Implementing the use of standards and establishing an inspection system

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Part 1. Legal framework
One or several competent authorities shall be authorised in legislation.

If several authorities are appointed a coordinating authority is required.
Where to apply standards

At which stages of commercialisation?

- Import
- Cooperatives
- Wholesalers
- Retailers
- Markets
- Farm sales
- Export

As a first stage in implementation
Which products shall be covered?

- Decision can be based on
  - Production value, or
  - Export value, or
  - Total traded value (including imports)
To incorporate into legislation

- The standards
- Method of inspection
- Measures at non-conformity
- Sanctions (if applied)
- The authority’s right to access to premises and documentation
Part 2. Establishing an inspection service
Control areas and offices in Sweden

North of this line, production of fruit and vegetables is scarce

2/3 of production and the main part of imports are found in the south
Staff

- How many staff are required?
- Which professional qualifications should they have?

- Select and hire staff.
- Provide training for them
Acquire equipment

- General equipment
  - Cars, computers, communication equipment etc.

- Inspection equipment
  - Sizing rings
  - Knives
  - Scales
  - Penetrometers
  - Refractometers
  - Titration equipment
  - Squeezers (for juice extraction)
  - Oven or microwave
  - Colour charts
  - Explanatory material
Produce material

- Manuals with,
  - Inspection procedures
  - Relevant standards
- Check lists
- Control forms
- Risk analysis
- Plan of activities
- Database with registered companies
- Certificate of conformity
- Report for non-conformities
Cooperation routines

- If different authorities are assigned for control at different levels of distribution the coordination authority has a central role in this.
- Routines for import and export control must be set up with customs authorities.
- Contact /cooperation with services in other countries.
- Follow up procedure for received complaints from other countries.
Part 3. Information/Communications to industry
Communications to the industry

- Production of information material
- Information meetings for decision makers in the industry
- Training courses for producers’ and traders’ own quality controllers
Information material for producers and traders

The material should include:

- Requirement to register companies
- Responsibility of the holder
- Contact points
- Relevant standards
- Marking requirements
- Sampling methods
- Inspection procedures
- Recommendations on procedures in case of non-conformity findings
Part 4. Important points in the running of the quality control work
Continuous communication in all directions

- Inside the country,
  - including regular meetings with the industry
- With inspection bodies in other countries
- Through international meetings

Training of inspectors

- Basic training for new inspectors
- Advanced training to ensure harmonisation
  - Within the service
  - With inspection services in other countries
Evaluations of inspections

- Inspection results shall be entered into a database
- Results shall be evaluated in order to be used as a basis for risk analysis of:
  - Traders
  - Origins
  - Products
  - Seasonal variations
  - Etc.
Why an evaluation is needed

- Inspections can be focused on consignments most likely not to be in conformity
- Staff can be adjusted between regional offices and according to season
- Contact with inspection authorities in other countries may be advisable
- Assures harmonised application within the authority
Thank you for your attention

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