K.C.B.

Dutch Official Inspection body for import- and export inspections and internal market of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables (FFV)
Content presentation

- K.C.B. - organization
- Systematics of the K.C.B. inspections
- Import inspections
- Education and qualification inspectors
KCB

- Founded in 1924
- Primary task in 1924 → export inspections quality fresh fruits and vegetables
- Appointed by Government
- Independent
Accreditation (since 1997)

- ISO/IEC 17020, type A: certified by Dutch Council for accreditation
- Type A, highest level of independency
- Quality system

Our aim:
- Guarantees high quality level of inspections
- Independency, integrity and high efficiency level
Current Tasks KCB

- Only public tasks

- Supervision on regulations on quality of fresh fruits and vegetables
  - Import and export inspections, monitoring and issuing export certificates

- Phytosanitary inspections import and export and issuing Phytosanitary certificates
  - Mandate by Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food quality
Organization chart KCB

Board

Directors

Qualitymanager

Directors Assistant

Department Finance & Personal

Department Qualification & Knowledge

Field Organization

Department P&C

Department ICT & Statistics

District NorthWest NL

District MidWest NL

District SouthWest NL

District East NL
Department Qualification and Knowledge

Tasks:

- education and qualification of the inspectors
- interpretation of the quality standards
- “monitoring” product quality issues and quality problems (information from traders, markets, growers or information from own inspectors)
- to order special inspections in case a product shows a poor quality
- following developments of the industry
Statistics KCB 2010

Import

- Import shipments (vegetables, fruit, flowers … .)  186.000
- Import reduced checks (only documentery check) 104.000
- Physical import checks KCB  82.000
Statistics KCB 2010

Export

- Phytosanitary certificates for export 120.000
- Physical export shipments inspections (Phytosanitary) 41.000
- Quality documents 80.000
Discussed subjects

- Quality regulations
- Supervision
- Quality inspections
- Communication EU-countries
Quality regulations

- EU Vo 1234/2007: general law
- EU Vo 1580/2007: performing inspections
- EU Vo 1221/2009: reduction of EU marketing standards
- EU Vo 543/2011: Implanting UNECE standards
- Dutch Agricultural Quality Law 2007
Quality regulations

- Marketing standards?
  - directing international trading (language for trade)
- International regulation:
  > Brussel - E.U.:
    10 products EU Specific Marketing Standards
    other products General Marketing Standard
  > Geneve - UNECE:
    56 UN/ECE standards (not obliged)
Quality regulations

- Content **SMS:**
  - Definition
  - Provisions:
    - Quality (requirements, classification)
    - Sizing
    - Tolerances
    - Presentation
    - Marking
- Peaches/nectarine
- Apples
- Citrus
- Pears
- Strawberries
- Table grapes
- Kiwi
- Tomatoes
- Sweet pepper
- Lettuce/ (curled) endivia
Quality regulations

Content **GMS:**

- Minimum quality requirements
- Minimum maturity requirements
- Tolerances
- Marking of origine of produce
Quality regulations

Risk analysis:

- Risk factors: f.e. type company, packing activities?, SMS/GMS, size company;
- Classification based on risk factors;
- Subdivision of companies:
  - Traders of SMS and GMS produce
  - Traders of GMS produce only
  - Authorized traders (RIK)
Interpretations of standards

- The department KKB (department Qualifications and the authority for training and proficiency) is responsible for the interpretations based on the EU standards

- The interpretations are giving more details explanation about the standards

- Interpretations always in deliberation with the sector (traders and growers), but after those opinion the KCB will take a final decision about these interpretations.
Interpretations of EU standard *tomatoes*

**KCB-INTERPRETATION ON QUALITY REQUIREMENTS**

**A. Minimum requirements**

Major defects are:

- open damage
- dark green internal fruit flesh;
- damaged by heavy sunburn

For major defects there is a tolerance till 2 %
Interpretations of EU standard *tomatoes*

B. Dividing in classification

**Class I** Allowed is:

- 4 calcium spots
- Very slight hollow fruit: ½ cm wide till 2/3 of the outline
- Very slight bruises
- Slight discoloration without great contrast
- Small scarves of the flowers till 2/3 of the diameter
- Slight edge fruit
- Healed small cracks till 1 cm length
- In case of pre packed tomatoes on the vine:
  > 10 % loose tomatoes
B. Dividing in classification

Class II

Allowed is:

- 10 calcium spots
- hollow fruit till 1 cm wide about the whole outline
Interpretations of the EU-standard *sweet peppers*

**KCB-INTERPRETATION ON QUALITY REQUIREMENTS**

A Minimum requirements

Major defects are:
- Open damage
- Heavy sunburn
- Broken calyx
- Splitted fruit

For major defects there is a tolerance till 2 %
Interpretations of the EU-standard sweet peppers

KCB-INTERPRETATION ON QUALITY REQUIREMENTS

B Dividing in classification

Class I Allowed is:
- very slight calcium spot, 3 spots who are not sinking; one sinking spot
- silver coloration till maximum 50% of the surface of the fruit
- very small corked cracks
- slight misshapen for example small ears
- rised calyx, but without (brown) discoloration of the fruit under the calyx
- slight damaged stalk, excluded the calyx

For sweet pointed (oblong) paprika: irregular shape is allowed curved: 20 % of the length
Discussed subjects

- Quality regulations
- Supervision
- Quality inspections
- Communication EU-countries
Supervision
Supervision

- Supervision and inspection of SMS/GMS produce
- Focus SMS: all provisions
- Focus GMS: serious/internal defects, ripeness, marking
  (based on KCB risk analyses: 70 products)
- Possibility of disapproval of consignment
- Keeping view on product-flows
Discussed subjects

- Quality regulations
- Supervision
- Quality inspections
- Communication EU-countries
Quality inspection

Conformity check:
- Check if lot is compliant with EU marketing standards
- Check on Document, Identity/marking:
  - origin, classification, amount, dispatcher
- Physical check on SMS-provisions or GMS
- Sampling procedure
Quality inspection

Performing conformity checks at:

1. Import
2. Internal market (regular system, RIK, surveillance)
3. Export
4. Re-inspection
5. Conformity check after rejections

On retail stage: The Food Safety Authority is responsible
Locations of inspections

- Port of Rotterdam and Vlissingen
- Airports (Amsterdam and Maastricht – Aken)
- Auctions
- Pack stations
- Exporters
- Importers
- Wholesalers
- Growers (in case delivering directly to the market)
Quality inspection

*Import:*

- 10 SMS: 100%
- 70 GMS: 5-20%
- Produce approved 3rd countries: 5%
- Produce authorised traders: 5%
- Issue certificate of conformity
Quality inspection

Internal market:

1. Regular system
   - Classification of companies
   - 6 types of different visit frequencies
     (2-52 visits yearly)

2. Exempted traders (RIK)
   - Auditing system

3. Surveillance
   - Based on signals, disappointing results
Quality inspection

Export:

Issue export certificates

- Authorised traders: 5% physical checks
- Other traders:
  - 100% check mixed consignments SMS/GMS
  - 10% check of only GMS consignment
Quality inspection

Re-inspection:

- Company differs in opinion with KCB report
- Basis is difference in interpretation
- Specialist Quality affairs must be informed
- Performing of new inspection (Specialist Quality Affairs) based upon the marked samples of the first inspection
Quality inspection

Conformity check after rejection:

- Non conformity products: rejection
- Report of non conformity
- Inform the trader
- Obligation trader to report back to KCB
- KCB verifies every rejected lot (compliance with marketing standard)
Discussed subjects

- Quality regulations
- Supervision
- Quality inspections
- Communication EU-countries
Communication EU-countries

- Non conformity of foreign product: KCB reports to EU and relevant EU-country
- Other EU-countries report to KCB about non conformity of Dutch products
- To bring non conformity products into conformity in another EU-country: KCB informs inspection body in that EU-country
- Harmonisation meetings in SK, UK, DE
Qualification inspectors

Education and Qualification of the KCB - inspectors.
General

- The basic education level for inspectors: School for professional agricultural education.
- Knowledge regarding agricultural issues
- Experiences with product quality affairs
- Applicants with an agriculture or horticulture background, enjoy a preferential treatment
- Command of the English language
Start new inspectors

- learning the KCB organization and the several departments at the head office
- information about the history, organization structure etc
- tasks of the KCB
- explanation about the EU legislation
- explanation regarding procedures etc. in the framework of Accreditation
- practical inspections, the first 6 months guided by an experienced inspector
Maintenance qualification for all the inspectors

> Annual, 4-6 days internal training, each will finish with a theoretical and practical examination

> Annual audits (on products and quality system) performed by the Specialist for each sphere of work
Inspectors fitting out

- company car
- PDA (hand held computer)
- reference material (e.g. a book with pictures)
- knife and other small equipment
- several equipment for measuring (rings, temp.)
- weight scale (6, 16 or 32 kg)
- refractometer
- penetrometer
- magnifying glass
- box for all the materials
- mobile phone
- industrial clothing
- each own business e-mail address
Thank you for your attention

Questions?

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