Overview on how quality and food safety inspection systems are organized and work in EU countries

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Legal instructions (food safety)

• Member States shall ensure that official controls are carried out regularly, on a risk basis and with appropriate frequency, so as to achieve the objectives of this Regulation (882/2004 EC)
Each Member State shall designate:

- (a) a single competent authority responsible for coordination and contacts in the areas covered by this Chapter, hereinafter called ‘the coordinating authority’; and
- (b) an inspection body or bodies responsible for the application of this Chapter, hereinafter called ‘the inspection bodies’.

The coordinating authorities and inspection bodies referred to in the first subparagraph may be public or private. However, the Member States shall be responsible for them in either case.
Structure

No structural rules – only tasks are defined

Very heterogenic structure between Member States
Some typical solutions

Competent / Coordinating Authority

- Trade/foreign trade
- Agricultural Institutions
- Health Institutions
- Consumer protection
Some typical solutions

Inspection body

- Local government
- Local office of the competent authority
- Other solutions (e.g. custom authority)
Integration of inspections?

Yes, but only after feasibility study

Good example: The Netherlands

- After 1.5 years of analysis and preparation has been merged quality and plant health
- After the merge another half year of analysis
Hungary

One inspector with several responsibilities:

• Quality inspections
• Plant health inspections
• Plant protection material inspections
• Different inspections for agr. aids
• Food safety inspections and sampling
Problems

• “multitasking”, people are not robots
• usually no direct influence on inspectors at inspection body
• export – import – domestic market inspections are separated
• independent audit on performance of ins. body
• no crossway between the different areas
• different interpretation of risk assessment
Conclusions

• Integration only if indicated (cost should not be the only reason)
• Not more than two tasks / inspectors
• Direct influence/connection to inspectors
• More cooperation between different departments (share the good ideas)
• Everything is possible!
Everything is possible!

Be the first to change!

Thank you!