



Ministerie van Economische Zaken



Import Guidelines: experiences from The Netherlands

Conference “Sourcing organic
from Ukraine”

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What's at stake?

- Growing demand of high quality raw materials for food & feed
- Growth of the EU organic market
- Consumers confidence in organic products
- Fair competition between EU MS and between EU and third countries



Guidelines additional official controls on imports from Ukraine and neighbouring countries

Background:

- Upcoming imports from products in particular from operators from Ukraine in 2015
- Rising concerns about risks concerning fraud and irregularities
- Sunflower cakes/expeller case in December 2014 triggered need for additional strict control measures on consignments from third countries before import in EU



Guidelines additional official controls on import

- Additional control measures should be carried out by all MS
- Harmonized approach and follow-up by MS is indispensable
- The Commission presented Guidelines based on contribution made by NL
- Exchange of views by MS in Committee on Organic Production
- Guidelines were adopted by COP in December 2015 and applicable from 1/1/2016 – 31/12/2016



Our experiences with additional controls on imports from Ukraine

- In 2016 up to now: total number of cases notified in OFIS: **19**
- **7** cases notified by the NL
- **10** cases notified by Germany
- **1** case notified by Poland
- **1** case notified by Spain



Characteristics of the 7 cases notified by NL (1)

Products involved:

- **rape seed oil(4)**



- **corn (1)**



- **hulled millet (1)**



- **sunflower seeds (1)**





Characteristics of the 7 cases notified by NL (2)

Residues detected:

Chlorpyrifos : in 3 cases related to rape seed
in 1 case related to corn

Mepiquat: in 1 case related to oil seed

Pymetrozine: in 1 case related to sunflower seed

Pirimiphos-methyl: in 1 case related to hulled millet



Characteristics of the 7 cases notified by NL (3)

- In 4 cases the same **control body** was involved
- This control body has **not carried out** checks on site
- In 2 of these 4 cases the **same supplier** is involved
- In one of these 4 case (hulled millet) the supplier was involved in another case in which **Glysohate** was detected earlier this year
- In none of these 7 cases the cause could be ascertained and the consignments were released for free circulation in the EU



Characteristic patterns & side effects

Patterns:

- Several operators were involved in more than 1 irregularity
- As no causes were found combined with relatively low residue percentage, no proof of deliberate use or negligence: no decertification of consignments involved
- In the 19 cases different suppliers are involved.

Side effects:

- Splitting of consignments which leads to costs such as additional analysis costs
- Waiting periods due to 100% control



Analysis of the problems

- Approach as laid down in the Guidelines has given insight into the trade, the risk products concerned and on the effectiveness of controls carried out by control bodies in Ukraine and neighbouring countries;
- It has provided information on suspicious cases and in a few cases it has brought irregularities into light;
- However, certain problems still need to be addressed.





Problems

- **Unsolved discrepancy** between consignments having being certified as organic in Ukraine whilst residues were found in the same consignments at customs warehouses or at the importer in the EU;
- Control Authority in NL is confronted with certificates and declarations issued by control bodies in Ukraine which **give rise to doubts** in view of the (nature or amount of) residues detected in consignments;



Problems

- Concerns about the **effectivity** of the work done by control bodies recognised such as a lack of on the spot control visits and a lack of risk profiling of suppliers;
- Adequate **supervision** by European Commission on control bodies recognised under EU rules is to be considered as a **key element**;
- In the near future, **larger trade flows** from Ukraine are expected; this makes a solid surveillance system even more urgent.



What's next?

Short term solutions :

- Guidelines have proven to be useful;
- Prolongation for 6 – 12 months period seems to be appropriate;
- However, Guidelines approach can not be a permanent solution.



Solutions

Long term solutions

- Sharpened supervision on control bodies in third countries by European Commission;
- Improvement of OFIS: introduction of sophisticated search capabilities enabling a better exchange of information on irregularities between MS for example: recognition of repeat offenders in the system



Thank you for your attention!