and S.P.T.A.'s "CONDITIONS" sub-COMMITTEE held at 25 SOUTH METHVEN STREET, PERTH, at 2.30 p.m. on TUESDAY, 17th AUGUST, 1982.

PRESENT: N.F.U.S. - Messrs. J.W. Hay and J.A. McLaren, with R. Henton in attendance;

S.P.T.A. - Seed Trade Committee - J.G.H. Fenton

- "Conditions" sub-Committee - Messrs. K.A. McKenzie and R.D. Hunter - in attendance, D. Blackmore.

Mr. J.G.H. Fenton took the Chair.

"FROST  
BAN"

As instructed by the previous "Conditions" meeting, the Meteorological Office had been asked for information regarding its Scottish forecasting "Areas". Mr. Blackmore reported that unlike sea areas, various factors made fixed land areas an impractical forecasting basis. In continually (and usually rapidly) moving weather patterns it was more effective to forecast for a requested location point or area.

As also instructed, Mr. Hunter had prepared and pre-circulated a note of proposed wording of a "frost ban" clause for incorporation into current revision of the Seed Potato Regulations 1978. The meeting agreed with his view that D.A.F.S. may prefer to adopt an alternative vehicle for speedier implementation of the required "ban".

Mr. Hay read from a letter received from Mr. Smith (Chief Secretary D.A.F.S.) in response to an informal enquiry he had made. This reply arguing the difficulties clearly re-inforced the meeting's view that D.A.F.S. co-operation is unlikely. The meeting felt strongly that presentation of clear cut requirements having the unanimous support of the whole industry for implementation by D.A.F.S. must be the best line of approach. To this end it was agreed to write to the Development Council and to the Potato Marketing Board incorporating the proposals as detailed in the pre-circulated "Conditions" meeting Report (but deleting the word "maximum" and defining the requisite area as "Grampian Tayside and Fife Regions, up to 500 feet above sea level") and the explanatory note on proposed wording (above).

It was also agreed that these support requests must make clear that as the official inspecting authority, D.A.F.S.' responsibility for implementation and application of a "frost ban" Scheme is fundamentally essential. It is regarded as imperative that a "frost ban" Scheme is operative at the commencement of the 1982/83 export loading season and the potential damage of a failure to have a Scheme operative on the whole seed potato export initiative must be heavily stressed.

In conclusion, those present felt that the Development Council would be the appropriate body to submit the requirements to D.A.F.S. as soon as possible.

CONDITIONS/

CONDITIONS  
OF SALE  
FOR EXPORT:

Mr. Hunter gave a paragraph by paragraph review of a pre-circulated third draft of S.P.T.A.'s "Conditions" sub-Committee's proposals for Conditions of Sale for the use by U.K. producers and merchants selling to U.K. Exporters, highlighting salient differences in export context, problem areas identified and the most recent amendments incorporated.

In discussion of Condition 7 it was felt that producers should be entitled to be told the destination country to ensure that produce was dressed to that country's required tolerances. The Exporter's difficulties in providing this information were also explained. In respect of P.C.N. it was proposed the Exporter should be required to ensure that a whole cargo cannot be rejected because one constituent part of it is found on arrival to contain P.C.N. Mr. Hunter explained that in anticipation that Exporters will reject the end of para. 2 of Condition 9(1) beyond "destination" (i.e. "in any event.....export"), P.C.N. matters had been deferred until that event occurs. Mr. Hay, however, felt that the problem should be dealt with earlier, rather than later.

Mr. Hunter also explained that Condition 8(2) reflected the problem area of transferring the control of delivery from the Producer to the Exporter in export situations while Condition 8(5), though very brief, compared with non-export Conditions of Sale, was sufficient in an export context. He also pointed out the addition made at the end of Condition 9(1)(c). After further discussion, Mr. Hunter agreed to consider adoption of part-phraseology from RUCIP Article 30 into Condition 16. In further reply to Mr. Hay he confirmed that when approved by S.P.T.A. Council, the Export Conditions would be submitted to the Exporters though, in the absence of a single voice for the latter and in view of the Development Council's known interest in subsequent stages, that latter body might well provide the best avenue of approach to Exporters.

A.O.C.B.:

- (a) Conditions of Purchase - In respect of the revised Conditions submitted to N.F.U.S. for approval Mr. Henton explained first interim responses sought explanation of two points. Firstly, Condition 8(3) appears to rely too heavily on estimates (of uplifting dates) and "lets the buyer out". Mr. Hunter's immediate explanation was this provided compatibility with the Conditions of Sale, but he undertook to review the point.

Secondly, it was felt that Condition 17 contradicts Condition 11(1). Mr. Hunter felt the former qualified, rather than contradicted, the latter but again, he would reconsider this point also. It was arranged that direct contact between N.F.U.S. legal advisers and Mr. Hunter should be established to resolve these and any other points. In reply to Mr. Hay, Mr. Hunter explained S.P.T.A. hoped that N.F.U.S. approval could be given in reasonably early course.

- (b) Food labelling - Ware - All present expressed concern at to-day's P.M.B. announcement that implementation of an EEC Directive (requiring the packer's name and address on bags) is not to be deferred beyond 1st January, 1983 (as first announced in Parliament on 7th July, 1982). In view of lack of prior consultation with the industry which could have minimised stocks of unsuitable bags it was agreed N.F.U.S. and S.P.T.A. should complain to D.A.F.S., seeking a note of the relative U.K. enabling legislation and the penalties for non-compliance.

(c) /

- (c) P.C.N. Soil Testing Changes - Mr. Hay sought the meeting's views on the effect of advancement of the closing date for test applications from 31st October to 31st August each year. While it was agreed there would be many problems this first year, it would (hopefully) provide earlier results. Mr. McKenzie expressed concern that sampling would be taking place during harvesting operations. It was also agreed to continue to press for three-year banking of tests, accepting that this could create a bottleneck in the first (extension) year tests.
- (d) Nomenclature - Mr. Hay informed the meeting that Mr. Christopher Baker had asked to address the N.F.U.S. Potatoes Committee and this request had been granted.

The meeting was thereupon concluded.