Quality Control System in Germany

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Quality control system in Germany

- legal basis
  - marketing standards
  - conformity checks
- mode of operation
  - inspection services
  - co-ordinating authority
  - conformity checks
Legal basis

Reg. (EC) No 1234/2007

Reg. (EU) No 543/2011

Good Quality Products in/and from all EU Member States

Communications

Method of inspection

Basic rules for inspection

Marketing standards: general, specific, UNECE

EU-Level

National Level

Fees

Offences and sanctions

Competent co-ordinating authority

Competent inspection service(s)

German Regulation on Legal Marketing Standards
EU Specific Marketing Standards
EU General Marketing Standard

All fruit and vegetables
все фрукты и овощи
minus
минус
10 specific standards
10 специфических стандартов
minus
минус
exemptions
исключения
UNECE standards legalised by EU

- Fruit and vegetables not covered by specific marketing standards shall conform to the general marketing standard.

- However, where the holder is able to show they are in conformity with a standard adopted by the UNECE, the product shall be considered as conforming to the GMS.
Scope of EU Marketing standards

- production / packaging
- export / re-export
- import
- wholesale
- retail

consumers
Mode of operation – conformity checks

Member States must

- establish an inspection service & assign a co-ordinating authority
- establish a database on traders
- establish rules for risk analysis
- carry out selective checks based on risk analysis
**Inspection services**

16 Federal States

- production
- packaging
- wholesale
- retail
- export

Total
32 services of the states

480 inspectors

Federal Government (BLE)

- import
- re-export

34 inspectors
Co-ordinating authority

- Federal Office for Agriculture and Food (BLE)
  - German Institution under public law
  - subordinate body of the Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection
- BLE has no authority to issue directives!
Co-ordination

- Co-ordination in Germany is based on agreement between federal government and federal states

- Working Party on Quality Inspection for Fruit & Vegetables

  - association of the inspection services of the Federal government and the Federal states

- BLE is editor in charge of a compilation of relevant regulations, standards, explanatory notes and ELSKA (electronic database on defects)
Co-ordination

- harmonized application of standards and method of inspection
- co-ordination of inspection
- contacts & communication
  - of inspection results / non-conformities
    - to EU-Commission
    - to EU member countries
    - to non-EU countries
Co-ordination – harmonised application

- co-operation with inspection services of other member states and non-EU countries

- participation in international meetings on standard setting and explanatory work
International Meeting

Quality Control

Fruit & Vegetables

March 2013 in Bonn, Germany
Co-ordination – harmonised application

- basic training and annual advanced training
  - based on nationally and internationally (OECD, UNECE) agreed material
  - provided for inspectors of BLE, federal states and trade
- weekly newsletter for inspectors
- website
Co-ordination – inspection

- Database on traders
  structure agreed by federal government and federal states
  - name and address (place of business)
  - identification code
  - place in market chain
    (producer, packer/dispatcher, wholesale, distribution centre of supermarkets)
  - product range
  - turnover
  - inspection results
Co-ordination – inspection

- risk analysis
  guideline agreed by federal government and federal states

- production, wholesale, distribution centres
  - traders are classified in 3 risk groups

- import
  - products are classified in 3 risk groups
    based on average result of inspection of the last 3 years

- export
  - mixture of trader and produce based
Conformity checks – domestic market

- packers, wholesale, distribution centres
- bottle neck inspection
- focused on non-conformities
- minimum inspections per year

- risk groups A = 0.5  B = 1  C = 3
- about 3,600 traders (≈ 900 A : 1,800 B : 900 C)
Conformity checks at import

- competent authority (BLE)

- central & branch offices

- inspection in airports, seaports, places of destination
Conformity checks at import

- 35 inspectors
  - horticultural/agricultural background
  - 3 months basic training
  - 3 months training on the job
  - annual advanced training
- inspection manual
- compendium of standards and explanatory notes
- database
- inspector’s equipment
Importer must notify all lots with produce covered by the CMO to the inspection body prior to customs clearance.

Risk analysis

inspection according to reg. (EU) 543/2011

- no conformity
  - re-grading

- conformity
  - certificate
  - customs clearance

- no inspection
  - waiver
Conformity checks at import

Electronic application at www.ble.de (quakon)
Conformity checks at import

Conformity certificate

or waiver

necessary for clearance through customs authority in Germany or other EU member state
Import Inspection in 2010

108,396 = 255,596 tons notified
8,140 lots = 94,329 tons inspected

8 % 37 %
of which
5 % rejections

of which
71 % not sound
20 % labelling
Co-ordination – communication

- inspection results / non-conformities
  - to EU-Commission
  - to EU member countries
  - to non-EU countries
- annual report
  - to EU-Commission
Thank you!