

CONSULTATION

Topic: Draft Community Guidance on HACCP flexibility and draft Regulation on HACCP

Start date of consultation: 13th May 2005

Closing date: Extended from 24th June to the 30th June 2005

Update 10th June 2005

Since this consultation started the Commission has issued new versions of the two documents listed below. In summary:

1. The latest version of the draft Community Guidance on HACCP Flexibility contains changes suggested by Member States.
2. In the case of the draft Regulation on HACCP, the Commission has reissued a new version of the Annex (which contains the guidelines on the application of the 7 principles where flexibility is not being applied) again incorporating changes suggested by Member States. In addition, the Commission is considering whether it is necessary to issue these guidelines in a Regulation or as a guidance document.

Consultation details

1. Draft Community Guidance on HACCP Flexibility

Article 5 of Regulation (EC) No 852/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the hygiene of foodstuffs requires food business operators to put in place, implement and maintain a permanent procedure based on Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) principles. The concept allows HACCP principles to be implemented with appropriate flexibility. The purpose of this document is to give guidance on the flexible application of the HACCP principles in order to ensure a harmonised approach in all Member States. The Commission is planning a meeting of Member States and Stakeholders in early July to discuss the next version of this document and plans to have it finalised before the end of the year.

2. Draft EU Regulation on HACCP

The reason for the proposed HACCP Regulation was originally threefold:

- to replace the Commission Decision 94/356/EC laying down detailed rules for the application of Council Directive 91/493/EEC, as regards own health checks on fishery products;
- to produce detailed Community guidelines on the implementation of Article 5 of Regulation (EC) No 852/2004 in the case where flexibility is not being applied and;
- if Member States were in favour, to address HACCP flexibility.

It has since been agreed that flexibility should not be included. Consequently the draft Regulation contains a small number of recitals and articles and consists principally of the Annex detailing guidelines on the application of the 7 principles of HACCP for all sectors, not just fishery products.

Comments and views on any aspect of the above consultation documents should be sent via email to: consultation@fsai.ie

Or post to:

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