

# 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

# 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, 1<sup>st</sup> 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)

# 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

#### **1. Health control**

# 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\\_en.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/

The screenshot shows a Microsoft Internet Explorer browser window displaying the Export Helpdesk website. The browser's title bar reads "External Trade - Export Helpdesk - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by DG Agriculture". The address bar shows the URL "http://exporthelp.cec.eu.int/thdapp/index.htm". The website's main content area features a blue background with a pattern of stars and the text "EXPORT HELPDESK for developing countries". A navigation menu at the bottom includes links for "Requirements & Taxes", "Import Tariffs", "Customs Documents", "Rules of Origin", "Trade Statistics", "Market Place", and "Links". The footer contains "Contact", "Important Legal Notice", and "A Service Provided by EXTERNAL TRADE, EUROPEAN COMMISSION". The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows the Start button, several open applications, and the system clock set to 9:31.

External Trade - Export Helpdesk - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by DG Agriculture

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## EXPORT HELPDESK

for developing countries

The Export Helpdesk is an online resource, provided by the European Commission, to facilitate access for developing countries to markets within the European Union. The Export Helpdesk provides relevant information required by developing country exporters interested in supplying the EU market.

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