Food Safety from Farmers to Consumers, a Legislative Demand

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SUMMARY

Food safety legislation is well harmonized in Romania demanding specified requests for farmers, manufactures, storage units, transporters and retailers. Before Hazard Analyze and Critical Control Point principles to be applied, many preliminary programs have to be implemented. Those programs will take different forms, from Best Agricultural Practices to Best Manufacturing Practices; depending on the place that entrepreneur will be on food chain.

R (CE)/2002 named Food Law was transposed in Romanian legislation into Law 150/2004 regarding food and feed safety. The legislation is making strict references for food chain and is asking that food safety principles and rules to be kept for entire chain, from producers to consumers.

Food safety is applying to any organisational forms involved food business, means any undertaking, whether for profit or not, and whether public or private, carrying out any of the activities related to any stage of production, processing and distribution of food (Regulation (EC) N° 178/2002 on general food law). It is wrongly understood that just the manufacturers or the distributors are under this legislative demand, any farmers, importers, manufacturers, wholesalers, distributors, transporters, retailers and catering outlets are covered.

By Law 150/2004 through food or food product or any substance whether processed fully, partially or unprocessed, intended for human consumption or expected to be for human consumption is under food safety requirements (Legea 150/2004, Legea privind siguranța alimentelor).

A good legislative interpretation and practical approach is given by a close look to ISO 22000 that will logically explain that hygienic and organisational demands are taking the form of Prerequisite Programmes (PRP’s) and Operational Prerequisite Programmes (PRP’s) (ISO 22000:2005, Food safety management systems).

Food safety is not an option is a demand and is not a legislative that is willing to create problems, is an important instrument that will enhance the consumer trust, is offering important information through traceability and increase the competitiveness for local producers.

REFERENCES