



EU requirements for fresh Fruit and Vegetables

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Import procedures

- Single Administrative Document (SAD) presented to customs authorities by the importer or his representative (regulation 2454/93)
- May be subject to the presentation of an import certificate for surveillance measures / quotas (apples, bananas, garlic)
- Payment of tariff duties (including VAT)



EU Requirements

Health control (food law, hygiene, microbiological criteria, contaminants, **pesticides**)

Plant health control (harmful organisms)

Marketing standards

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)



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)



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 for food business operators

- 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;



Requirements for food business operators

- 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)



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 466/2001 of 8 March 2001 setting maximum levels for certain contaminants in foodstuffs + **amendments**



Contaminants

- 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)



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



Pesticides residues

Import tolerances

“a MRL based on a Codex MRL or on a GAP implemented in a third country...where (a) use not authorised in EC, or (b) existing MRL not sufficient”

Questions / Answers

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (WTO)

G/SPS/GEN/557

29 March 2005



Plant Health

Directive **2000/29/EC** of 8 May 2000 on protective measures against the introduction into the Community of **organisms harmful to plants** or plant products and against their spread within the Community (OJ L 169, 10.7.2000, p. 1–112)



Import into EU

ANNEX III, Prohibitions : includes:

- plants of Vitis L., Citrus L., Malus (apple), Pyrus (pear), other than fruits,

**no prohibitions in annex III
on Fruits or Vegetables**



Import into EU

ANNEX V B

Lists the products which are potential carriers of harmful organisms of relevance for the EU and **subject to systematic inspections** when originating in territories outside the EU



Import into EU

systematic inspection for certain FRUITS

Citrus L. (**citrus**), *Fortunella* Swingle (**kumquat**),
Poncirus Raf., and their hybrids,
Momordica L. (**balsam pear / bitter cucumber**) and
Solanum melongena L. (**eggplant/aubergine**)
Annona L. (**pond-apple**), *Cydonia* Mill. (**quince**),
Diospyros L. (**kaki**), *Malus* Mill. (**apple**), *Mangifera* L.
(**mango**), *Passiflora* L. (**passionfruit**), *Prunus* L.
(**plum**), *Psidium* L. (**guava**), *Pyrus* L. (**pear**), *Ribes* L.
(**currant**), *Syzygium* Gaertn., and *Vaccinium* L.
(**blueberry**), originating in non-European countries.
Vitis L. (**table grape**), when imported into Cyprus



Import into EU

systematic inspection for certain leafy VEGETABLES

Apium graveolens L. (celery)

Ocimum L. (e.g. sweet basil)



Import into EU

- Phytosanitary inspection for those produces listed in annex V, part B

Customs cleared if :

- documentary checks (phytosanitary certificate)
- Identity checks (products match with doc)
- free of harmful organismes (annex I, part A and annex II part A)
- Special requirements satisfied (annex IV part A)



Import into EU

■ **Special requirements** : ANNEX IV, PART A, section I includes:

Citrus L. (**citrus**), *Fortunella* Swingle (**kumquat**),
Poncirus Raf., and their hybrids,

shall be free from peduncles and leaves,

the packaging shall bear an appropriate origin mark

official statement “free from...”, “originate in area known to be free from...”,



Marketing standards



(Quality)



EU regulations laying down the marketing standards

- **DEFINITION OF PRODUCE**
- **PROVISIONS CONCERNING QUALITY**
 - Minimum quality requirements
 - Minimum maturity requirements
 - Classification (*'Extra' class, Class I, Class II*)
- **PROVISIONS CONCERNING SIZING**
- **PROVISIONS CONCERNING TOLERANCES**
 - Quality tolerances
 - Size tolerances



EU regulations laying down the marketing standards

- **PROVISIONS CONCERNING PRESENTATION**
 - **Uniformity**
 - **Packaging**
 - **Presentation**
- **PROVISIONS CONCERNING MARKING**
 - **Identification**
 - **Nature of produce**
 - **Origin of produce (Country)**
 - **Commercial specifications**



EU and International standards

- Main marketed fresh F&V (40) are covered by **EU regulations** (identical to UNECE standards),
- **UNECE standards**: 51 fresh and 19 dry/dried F&V.
- **OECD scheme for the application of international standards for fruit and vegetables** : interpretative “brochures” of UNECE quality standards
- **TBT agreement**: where technical regulations are required, Members shall use of “relevant international standards”



Checks on conformity

COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 1148/2001
of 12 June 2001 on checks on conformity to the
marketing standards applicable to fresh fruit and
vegetables (OJ L 156, 13.6.2001, p.9)



REGULATION 1148/2001, article 7

THIRD COUNTRIES RECOGNISED:

Switzerland, Morocco, South Africa, Israel,
India, New-Zealand, Kenya, Senegal, Turkey



Where appropriate requirements concerning

- the use of food additives
- materials and articles in contact with food
- food irradiation
- novel foods
- radioactivity
- quick frozen foodstuffs
- genetically modified organisms (GMO)
- labelling
- organic products



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PRIVATE STANDARDS

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Thank you