

# Quality Assurance in the Private Sector

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**18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> June 2007**

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# Outline

- **European Legislation**
- **Private Quality Standards**
- **Implementation of Quality Standards**
  - **Impact**
  - **Problems**
- **Summary**

## 1. General Legislation

### Regulation (EC) 178/ 2002

- **lays down general principles and requirements of food law and procedures in matters of food safety**
- **operators are held responsible for food and feed safety**
- **applies to all stages of production, processing and distribution of food and feed**

# European Legislation

- Regulation (EC) 178/ 2002 –

- **basis: risk analysis**
- **general requirements:**
  - **food safety**
  - **transparency**
  - **traceability**
  - **responsibility and liability of business operators**

# European Legislation

- Regulation (EC) 178/ 2002 -

- **procedures:**
  - **precaution**
  - **immediate measures**
  - **cooperation**

# European Legislation

## - General Legislation –

### Regulation (EC) 852/ 2004

- **principles in addition to Reg. No. 178/2002:**
  - **specific hygiene rules**
  - **application of HACCP principles**

# European Legislation

## - General Legislation –

### Regulation (EC) 1935/ 2004

- **applies to materials and articles intended to come into contact with food**

→ **traceability at all stages**

# European Legislation

## 2. Specific Legislation

**Reg. (EC) 2200/ 1996** on common organisation of the market on fruit and vegetables

**Reg. (EC) 1148/ 2001** on checks on conformity to the marketing standards

**Reg. (EC) 2092/1991** on organic production of agricultural produce



## Common Aims

- **consistency of food safety**
- **legality**
- **quality**
- **uniform formulations**

# Private Quality Standards

- **uniform audit procedures**
- **mutual acceptance of audits**
- **transparency throughout the supply chain**

# Private Quality Standards

## BRC

- **British Retailer Consortium**
- **created by UK Retailers**
- **scope: food processing, packaging, retail market, logistics**

# Private Quality Standards

## IFS

- **German/ French equivalent to BRC**

## EurepGAP

- **European Retailer Produce working group for Good Agricultural Practices**
- **scope: production**

# Private Quality Standards

## QS

- **German standard**
- **scope: all stages**

# Implementation of Standards

- 1. risk analysis ⇒ HACCP**
- 2. quality management handbook**
- 3. ensuring traceability of food and materials**

# Implementation of Standards

- **constant documentation of all procedures and processes**
- **constant pesticide residue analysis**
- **(normally) annual audit by certification body**



## Impacts

**a lot of time is required for**

- **keeping handbook up to date**
- **documentation**

## Impacts

**a lot of time is required for**

- **keeping handbook up to date**
- **documentation**
- **pesticide residue analysis**
  - **instruction of employees and distributors**
  - **preparation of annual audit**
  - **etc.**

## Problems

- **many different standards vs. mutual acceptance and transparency**
- **quality assurance vs. market needs/ retailer's priorities**
- **multitudinous tasks of inspector vs. inadequate education, limited time and limited manpower**
- **low acceptance of quality assurance by operators**
- **etc.**

# Summary

- **multitude** of requirements
- **result: time consuming tasks** for the inspector which are **not actually quality – related**
- **conflict of interest** between inspector and operator