Useful links for the research on food standards
7 Useful links for the research on food standards

This reference book has been designed to serve as a guide to the ever expanding system of standards and regulations. It is intended to enable policy makers, public administration, food operators, development agencies and any other interested parties

- to access and disseminate up-to-date information on international laws, regulations and industry standards necessary for competing in export markets
- to evaluate the changing food quality and safety environment with regard to its impact on the domestic food sector
- to evaluate the need for and consequences of adopting international standards and, if necessary, to harmonise national laws with international standards
- to improve skills for negotiations in international standard setting organisations in view of successful integration of the national food industry into international markets

In view of facilitating further research on food standards, be it for reasons of up dating, of research for other countries of origin or for other commodities than those covered here, each section of the reference book contains "further readings". In addition to that, selected internet sources are listed in the following chapters.

In view of the complexity of information available on the internet and the continuous changes taking place in standard setting and implementation as well as website building, the following listing is not necessarily complete or up-to-date.

7.1 European Commission (EC) and Member States’ institutions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>related activities</th>
<th>of special interest</th>
<th>URL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>EC – DG Trade</strong></td>
<td>Directorate General Trade</td>
<td>SPS activities, SPS Newsletter</td>
<td>study on private food standards, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EC – FVO</strong></td>
<td>Food and Veterinary Office</td>
<td>observance food hygiene in the EU and in third countries</td>
<td>promote effective control systems, check on compliance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EFSA</strong></td>
<td>European Food Safety Authority</td>
<td>independent scientific advice on all matters related to food safety</td>
<td>identify emerging risks, provide early warning, crises management etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>France – AFSSA</strong></td>
<td>Agence Française de la Sécurité Sanitaire des Aliments</td>
<td>state agency for the surveillance of products intended for human use</td>
<td>assessment covering the entire food chain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>France – Ministry of Agriculture and Fishing</strong></td>
<td>responsible for monitoring/management of food safety</td>
<td>food safety system guide</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
7 USEFUL LINKS

**Germany – BFR**
Federal Institute for Risk Assessment
risk analysis, scientific advice, risk communication
http://www.bfr.bund.de/

**Germany – BVL**
Federal Agency for Consumer protection and Food Safety
harmonization of food control, crises management etc.
http://www.bvl.bund.de/

**United Kingdom – FSA**
Food Standards Agency
state agency for consumer protection issues
identify emerging risks, provide early warning, crises management etc.
http://www.foodstandards.gov.uk/

7.1.1 Food Safety from the farm to the fork
– information about EC policies, strategies and legislation

The website of the Directorate General Health and Consumer Protection gives direct access to policy documents, strategy papers as well as applicable regulations, directives and decisions relevant to the EC’s provisions for food safety. The website is divided into four sections:

- food and feed safety
- animal health and welfare
- plant health
- FVO (Food and Veterinary Office) inspections

European Commission Food Safety
http://ec.europa.eu/food/index_en.htm

7.1.2 Export Helpdesk for Developing Countries
– information about market access conditions in the EU/EU Member States

The EC’s Export Helpdesk is a free, interactive and easy to use internet service assembling all relevant requirements applicable to the import of products into the EU and EU Member States originating from third countries. The website contains the following sections:

- trade statistics
- import tariffs
- customs documents
- rules of origin
- specific requirements applicable to imports from third countries
- internal taxes
- market place
- links

European Commission – Export Helpdesk for Developing Countries
http://export-help.coe.eu.int/
7.1.3 Market Access Databank
– information about market access conditions in non-EU countries

The Market Access Database is a tool supporting exchange of information between the EU institutions, Member States and European businesses. The Market Access Database is a free, interactive, easy to use service providing information about market access conditions in non-EU countries:

- sectoral and trade barriers
- applied tariffs
- exporters’ guide to import formalities
- trade statistics
- studies

European Union Market Access Database
http://mkaccdb.eu.int/

7.1.4 Food Quality Schemes Project
– information about food supply chain dynamics and quality certification

The Food Quality Schemes Project studies the relation and interdependencies between food supply chain dynamics and quality certification. It is intended to provide an analysis of potential policy options for a European-wide framework for the development of quality assurance and certification schemes managed within an integrated supply chain. The website contains up to date information on the subject in two sections:

- proceedings of the stakeholder consultation process
- research studies on food supply chains and quality certification including e.g.
  (i) a structured inventory of reports on “Food Supply Chain Dynamics and Quality Certification”
  (ii) case studies on economic analysis of Quality Assurance Systems (e.g. EurepGAP)
  (iii) an extensive inventory of food quality schemes
  (iv) links (e.g. European food quality schemes and initiatives, certification bodies, research projects)

EC: Directorate General Joint Research Centre – Food Quality Schemes Project

7.1.5 Others

Europa – Legislation (EURLex) – home
http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/

Europa – Legislation (EURLex) – fresh fruit and vegetables

Europa – Summaries of Legislation (SCADPlus)
http://europa.eu/scadplus/

EC – Tariffs and Quota (TARIC)

EC – Sanitary, phytosanitary and biotechnology trade issues – Newsletter
http://ec.europa.eu/trade/issues/sectoral/agri_fish/sps/newsletter.htm
7 USEFUL LINKS

EC – SPS newsletter  
http://ec.europa.eu/trade/issues/sectoral/agri_fish/sps/newsletter.htm

EC – TBT database  
http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/tbt/index.cfm?dspLang=en

EC – The Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Export Database  

EC – Sanitary, Phytosanitary (SPS) and Biotechnology Trade Issues Newsletter  
http://ec.europa.eu/trade/issues/sectoral/agri_fish/sps/newsletter.htm

7.2 Multilateral organisations

7.2.1 World Trade Organisation

Legal texts: the WTO agreements  
http://www.wto.org/english/docs_e/legal_e/final_e.htm

Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS)  
http://www.wto.org/English/tratop_e/sps_e/sps_e.htm

SPS notifications  
http://www.wto.org/English/tratop_e/sps_e/sps_mailing_list_e.htm

Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT)  
http://www.wto.org/English/tratop_e/tbt_e/tbt_e.htm

TBT notifications  
http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/tbt_e/tbt_mailing_list_e.htm

Training Courses  
http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/devel_e/train_e/train_e.htm

Understanding the WTO: the agreements – standards and safety  
http://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/whatis_e/tif_e/agrm4_e.htm

7.2.2 Others

<table>
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<tr>
<th>related activities</th>
<th>of special interest</th>
<th>URL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CAC Codex Alimentarius Commission</td>
<td>development of international standards for consumer health protection</td>
<td>WTO reference standards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEN European Committee for Standardisation</td>
<td>EU Standards Organization</td>
<td>EU standards related to food processing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAO Food and Agriculture Organization</td>
<td>UN organization for food and agriculture related issues</td>
<td>FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPPC International Plant Protection Convention</td>
<td>global instrument for harmonizing phytosanitary measures</td>
<td>WTO reference standards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISO International Organization for Standardisation</td>
<td>reference framework agreed between suppliers and customers worldwide</td>
<td>voluntary standards; partly adopted in national legislation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
OECD  
Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development  
promotion of democratic government and the market economy  
promote standards for national regulatory frameworks  
http://www.oecd.org

OIE  
World Organization for Animal Health  
global instrument for harmonizing animal health issues  
WTO reference standards  
http://www.oie.int

UN/ECE  
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe  
facilitation of fair international trade  
voluntary multilateral standards; basis for inter-/national standards  
http://www.unece.org

WHO  
World Health Organization  
UN specialized agency for health  
FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission  
http://www.who.org

7.3 Further information sources on food safety

7.3.1 Databases and search engines

Agricultural Market Access Database (AMAD)  
http://www.amad.org

Agrifoodstandards – Small-scale Producers and Standards in Agrifood Supply Chains  
http://www.agrifoodstandards.net

Atlanta Labelling Wizzard  
http://www.kennzeichnungsrecht.de/

CBI (Centre for the Promotion of Imports from Developing Countries) – Access Guide  
http://www.cbi.nl/accessguide/

CTA (Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation ACP-EU) – Agritrade: Food Safety  
http://agritrade.cta.int/en/key_topics/food_safety

CTA (Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation ACP-EU) – Agritrade: The Fruit and Vegetable Regime  

CTA (Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation ACP-EU) – Agritrade: WTO agreement on agriculture  
http://agritrade.cta.int/en/key_topics/wto_agreement_on_agriculture

FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization) – Safety and Quality Assurance  

Instute Health and Life Sciences  
http://www.intute.ac.uk/healthandlifesciences/cgi-bin/browse.pl?id=79614

IPFSAPH (International Portal on Food Safety, Animal & Plant Health)  
http://www.ipfsaph.org/En/default.jsp

ITC (International Trade Centre) – Export Quality Management  
http://www.intracen.org/eqm/

University of Reading – Foodlaw-Reading  
http://www.foodlaw.rdg.ac.uk/
### 7.3.2 Newsletters

CTA (Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation ACP-EU) – Agritrade:  
E-Mail Updates  
http://agritrade.cta.int/en/content/view/full/2

FoodNavigator  
http://www.foodnavigator.com/

FoodQualityNews  
http://www.foodqualitynews.com/

RSRL (Reading Scientific Services Limited) – Food e-news  
http://www.rssl.com/OurServices/FoodENews/

### 7.4 Private Standards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Standard</th>
<th>Related Activities</th>
<th>Of Special Interest</th>
<th>URL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BRC</td>
<td>Specification of food safety and quality standards by UK retailers</td>
<td>Third party certification</td>
<td><a href="http://www.brc.org.uk">http://www.brc.org.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EFSIS</td>
<td>Third party independent standard</td>
<td>Standard closely correspondents to the BRC standard</td>
<td><a href="http://www.efsis.com/">http://www.efsis.com/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EurepGAP</td>
<td>GAP framework for existing Farm Assurance Schemes and standards</td>
<td>Benchmarking/certification</td>
<td><a href="http://www.eurepgap.org">http://www.eurepgap.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GFSI</td>
<td>Approach towards harmonization of private standards</td>
<td>Benchmarking of private standards</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ciesnet.com/2-wwedo/2.2-programmes/2.2.foodsafety.gfsi.asp">http://www.ciesnet.com/2-wwedo/2.2-programmes/2.2.foodsafety.gfsi.asp</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IAF</td>
<td>World association of Conformity Assessment Accreditation Bodies</td>
<td>Guidance documents related to accreditation</td>
<td><a href="http://www.iaf.nu/">http://www.iaf.nu/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IFOAM</td>
<td>Broad based constituency committed to develop organic agriculture worldwide</td>
<td>Standards and certification</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ifoam.org/">http://www.ifoam.org/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IFS</td>
<td>Joint standard of German retailers</td>
<td>Private standards for the processing industry</td>
<td><a href="http://www.food-care.info/">http://www.food-care.info/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QS</td>
<td>German private initiative meeting public requirements</td>
<td>Private standards for meat; fruit &amp; vegetables in preparation</td>
<td><a href="http://www.q-s.info/">http://www.q-s.info/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCV</td>
<td>Standard established by the National Board of Experts – HACCP, Netherlands</td>
<td>Focus on GMP and GHP requirements</td>
<td><a href="http://www.foodsafetymanagement.info/net-book.php">http://www.foodsafetymanagement.info/net-book.php</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SQF</td>
<td>Whole chain approach initiated by SGS international</td>
<td>HACCP-based food safety and quality risk management system</td>
<td><a href="http://www.sqfi.com/">http://www.sqfi.com/</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### 7.5 Research, Consultancy, Training

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Related activities</th>
<th>of special interest</th>
<th>URL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>CCFRA</strong>&lt;br&gt;Campden &amp; Chorleywood Food Research Association</td>
<td>UK – research, publications, training (food law, HACCP, GMP etc.)</td>
<td>codes, quality specification guidelines for specific products etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>DIL</strong>&lt;br&gt;Deutsches Institut für Lebensmitteltechnik e.V.</td>
<td>Germany – applied research, training, business solutions and advice</td>
<td>technology development, HACCP concepts etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Leatherwood Food RA</strong></td>
<td>UK – food safety related issues</td>
<td>training (short courses and studies)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>RSSL</strong>&lt;br&gt;Reading Scientific Services Limited</td>
<td>UK – research and technology solutions as well as consultancy and training for the food industry</td>
<td>training courses for the food industry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>JIFSAN</strong>&lt;br&gt;Joint Institute for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition</td>
<td>USA – joint initiative of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the University of Maryland</td>
<td>International Training Center; GAP manual</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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### 7.6 Associations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Related activities</th>
<th>of special interest</th>
<th>URL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>CIAA</strong>&lt;br&gt;Confederation of the Food and Drink Industries in the EU</td>
<td>representation of and services for the EU food and drink industry</td>
<td>partnership; exchange of experiences; EU food law update</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>DFHV</strong>&lt;br&gt;Deutscher Fruchthandelerverband (German Association of Fresh Produce Trade)</td>
<td>representation of and services for the German fruit &amp; vegetable trade</td>
<td>partnership; exchange of experiences; 4fresh – quality assurance from farm to fork</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Freshfel Europe</strong>&lt;br&gt;the Forum for the European Fresh Produce Industry</td>
<td>representation of and services for the European fruit &amp; vegetable trade</td>
<td>partnership; exchange of experiences; fresh quality guide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OEITFL</strong>&lt;br&gt;Organisation of European Industries Transforming Fruit and Vegetables</td>
<td>representation of and services for the European fruit and vegetable processing industry</td>
<td>partnership; exchange of experiences; codes of practices</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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### 7.7 Technical assistance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Related activities</th>
<th>of special interest</th>
<th>URL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>CBI</strong>&lt;br&gt;Centre for the Promotion of Imports from Developing Countries</td>
<td>market information; company matching; export marketing training; development of business support organisations</td>
<td>exporters in selected countries in Asia, Africa, Latin America and Europe (Balkan) are eligible</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
7 USEFUL LINKS

DFID/IIED/NRI
Department for International Development/International Institute for Environment and Development/Natural Resources Institute
research on supply chains; support of producer organisations; addressing equity issues
programme “Small-Scale Producers and Standards in Agrifood Supply Chains”
http://www.agrifoodstandards.net/

GTZ
Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer Technische Zusammenarbeit
support to value chain actors and enablers in the area of mandatory and voluntary standards
Food Quality and Safety component in the GTZ Trade Programme

ITC
International Trade Centre
support to enterprises to meet standards; strengthening the capacities of service providers in the area of standardisation, quality assurance, accreditation and metrology
diagnostic tools; export quality management tools; training packs on SPS/TBT
http://www.intracen.org/eqm/

STDF
Standards and Trade Development Facility
grant for preparation and implementation of projects, which aim to enhance the capacity of developing countries to meet SPS standards
financing and coordination mechanism; public and private sector entities including NGOs are eligible
http://www.standardsfacility.org

UNCTAD
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNCTAD’s Consultative Task Force (CTF) assists developing countries to analyse/meet environmental requirements in export markets; interfaces with discussions in the WTO
multiregional project on benchmarking national schemes to EurepGAP (horticultural sector)
http://www.unctad.org/trade_env/projectCTF.asp

UNIDO
United Nations Industrial Development Programme
support in standards and SPS/TBT capacity building as part of trade-related capacity building (value chain integration, strengthening service providers, networking and support to small and medium enterprises)
special focus on small business export consortia and export oriented clusters
http://www.unido.org/doc/25409

World Bank
training, seminars, workshops; support in standards and SPS capacity building (export promotion and competitiveness, regulatory reforms, agricultural diversification, etc.)
research on economic impacts of standards