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Working Party on the Transport
of Perishable Foodstuffs

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Item 5 (c) of the provisional agenda

EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION BETWEEN ATP MEMBER STATES
(Article 6 of the ATP Agreement)

Transmitted by the Government of the United Kingdom

At the fifty-ninth session of the Working Party on the Transport of Perishable Foodstuffs in Geneva last year, all Contracting Parties to the ATP Agreement were requested to complete the questionnaire at Annex 1, Table 1 of TRANS/WP.11/208 on the exchange of information under Article 6 of ATP.

Article 6 relates to the observance of the provisions of the ATP Agreement, breaches committed, penalties imposed and the requirement to keep the relevant administration of the Contracting Parties informed of such.

No enforcement of the ATP Agreement exists in the United Kingdom, since the national Regulations do not confer any powers of enforcement. However, there is rigorous enforcement of food standards at every part of the food chain, with condemnation of food and heavy penalties imposed on carriers for failure to comply. Additionally, Port Health Authorities and Local Authorities carry out their own independent inspections. A number of supermarkets and haulage operators delivering foodstuffs in the United Kingdom use ATP as a quality standard when purchasing equipment, but do so on a purely voluntary basis.