

EU requirements for fresh Fruit and Vegetables

EU Requirements

1. **Health control** (food law, hygiene, microbiological criteria, contaminants, pesticides)
2. **Plant health control** (harmful organisms)
3. **Marketing standards**
4. **Other requirements**

General Food 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)

Amended by:

Regulation (EC) No 1642/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 July 2003

Commission Regulation (EC) No 575/2006 of 7 April 2006 L 100 3
8.4.2006

1. Health control

General Food Law

- ▶ 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

Food Hygiene

Regulation (EC) No **852/2004** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April on the **hygiene** of foodstuffs, (Official Journal L 226 of 25 June 2004, p. 3)

1. Health control

Food Hygiene

Requirements to be respected by food business operators in third countries

It is the responsibility of the importer to ensure compliance with the relevant requirements

Requirements to be respected by food business operators in third countries

- ▶ General obligation on the operator to monitor the food safety of products;
- ▶ General hygiene provisions for **primary production growing, harvesting, 1st transport**
- ▶ Detailed requirements after primary production;
- ▶ Registration of food businesses (**for food of plant origin**, usually sufficient that exporting establishments in third countries are known and accepted as suppliers by importers into the Community)
- ▶ General implementation of procedures based on the HACCP principles, after primary production;

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)

1. Health control

Microbiological criteria

- ▶ Regular testing against the criterion is not useful in normal circumstances for fresh, uncut and unprocessed vegetables and fruits, excluding sprouted seeds,
- ▶ *Escherichia.Coli* and *Salmonella* for pre-cut fruit and vegetables (ready-to eat) and unpasteurised fruit and vegetable juices
- ▶ *Salmonella* for sprouted seeds

Contaminants

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

- ▶ 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

1. Health control

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)

1. Health control

Pesticides residues

Commission Regulation (EC) No 178/2006 of 1 February 2006 amending Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council to establish Annex I listing the food and feed products to which maximum levels for pesticide residues apply

Pesticides residues

Annex I of Reg 396/2005

Products of plant origin covered

1. Fruit fresh or frozen; nuts
2. Vegetables fresh or frozen
3. Pulses, dry
4. Oilseeds and oilfruits
5. Cereals
6. Tea, coffee, herbal infusions and cocoa
7. Hops
8. Spices
9. Sugar plants

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Pesticides residues

Annex I part A
of regulation 396/2005
last ammendment 2015/ 896

Pesticides residues

Lists of **EU MRL** sorted by
pesticide, crop group or
commodity, available on

[http://ec.europa.eu/food/plant
/protection/pesticides/index_e
n.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/protection/pesticides/index_en.htm)

Official Controls

Regulation (EC) No **882/2004** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 on **official controls** performed to ensure the verification of compliance with feed and food law, animal health and animal welfare, (Official Journal L 191 of 28 May 2004, p. 1)

1. Health control

http://exporthelp.europa.eu/

