

FOOD SAFETY AND CONSUMERS PROTECTION

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EU aims high level of food safety and animal & plant health



1. **Food safety** (food law, hygiene, microbiological criteria, contaminants, pesticides)
2. **Plant health** (harmful organisms)
3. **Animal health and welfare**
4. **Other requirements**

General Food and Feed Law

Regulation (EC) No **178/2002** of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down the **general principles and requirements** of food law, establishing the European Food Safety Authority and laying down procedures in matters of food safety (Official Journal L 31 of 1.2.2002, p.1)

- **Compliance or equivalence**
- **Traceability** (regulation do not have an extra-territorial effect outside EU, the requirements extend from the importer to the retailer, but food business's contractual arrangements exist)
- **Responsibility of the Food Business Operator; in case of import = importer**

General Objectives



- ✓ guarantee a high level of protection of human life and health and the protection of consumers' interests.
- ✓ guarantee fair practices in food trade, taking into account animal health and welfare, plant health and the environment
- ✓ ensure free movement of food and feed manufactured and marketed in the Union
- ✓ facilitate global trade of safe feed and safe, wholesome food

Main elements:

- ▶ **Scope**
- ▶ **Risk based approach**
- ▶ **Official controls on the operator's processes and activities – at all stages, register**
- ▶ **Transparency of official controls- information about organisation and performance**
- ▶ **Delegation of control tasks**
- ▶ **Operators obligations**
- ▶ **Official laboratories**
- ▶ **Reference laboratories and centres**
- ▶ **Sampling, analysis, tests and diagnosis**
- ▶ **Border controls – import control system – risk based**
- ▶ **Official certification - uniform and harmonised framework**
- ▶ **Administrative assistance, financing, enforcement measures, penalties**
- ▶ **Specific control rules**

Official Controls Regulation

EU 2017/625

gradual application - main date: by 14 december 2019

Scope:

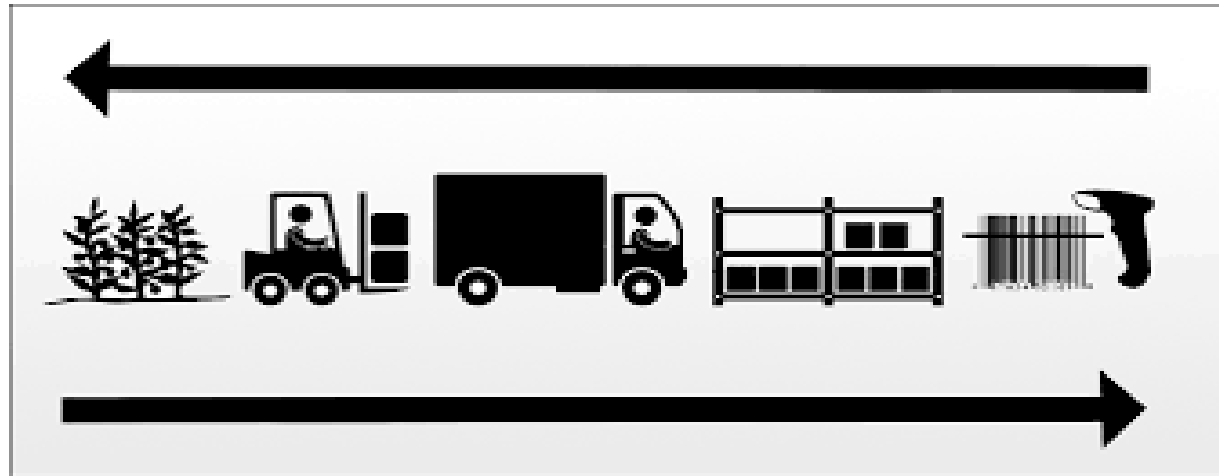
covers official controls – to verify compliance with:

- Food and feed law
- Animal health and welfare
- Plant health
- Animal – by products rules

NOT covered – verification of compliance with the rules on common market organisation – eg **FRUIT** and **VEGETABLES** – marketing standards; **WINE**

1. Health control

RASFF



- RASFF network, in place since 1979,
- Enhanced by General Food Law in 2002,
- Members - 27 Member States, European Commission, European Food Safety Authority, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway,
- Warning system supports the traceability system - rapid exchange of information whenever a risk to food or feed safety is identified,
- Potential risk to human health - corrective action can be rapidly taken.

Traceability



- EU law - “traceability” ability to track any food, feed, food-producing animal or substance that will be used for consumption, through all stages of production, processing and distribution,
- Traceability - responding to potential risks that can arise in food and feed to ensure that all food products in the EU are safe,
- National Authorities or food businesses identify a risk they can trace back to its source, isolate the problem and prevent contaminated products from reaching consumers.



Microbiological criteria

Commission Regulation (EC) No **2073/2005** of 15 November 2005 on **microbiological** criteria for foodstuffs, (Official Journal L 338 of 22 December 2005, p. 1) – last amendment:

Commission Regulation (EU) 2015/2285

Contaminants

Commission Regulation (EC)
No 1881/2006
setting maximum levels
for certain contaminants in foodstuffs
+ **amendments – last:**



Commission Regulation (EU) 2017/1237 of 7 July 2017

- ▶ nitrate in spinach and lettuce
- ▶ Aflatoxins in groundnuts, nuts, dried fruit, some species of spices
- ▶ Ochratoxin A in dried vine fruit
- ▶ Patulin in fruit juice, apple product
- ▶ Lead in fruit and vegetables, fruit juice
- ▶ Cadmium in fruit and vegetables
- ▶ Tin in canned food



Pesticides residues

Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 February 2005 on maximum residue levels of pesticides in or on food and feed of plant and animal origin (Official Journal L 70 of 16 March 2005, p. 1)

- ❖ Annex I - Regulation (EC) No 752/2014 of 24 June 2014,
- ❖ https://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/pesticides/max_residue_levels/eu_rules/mrls_2017_en

FIC – Food Information for Consumers

- Reg. 1169/2011
- general principles, requirements and responsibilities governing food information and in particular food labelling.
- “information concerning a food, available to the final consumer by means of a label, other accompanying material, or any other means including modern technology tools or verbal communication”
- food business operators at all stages of the food chain

SLOVAKIA



- *EU member since 2004*
- *EU Food law – 1995*
- *National food law - 1995*

Main challenges faced concerning legal and institutional framework during and after the accession of Slovakia in EU

- Functioning inspection and laboratories since early 60 – ties
- New requirements on food safety – no experience within „old“ member states = no advisors
- Slovak food law – 1995 – but too complicated and requiring more than EU law = adverse effect to stakeholders
- Need for constant amendments
- Hungary – food law consists from 4 pages!
- HACCP – applied without distinction to all operators – collapse of the small companies
- 2002 – merge of 2 inspection services to State Veterinary and Food Administration

Process of harmonization of national legislation – practical examples of how to undergo this process in a smooth and effective way

- EU regulations – directly applicable
- National legislation – when EU legislation requires – national law and governmental regulations
- Pre – accession period gives relative „freedom“
- Advice:
 - simple food law with good secondary legislation
 - inspection service with clear competentions
 - Good training plans for inspectors
- **BTSF**

Institutional framework in Slovakia concerning food safety and consumer protection – best practices and recommendations

- Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development / Food safety department
- - national plans on official controls
- Communication with EC and other Member States
- Rapid alert system for food and feed (RASFF) reports
- Communication with EFSA
- Guidelines for stakeholders

State Veterinary and Food Administration

Organisation structure SVFA

Head quarter - Bratislava
40 District Administrations



Competencies of SVFA

- Animal health and animal welfare controls
- Official food controls – animal and plant origin food
- RASFF – administration and communication 24/7

The role of non-state actors (business operators) in raising awareness and guaranteeing the food safety

- Co operation with national authorities
- Exchange of information on requirements and good practices
- Training, training, training = role of the government and associations

Future challenges???



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Faleminderit per vemendjen!

**Do të jem e lumtur të vij në
Shqipëri së shpejti!**

Mirupafshim...