



Inspekcja Jakości Handlowej Artykułów Rolno-Spożywczych

Agricultural and Food Quality Inspection

Republic of Poland

General Information



September 2005

Legal basis

The Act of 21 December 2000 on the commercial quality
of agricultural and food products
(Official Journal of 2001 No. 5, item 44, with amendments)

The Act came into force on **1 January 2003.**



The inspection is responsible to the minister competent for
the agricultural markets.

Commercial quality



Commercial quality means characteristics of agricultural and food product related to its organoleptic, physical-chemical and microbiological properties in scope of production technology, size and mass as well as requirements arising from production method, packaging, presentation and labelling, not covered by hygiene, veterinary or phytosanitary requirements.

The provisions of the basic Act are not applicable to:

- 1) agricultural and food products manufactured for own use,
- 2) propagating material of agricultural, horticultural and herbal plants in the meaning of the provisions on seed production,
- 3) sale of agricultural and food products by the producers in agricultural holding directly to consumers,
- 4) health, hygiene, veterinary and phytosanitary requirements related to agricultural and food products specified in separate provisions,
- 5) fruit and vegetables for which separate EC provisions are set up.

Tasks and Activities of the Inspection

Supervision of commercial quality of agricultural and food products, in particular:

- commercial quality control of agricultural and food products during production and marketing, including exported agricultural and food products,
- commercial quality control of imported agricultural and food products (the list of imported agricultural and food products and their minimum quantities subjected to commercial quality control is set by the Regulation of Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development)



- issuing certificates on commercial quality of agricultural and food products (after the commission of producer/operator).

Tasks and Activities of the Inspection

- Inspection of agricultural and food products labelled, on the basis of other provisions, with registered protected geographical indications, protected designations of origin or certificates of specific character.
- Inspection of agricultural and food products storage and transport conditions.
- Co-operation with paying agencies (Agricultural Market Agency, Agency for Restructuring and Modernisation of Agriculture) in the scope of Common Agricultural Policy - role of the technical service for the paying agency according to the EC Regulation No 1663/95.



Tasks and Activities of the Inspection

- Co-operation with other inspections bodies (Veterinary Inspection, Sanitary Inspection, Plant Protection and Seeds Service), customs offices and local government units.
- Co-operation with or participation in international organisations working in the area of commercial quality of agricultural and food products and international turnover of the products
 - **FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission** - acting as Codex Contact Point for Poland,
 - **United Nations Economic Commission for Europe** - acting as the Polish Secretariat for co-operation with Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards,
 - **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development** - OECD Scheme for Application of International Standards for Fruit and Vegetables).



Tasks and Activities of the Inspection

- Conducting training in the scope of provisions and commercial quality requirements, setting quality classes and methods of analyses of agricultural and food products.
- Co-operation with foreign official inspection units on commercial quality of agricultural and food products.
- Performing tasks specified in other provisions.



Tasks and Activities of the Inspection

Additionally Inspection has competences for carrying out controls in the following scopes:

- **fruit and vegetables market**
- hop market
- organic farming
- wine and wine products
- genetically modified organisms (GMO)
- fertilisers and fertilisation
- store houses, surplus stocks of agricultural products.



Organisational Structure of the Inspection



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Inspection is managed by: **the Chief Inspector of Agricultural and Food Quality**, his Deputy and 16 Voivodeship Inspectors of Agricultural and Food Quality.

The Chief Inspector coordinates and supervises all activities of the Inspection with the support of the Main Inspectorate. It is realised by elaborating annual and quarterly control plans and transmitting them to the Voivodeship Inspectors for implementation and enforcement.

The Voivodeship Inspectorates elaborate information about conducted controls and send it to the Main Inspectorate where the summary report is prepared. This uniform report is transmitted to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and other official interested parties.



The Voivodeship Inspectorates



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Staff of the Inspection

Staff of the Inspection accounts **699 employees**:

- on the central level in the Main Inspectorate - **161 employees**
(including 92 employees of the Central laboratory and specialised laboratories),

- on the Voivodeship level
in Voivodeship Inspectorates –
538 employees
(including 53 employees
of the laboratories).



Laboratories of the Inspection

Analyses of agricultural and food products are conducted in **15 official Inspections' laboratories** – Central Laboratory and specialised laboratories at the national level in the structure of the Main Inspectorate and laboratories in the structure of the Voivodeship Inspectorates.

Methods of analyses used by our laboratories comply with the EU methods. Determination of methods of analyses and sampling methods in legal acts which are in force, assures that control procedures in each body of the Inspection are uniformed.

At present four Inspection's laboratories are accredited by PCA
(Polish Centre for Accreditation)
according to PN-EN ISO/IEC 17025.



Laboratories of the Inspection



The accreditation scope covers 144 selected analytical, instrumental and microbiological methods related to certain groups of products such as: milk and milk products, juices and their concentrates, beer, cereals and cereal products, oils and vegetable fats, vegetable products, drinks and mineral waters.



Two laboratories in Poznan and Gdynia are also accredited, as the only Polish laboratories working in the area of official food control, by official bodies of **the Russian Federation - Gosstandart and Gossanepidnadzor**. The accredited methods comprise a large part of the analyses on foodstuffs.

Control Proceedings

In case when agricultural and food products do not meet the requirements specified in the Act, the Voivodeship Inspector of Agricultural and Food Quality, in scope of his competence, may decide, in way of administrative decision, about the following actions:

- Order to **re-classify** or to subject product to other specified treatments.
- Order to **withdraw** product from the market.
- Order to **destroy** product on expense of its owner.
- **Prohibit** to store product in inappropriate conditions or to transport product in inappropriate means of transport.

These decisions have the warrant of spot execution.



Control Proceedings

In case when the activity of the operator producing or placing on the market agricultural and food products not complying with requirements specified in the Act, the Voivodeship Inspector of the Agricultural and Food Quality Inspection, in scope of his competence, may:

- request to eliminate the inconformities during specified period,
- cessation of the activity until eliminating the inconformities.

The Voivodeship Inspector of the Agricultural and Food Quality Inspection conducts **border control** of agricultural and food products entering the Polish custom area.

When products do not meet the requirements, the Voivodeship Inspector forbids in a way of administrative decision entering a consignment the Polish custom area.

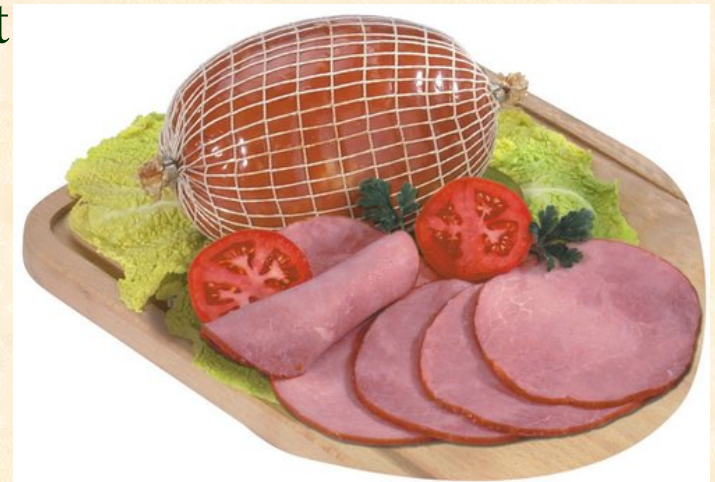


Control Proceedings

Operator/producer has a right to appeal. Appeals against the decisions issued by the Voivodeship Inspector of Agricultural and Food Quality are considered by the Chief Inspector of Agricultural and Food Quality.

In year 2004, Agricultural and Food Quality Inspection carried out:

- **5 917** inspections on the internal market
- **79 118** inspections in foreign turnover.



Quality Management System



Brand New ISO 9001:2000 Quality Management System Certificate
for the Inspection of Agricultural and Food Quality Inspection

The first certified Polish official food control body

Inspection QMS was certified by TÜV Rheinland Polska in May 2005





CERTIFICATE

The TÜV CERT Certification Body
of TÜV Rheinland InterCert Kft.

certifies in accordance with TÜV CERT procedures that

**Główny Inspektorat Jakości Handlowej
Artykułów Rolno-Spożywczych**

ul. Wspólna 30
PL 00-930 Warszawa
Poland

has established and applies a quality management system for
supervision over the commercial quality of agricultural and food products,
including imported and exported goods; performance of tasks related to
realization of national agricultural policy

An audit was performed, contract No. **210/Q05/381**
Proof has been furnished that the requirements according to
ISO 9001:2000

are fulfilled. The certificate is valid until **2008-05-10**.

Certificate Registration No. **75 100 30464**



TÜV Rheinland
InterCert

Warsaw, 11.05.2005


TÜV-CERT - Certification Body
of TÜV Rheinland InterCert Kft.

AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD **QUALITY INSPECTION**



**MARKETING STANDARDS CONTROL OF
FRESH FRUIT AND VEGETABLES**

Agricultural and Food Quality Inspection
is the Polish governmental body subordinated
to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural
Development which is appointed to carry out
checks on conformity on fresh fruit and
vegetables market according to:

- **The EU regulations**
- **Polish Act which implements the EU requirements**

EUROPEAN UNION REQUIREMENTS

- The Council Regulation (EC) No 2200/96 of 28 October 1996 on the common organization of the market in fruit and vegetables
- The Commission Regulation (EC) No 1148/2001 of 12 June 2001 on checks on conformity to the marketing standards applicable to fresh fruit and vegetables

According to the EU regulations Agricultural and Food Quality Inspection is obliged to carry out marketing standards control of fresh fruit and vegetables at following market stages:

- Internal market
- Import
- Export

NATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- The Act of 19 December 2003 on the organization of the market in fruit and vegetables, hop, tobacco, dry fodder plants (Official Journal No 233, Item 2221 with amendments)

THE SCOPE OF THE POLISH ACT

The Act specifies, among others, tasks and competences of Polish authorities in the organization of the market in fresh fruit and vegetables which are covered by the EU requirements.

**According to the Polish Act
Agricultural and Food Quality
Inspection is appointed
to carry out checks
on conformity**

DIVISION OF COMPETENCES ON FRIUT AND VEGETABLES IN AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD QUALITY INSPECTION

- Main Inspectorate
- 16 Voivodeship Inspectorates



THE CHIEF INSPECTOR TASKS

- Coordination and supervision of all activities
- Setting up a database on traders in fruit and vegetables
- Working out the plan of checks on conformity of fresh fruit and vegetables

VOIVODESHIP INSPECTORS TASKS

- Carrying out commercial quality control of fresh fruit and vegetables
- Issuing and withdrawing the authorisation for the trader to use the specimen in the labelling of each package
- Carrying out commercial quality control of fruit and vegetables which are not intended for sale
- Carrying out quality and quantitative control of fruit and vegetables which are destined to compost or biodegradation

**According to the Polish Act
Agricultural and Food Quality
Inspection has possibility to fine
traders which products do not
comply with the EU regulations**

TYPE OF MARKETING STANDARDS **CONTROLS OF FRESH FRUIT AND** **VEGETABLES**

Internal market:

- Planned control
- Ad hoc control

Foregin trade:

- The point of export
- The point of import

Planned controls of fresh fruit and vegetables are carried out once a quarter according to the control guidelines which are worked out in the Main Inspectorate and transmitted to the Voivodeship Inspectorates. Seasonal supply is taken into consideration during setting each control.

Voivodeship Inspectorates carry out commercial quality control of fresh fruit and vegetables and elaborate information about conducted controls and send it to the Main Inspectorate where the summary report is prepared.

Ad hoc controls of fresh fruit and vegetables are performed in case of getting information about significant quantity of non-conformity with the standards on the market.

The rules of carrying out ad hoc controls are the same as planned controls.

Controls of fresh fruit and vegetables at the point of export and import are performed continuously.

**Conformity checks are performed by
Agricultural and Food Quality Inspection
on the same way at all market stages**



Additional activities of Agricultural and Food Quality Inspection:

- Providing training for fruit and vegetables inspectors in Poland
- Attending training abroad
- Providing the examinations in order to verify knowledge of fruit and vegetables inspectors
- Providing training and seminars for Polish fruit and vegetables producers, wholesale markets
- Participation in the meetings of the group of national experts for standardisation and inspection of commercial quality of fresh fruit and vegetables (GREX in Brussels)
- Participation in the sessions of the UNECE Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards (Specialised Sections for fresh fruit and vegetables and Dry and Dried Fruit)

Controles of commercial quality of fresh fruit and vegetables performed on the whole internal market in 2004

- Planned controls of all species on the Polish market
- Ad hoc control of seasonal fruit in particular strawberries, sour cherries, sweet cherries
- Ad hoc control of fresh tomatoes

Controls of commercial quality of fresh fruit and vegetables performed on the whole internal market in 2005

- Planned controls of all species on the Polish market (once a quarter)
- Ad hoc controls of seasonal fruit in particular strawberries, sour cherries, sweet cherries, water-malons, melons



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