



# Quality inspection of fruit and vegetables in Hungary

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# Topics

- Difficulties of establishing an inspection service
- History
- Present situation
  - Legislation
  - Figures
  - Risk analysis
  - Fees and fines
- Simplification
- Future thoughts



# Quality

- „The totality of **features and characteristics** of a product, process or service that bear on its **ability to satisfy stated or implied needs** as broadly defined in ISO 9000:2000
  - No quality without safety
  - Quality is MORE than safety.
  - Commercial quality is a set of parameters describing internal and external characteristics of the produce, which are necessary to ensure transparency in trade and good eating quality.”

(Quoted from last year UN/ECE presentation)



# Quality the great integrator

- Variety (law, description)
- Plant protection (diagnosis, phytosanitary, residue issues)
- Plant growing technology
- Storage, packing, transport
- Statistics, marketing
- Some knowledge of food processing
- Food safety
- Inspection methodology
- IT knowledge



# Factors taken into consideration



- Eaten part - variability (root, leaf, fruit, blossom)
- Unequal production of the regions
- Very different volume of deliveries of operators
- Huge possible difference between the subsequent years
- Seasonality,
- Possibility in EU enlargement,
- Similar needs of the non-EU members,
- Expanding list of products subject to standards (2200/96 EC annex I)
- Financial possibilities,
- And the influence of all these parameters on the feasibility



# Step by step development

I.

- |      |  |
|------|--|
| 1993 | Application for recognition by the EU  |
| 1994 | Introducing the compulsory export inspection for consignments delivered to EU member states                              |
| 1996 | Answering EU questionnaires  |
| 1998 | Screening <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– PO's</li><li>– Further development of the quality inspection</li></ul> |
| 2000 | Introducing compulsory import and domestic inspections   |

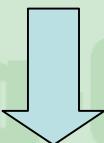


# Step by step development

II.

2001

Submitting data on inspection  
required by the Commission



Zöldség Gyümölcs

As a follow up recognition by the EU of  
the inspection organization (first ever)

2003

Compulsory export inspection to  
all directions

2005

Reorganization of the inspection  
service into the institutional  
frame of the plant protection



# Present situation

- The ‘Fruit and Vegetables Quality Inspection Service’ is operating in the institutional frame of the plant protection administration.

Mínőségellenőrző  
Szolgálat



Present situation- The quality inspection service is organized on three levels:



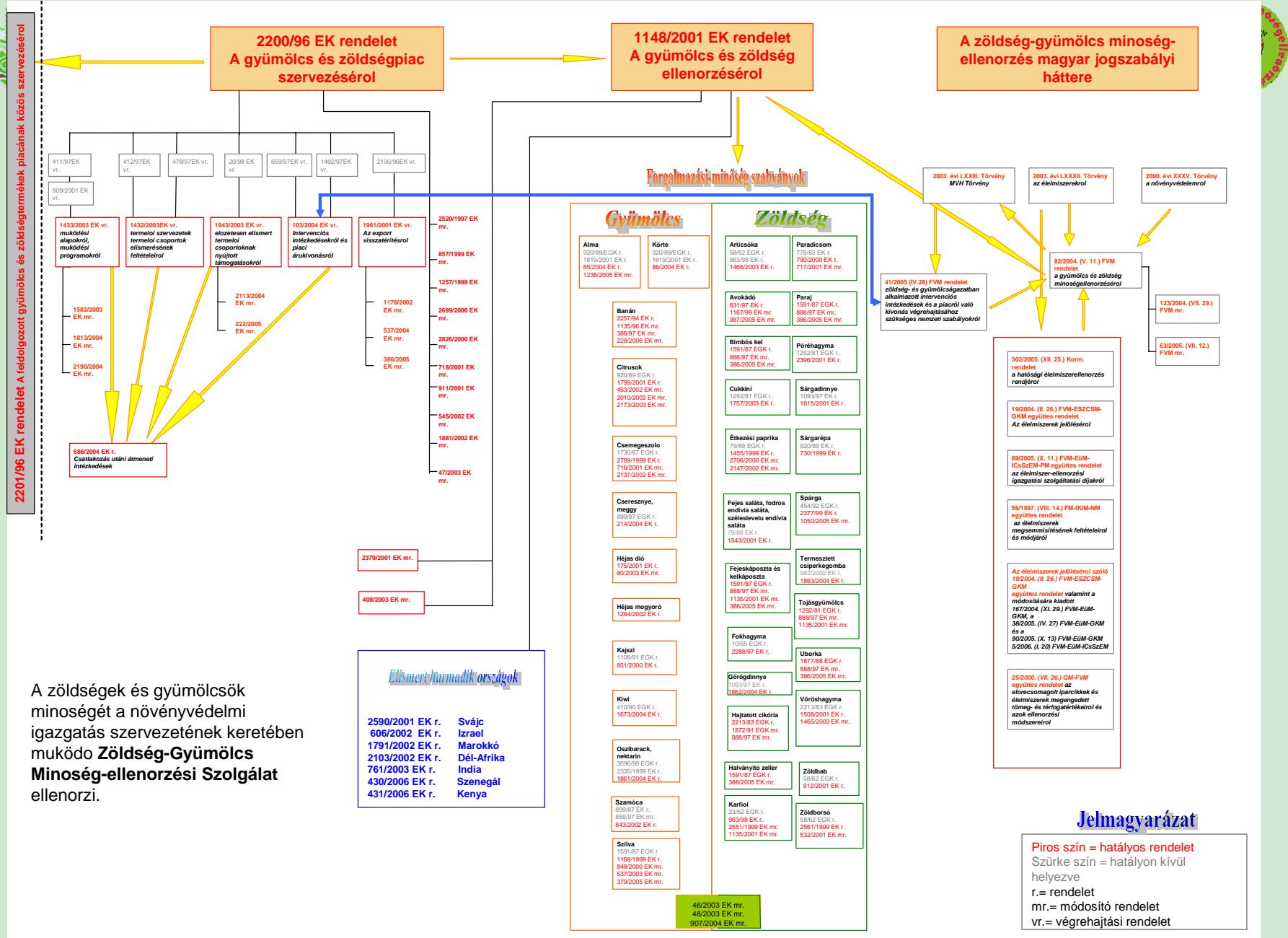
National supervisor

at MARD

Department of Plant Protection and Soil  
Conservation

**Co-ordination Centre for Quality  
Inspection of Fruit and Vegetables at  
Central Service for Plant Protection and Soil  
Conservation**

**Fruit and vegetables inspectors at  
County Services for Plant Protection and Soil  
Conservation**

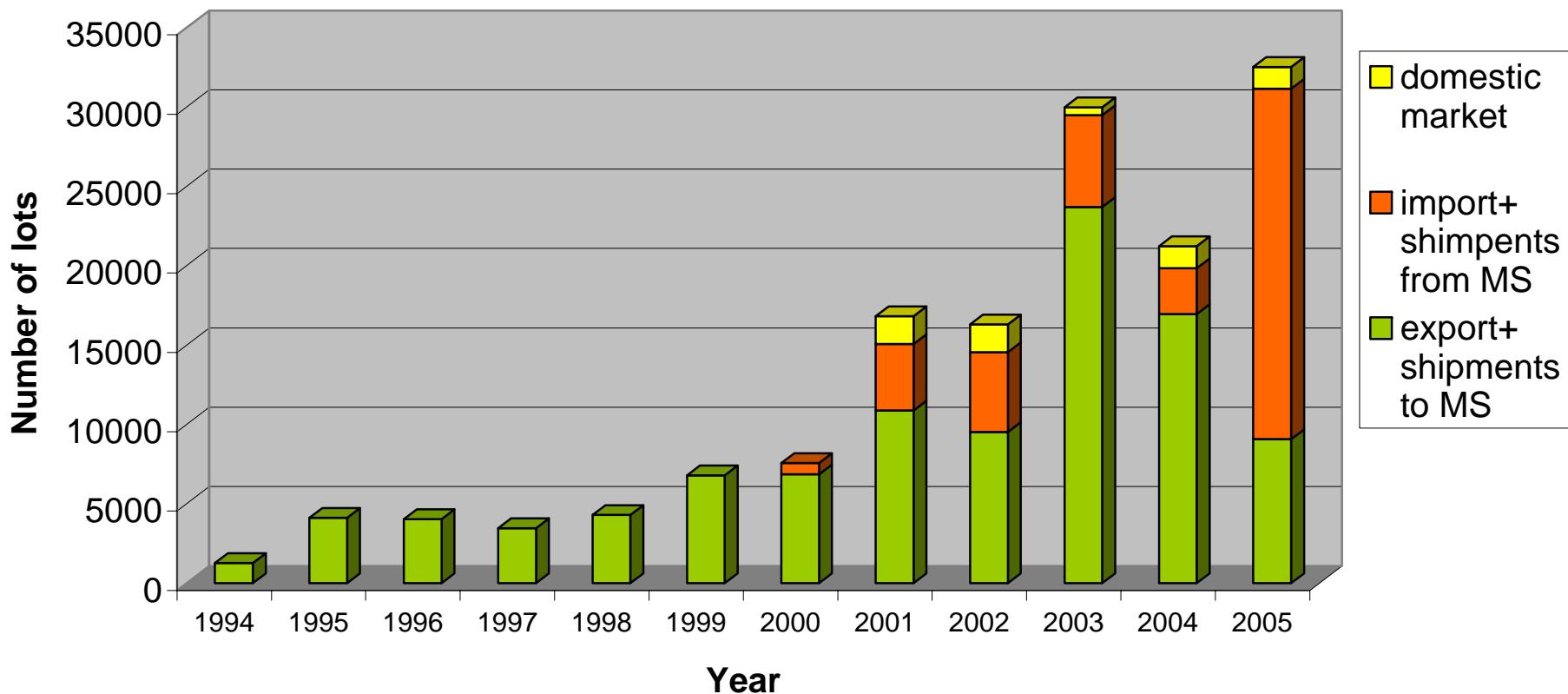


# Quality Inspection System of Fruits and Vegetables



# Figures

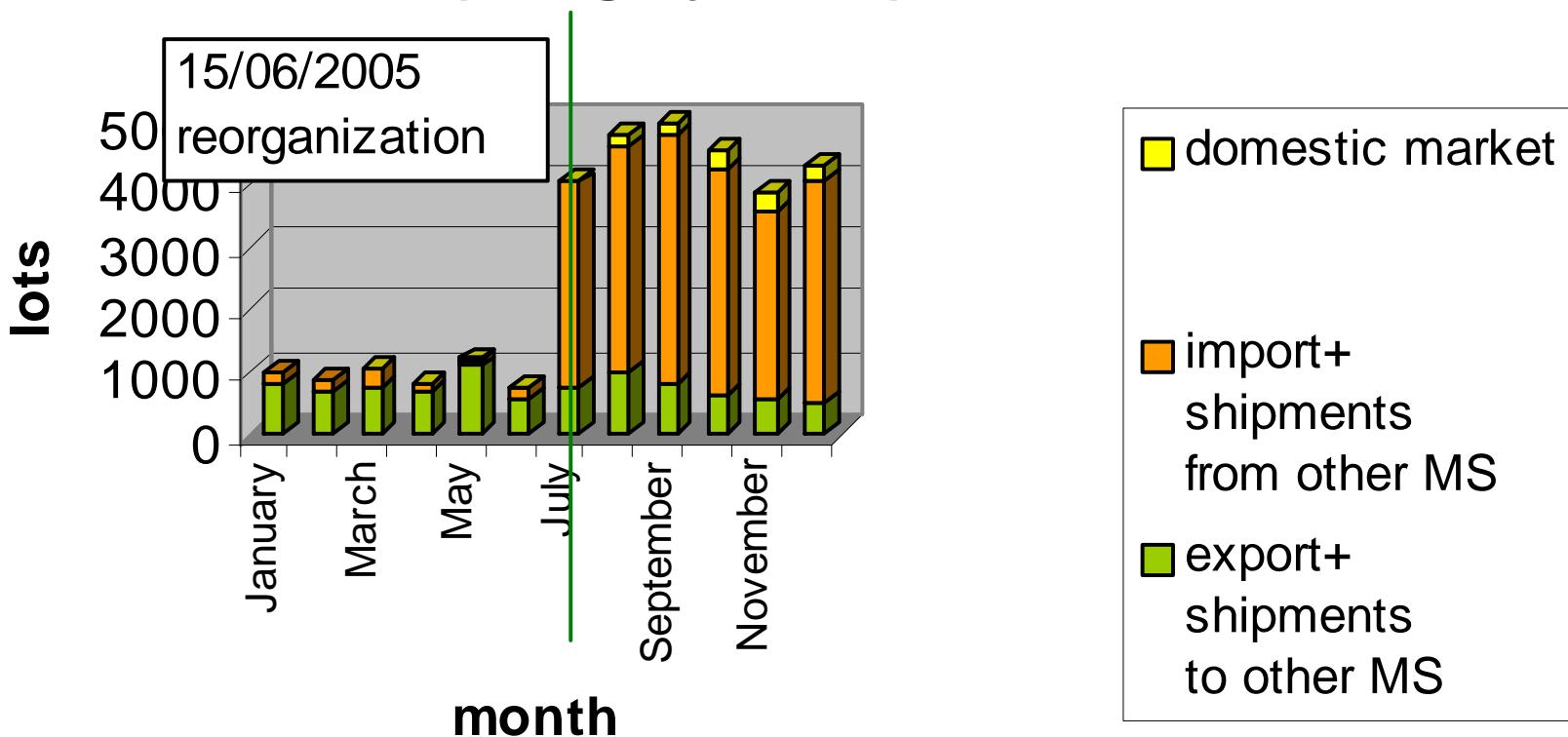
Fruit and vegetable lots inspected on domestic market, at export and import stage (including shipments to and from MS)  
(1994-2005)





# Figures

## Inspected fruit and vegetable lots (Hungary, 2005)





# Calculation of the risk

$$R = 100 - (0,13 \times S_1 \times S_2 \times S_3 \times (S_4 + S_5 + S_6))$$

Frequency of inspection is calculated based on the value of the Risk factor whereas S is safety.

Value of R	Frequency
R=0-40	24 month
R=41-60	12 month
R=61-80	6 month
R=81-99	3 month
R=100	Stays on the list of operators to be inspected



# Factors of the risk assessment and their explanation

Main factors					Other factors				
	S 1	S 2	S 3		S 4		S 5		S 6
	<b>Position in the marketing chain</b>		<b>Evaluation of the last inspection event</b>		<b>Bonus based on results of the last inspections</b>		<b>Evaluation based on the marketed volume</b>		<b>Evaluation of the quality assurance system</b>
4	Shops also selling f&v (E)	4	No action has been taken	4	Produce conform to the standard at the last 3 inspections	4	Some marketed produce in small quantity	4	Local level
3	F & v shops (D)	3	N C regards labelling	3	Produce conform to the standard at the last 2 inspections	3	Some produce	3	City level
2	Supermarkets with central distribution (C)	2	Action: downgrading	2	Produce conform at the last inspection	2	Several products, marketed continuously in small volume	2	County or capital level
1	H ypermarkets (B)	1	Action: produce outgraded	1	No action has been taken at the last inspection	1	One product marketed in great volume	1	Country level
0	W holealers, PO's (A)	0	Action: more products have been found out of grade	0	Consumer's reclaim since the last inspection	0	Several products marketed continuously in great volume	0	International level



# F&V inspection database



Zöldség-Gyümölcs Adatbázis Lasztovicza Gabriella

Ejel Szerkesztés Beszúrás Rekordok Ablak Súgó  
Kitöltés Lekérdezések Adatfelvétel Adatküldés Az összes kijelölése Kilépés Súgó  
Kérdése van? Írja be ide.

**FÖMENÜ**

**ZÖLDSÉG - GYÜMÖLCS MINŐSÉGELLENŐRZÉSI ADATBÁZIS**

Adatok küldése (NTKSZ)  
Heti jelentés (Excel)  
Lekérdezések  
Ellenőrzésre váró boltok  
Boltkereső  
Kilépés

Bizonyítvány kitöltése  
Belföldi jegyzőkönyv kitöltése  
Export-import jegyzőkönyv kitöltése  
Feldolgozási bizonyítvány kitöltése  
Határozat  
Új bolt felvétele  
Bejelentés regisztrálása

Inspection certificate  
Non-conformity report for domestic market  
Non-conformity report for export or import  
Processing certificate  
Resolution  
Registration of a new operator



# Fees

- Fees are applicable at:
  - Export inspection (including issuance of the conformity certificate)
  - Import inspection (including issuance of the conformity certificate)
  - In case of non-conformity in domestic inspection (when fine is imposed)
  - In domestic inspection done on request



# Fines

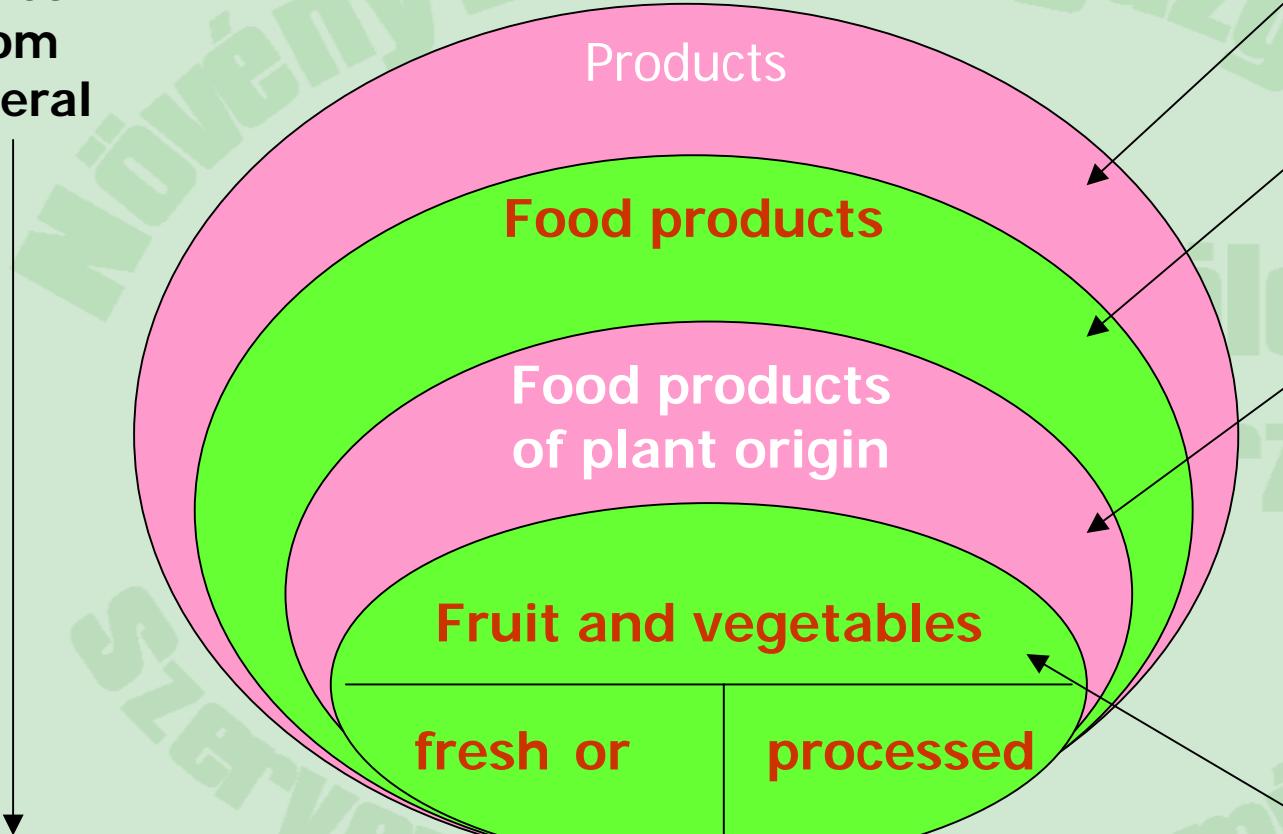
- Shall be imposed in case of non-conformity of the product on domestic market
- It is ruled in the food law (3 cases):
  - Food safety problem
  - Quality problem
  - Labelling problem



# How to consider fruits and vegetables?



Rules  
from  
general



General rules  
(commercial,  
etc.)

Food regulation  
(safety, labeling,  
etc.)

Phytosanitary  
measures

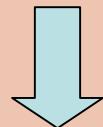
Common  
market  
regulations  
•Community aid  
•Marketing  
standards

to special



# Simplification I.

Simplifying complicated situations



More but simple standards

as it's said in reg. 2200/96 EC preamble (4)

'Whereas it would be desirable, for reasons of simplicity, to adopt standards for fruit and vegetables having a relatively large impact on the market...'



# Simplification II.

## Strengthening uniform application of Community rules

### Results:

- Equal inspection pressure would facilitate trade and
- At the same time more effective protection of consumers' interest



# Future Rules and practice

A control system is:

able to work under any circumstances  
(belonging to any institution) but

the most important condition of well  
working is:

a professionally independent inspection body  
(controlled on common level)



**Thank you for your attention**

**Zöldség-Gyümölcs**

**Minőségellenőrző**

**Szolgálat**