Quality Assurance in the Private Sector

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Outline

• European Legislation
• Private Quality Standards
• Implementation of Quality Standards
  → Impact
  → Problems
• Summary
1. General Legislation

Regulation (EC) 178/2002

- lays down general principles and requirements of food law and procedures in matters of food safety
- operators are held responsible for food and feed safety
- applies to all stages of production, processing and distribution of food and feed
European Legislation

- Regulation (EC) 178/2002 –

• basis: risk analysis

• general requirements:
  → food safety
  → transparency
  → traceability
  → responsibility and liability of business operators
European Legislation

- Regulation (EC) 178/2002 -

- procedures:
  - precaution
  - immediate measures
  - cooperation
European Legislation

- General Legislation –

Regulation (EC) 852/ 2004

• principles in addition to Reg. No. 178/2002:
  → specific hygiene rules
  → application of HACCP principles
European Legislation

- General Legislation –

Regulation (EC) 1935/2004

• applies to materials and articles intended to come into contact with food

→ traceability at all stages
European Legislation

2. Specific Legislation

Reg. (EC) 2200/1996 on common organisation of the market on fruit and vegetables

Reg. (EC) 1148/2001 on checks on conformity to the marketing standards

Reg. (EC) 2092/1991 on organic production of agricultural produce
Private Quality Standards

Common Aims

• consistency of food safety
• legality
• quality
• uniform formulations
Private Quality Standards

• uniform audit procedures

• mutual acceptance of audits

• transparency throughout the supply chain
Private Quality Standards

BRC

• British Retailer Consortium
• created by UK Retailers
• scope: food processing, packaging, retail market, logistics
Private Quality Standards

IFS

• German/ French equivalent to BRC
Private Quality Standards

EurepGAP

- **EU**ropean **Retailer** **Produce** working group for **Good** **Agricultural** **Practices**
- **scope**: production
Private Quality Standards

QS

• German standard

• scope: all stages
Implementation of Standards

1. risk analysis ⇒ HACCP
2. quality management handbook
3. ensuring traceability of food and materials
Implementation of Standards

- constant documentation of all procedures and processes
- constant pesticide residue analysis
- (normally) annual audit by certification body
Implementation of Standards

Impacts

a lot of time is required for

  • keeping handbook up to date

  • documentation
Implementation of Standards

Impacts

a lot of time is required for

• keeping handbook up to date
• documentation
• pesticide residue analysis
• instruction of employees and distributors
• preparation of annual audit
• etc.
Implementation of Standards

Problems

• many different standards vs. mutual acceptance and transparency
• quality assurance vs. market needs/ retailer’s priorities
• multitudinous tasks of inspector vs. inadequate education, limited time and limited manpower
• low acceptance of quality assurance by operators
• etc.
Summary

→ multitude of requirements

→ result: time consuming tasks for the inspector which are not actually quality-related

→ conflict of interest between inspector and operator