

Advice 15-2020 of the Scientific Committee established at the FASFC on the module 'vegetables and fruit' of the generic self-checking guide for the B2C sector

Background & Terms of reference

The Scientific Committee is asked to evaluate the 'fruit and vegetables' module of the generic self-checking guide G-044 for the B2C sector and to assess whether this module adequately and correctly addresses the hazards related to the activity of retailers that treat and process fruit and vegetables.

The module should be used in addition to the generic self-checking guide 'B2C' (G-044) which includes a practical handbook with general hygiene requirements. The 'fruit and vegetables' module is specifically written for small(er) companies that sell fruit and vegetables (fresh, treated or processed) directly to the final consumer.

Method

The evaluation of the module is based on the scientific knowledge of experts as well as on the relevant legislation.

Conclusions

The Scientific Committee has made a number of recommendations to improve the clarity of the document. It is recommended that the text should be more structured, following a process-based structure as much as possible. Furthermore, certain concepts need to be defined more clearly. In addition, it is recommended that a number of high-risk products and specific processes be elaborated more specifically. It is recommended to consult inspection results and to consult the sector itself. Finally, the Scientific Committee has made several specific remarks.

It is recommended to thoroughly rework the module on the basis of the comments made in order to offer a comprehensible and well-structured text to the operators concerned.

The full text is available on this website in dutch and in french.