EU Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standards

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Scope of the presentation

- The Single Market
- The Multilateral Framework
- SPS rules for domestic and imported food
- How to export foods, animals, plants to the EU
- Sources of Information
The EU Market

- The EU is a success story
  - Single Market with 500 Million citizens,
  - Economic stability, 70% of trade intra-EU,
  - Harmonisation of rules and standards;

- The EU is also complex
  - 27 countries, 23 languages,
  - Diverse traditions, expectations and economies,
  - 100,000s food businesses,
  - By far the biggest importer and exporter of food worldwide.
The Multilateral Framework
- the SPS Agreement -

- Transparency Provisions:
  Enquiry Point and Notification Authority
- Principle of regionalisation: recognised in the EU
- Principle of equivalence but proof up to the demandeur
- Special and Differential Treatment
- Technical Assistance: EU is world largest donor
An approach from Farm to Fork

**General Food Law:**
Regulation 178/2002

**Food hygiene:**
Regulation (EC) No 852/2004 for all food and feed
Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 for animal products

**Official Inspections and Controls:**
Regulation (EC) No 882/2004
Official Food and Feed Control

Regulation 882/2004

Coherent principles for all authorities

- Adequate staff, resource, training.
- Accredited labs, international standards.

Risk-based controls in all sectors

- Based on multi-annual plans.
- Delegation of official inspection is possible.
- Pre-export inspection is possible (example U.S. Peanuts).
What food to export?

**Food of animal origin**
- Raw products (meat, fish, etc)
- Processed products (ham, smoked fish etc)

**Food of non-animal origin**
- Fruits, vegetables, cereals, tubers
- Drinks
- Others (e.g. table salt)
Principles of Food Exports to the EU

Food of animal origin
- Lists of eligible countries and businesses are drawn up – following inspection.
- Approval based on compliance or equivalence.

Food of non-animal origin
- No country listing but the importer is liable.

Shared obligations between Food business operators (FBO), importers and the competent Authorities in EU Member States and Third Countries
Principles of Food Exports to the EU (3)

Two procedures apply:

- **Administrative prerequisites:**
  - Request for approval to the EU
  - Different procedures depending on the type of food (mainly difference between animal and non-animal origin)

- **Import procedure:**
  - Different depending on the level of risk
Administrative Pre-requisites

- Guarantee that FBOs are compliant/equivalent
- CA must also have EU compliant/equivalent system (eg. inspections, laboratories, …)
- Request sent to EU for country & establishment approval
- Questionnaire
- Response to questionnaire & provision at residue monitoring programme
- FVO inspection on the spot
- If compliant, approval may follow
Administrative Prerequisites cont.

- FBOs have to register at national CA
- ONLY THEN, FBOs can start exporting products of animal origin to the EU market
Import Procedure - products of animal origin

■ Public health requirements (food hygiene)
  ➔ Food safety standards, general hygiene provisions, application of HACCP principles, product-specific requirements

■ Animal health requirements
  ➔ Imports must be accompanied by the EU law prescribed health certificates + specific certificates when necessary (relative to specific products/diseases)

■ Other health requirements
  ➔ On contaminants/residues, additives, hormones, radioactivity, GMOs, etc.
Import Procedure - products of animal origin

- CA must provide the exporter with the required certificates
- Pre-notification at respective EU approved Border Inspection Post (BIP) with the Common Veterinary Entry Document (CVED)

- BIP checks
  - Identity checks, Documentary checks & Physical checks
Import Procedure - products of non-animal origin

Public health requirements
Food safety standards, general hygiene provisions, application of HACCP principles, product-specific requirements

Plant health requirements
→ Compliance/equivalence with EU phytosanitary requirements
all plants and some plant products need phytosanitary certification

Other health requirements
→ Contaminants/residues for pesticides, additives, novel foods.
Import Procedure - products of non-animal origin

- Entry at Designated Points of Entry (DPE)
- No need for the TC to be on a list of approved countries
- No need for pre-notification upon arrival
- Identity, documentary, physical checks for some plant products
- Possibility of increased level of official controls when product listed as high risk
Assistance for market access

- National and regional indicative programs
- Major Horizontal programs
  - Pesticide Initiative Project PIP - horticulture
    € 40 Mio (2001-2009)
  - Strengthening Fishery Products
  - EDES Food Safety Program
    € 30 Mio (2010 - 2013)
- Smaller, specific programs
  - Aid for Trade (DG TRADE)
  - Better Training for Safer Food (DG SANCO)
  - PAN-SPSO
Private or voluntary standards

- Independent from SPS requirements and often go beyond,
- Mainly in the area of fruit, vegetables, coffee, banana, oil.
  - Quality, environment, social aspects.
  - Retailers, importers, processors and pressure groups
  - Due diligence - Liability aspects in General Food Law may have furthered developments.
- Difficult to manage from a regulatory perspective.
Conclusions

- TC should have a compliant/equivalent well functioning inspection system in place.
- Products of Animal Origin – known as high risk products – can only be imported in the EU after the approval of TC and respective establishments.
- Products of Non-Animal Origin – of lower risk – subject to looser conditions. Once a risk is detected, stricter conditions will be set.
- Each Product has Specific Requirements.
Documentation on the web

General Information:
http://ec.europa.eu/food/index_en.htm

Food and Veterinary Office:
http://ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/index_en.html

European Food Safety Authority
http://efsaeuropa.eu