

## 7 Useful links for the research on food standards



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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

	related activities	of special interest	URL
<b>EC – DG Agriculture</b> Directorate General Agriculture	Common Agricultural Policy (CAP); Common Market Organisation (CMO)	EU legislation on promotion/protection of food products	<a href="http://europa.eu.int/comm/agriculture/">http://europa.eu.int/comm/agriculture/</a>
<b>EC – DG SANCO</b> Directorate General Health and Consumer Protection	ensure protection of consumers’ health, safety and economic interests	consumer policy, food safety, animal health & welfare, plant health	<a href="http://europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/health_consumer/index_en.htm">http://europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/health_consumer/index_en.htm</a>
<b>EC – DG Trade</b> Directorate General Trade	SPS activities, SPS Newsletter	study on private food standards, etc.	<a href="http://ec.europa.eu/trade/">http://ec.europa.eu/trade/</a>
<b>EC – FVO</b> Food and Veterinary Office	observance food hygiene in the EU and in third countries	promote effective control systems, check on compliance	<a href="http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/fs/inspections/index_en.html">http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/fs/inspections/index_en.html</a>
<b>EFSA</b> European Food Safety Authority	independent scientific advice on all matters related to food safety	identify emerging risks, provide early warning, crises management etc.	<a href="http://www.efsa.eu.int/">http://www.efsa.eu.int/</a>
<b>France – AFSSA</b> Agence Française de la Sécurité Sanitaire des Aliments	state agency for the surveillance of products intended for human use	assessment covering the entire food chain	<a href="http://www.afssa.fr/">http://www.afssa.fr/</a>
<b>France – Ministry of Agriculture and Fishing</b>	responsible for monitoring/management of food safety	food safety system guide	<a href="http://www.frenchfoodsafety.de">http://www.frenchfoodsafety.de</a>

<b>Germany – BFR</b> Bundesinstitut fuer Risikobewertung	Federal Institute for Risk Assessment	risk analysis, scientific advice, risk communication	<a href="http://www.bfr.bund.de/">http://www.bfr.bund.de/</a>
<b>Germany – BVL</b> Bundesamt fuer Verbraucherschutz und Lebensmittelsicherheit	Federal Agency for Consumer protection and Food Safety	harmonization of food control, crises management etc.	<a href="http://www.bvl.bund.de/">http://www.bvl.bund.de/</a>
<b>United Kingdom – FSA</b> Food Standards Agency	state agency for consumer protection issues	identify emerging risks, provide early warning, crises management etc.	<a href="http://www.foodstandards.gov.uk/">http://www.foodstandards.gov.uk/</a>

### **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](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.cec.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://mkacadb.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 Reserach Centre – Food Quality Schemes Project  
<http://foodqualityschemes.jrc.es/en/index.html>

### **7.1.5 Others**

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

Europa – Legislation (EURLex) – fresh fruit and vegetables  
[http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/lif/reg/en\\_register\\_036054.html](http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/lif/reg/en_register_036054.html)

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

EC – Tariffs and Quota (TARIC)  
[http://ec.europa.eu/taxation\\_customs/dds/en/tarspec.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/dds/en/tarspec.htm)

EC – Sanitary, phytosanitary and biotechnology trade issues – Newsletter  
[http://ec.europa.eu/trade/issues/sectoral/agri\\_fish/sps/newsletter.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/trade/issues/sectoral/agri_fish/sps/newsletter.htm)

EC – SPS newsletter

[http://ec.europa.eu/trade/issues/sectoral/agri\\_fish/sps/newsletter.htm](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

<http://madb.europa.eu/sps/index.html>

EC – Sanitary, Phytosanitary (SPS) and Biotechnology Trade Issues Newsletter

[http://ec.europa.eu/trade/issues/sectoral/agri\\_fish/sps/newsletter.htm](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](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](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](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](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](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](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](http://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/whatis_e/tif_e/agrm4_e.htm)

### 7.2.2 Others

	<b>related activities</b>	<b>of special interest</b>	<b>URL</b>
<b>CAC</b> Codex Alimentarius Commission	development of international standards for consumer health protection	WTO reference standards	<a href="http://www.codexalimentarius.net/web/index_en.jsp">http://www.codexalimentarius.net/web/index_en.jsp</a>
<b>CEN</b> European Committee for Standardisation	EU Standards Organization	EU standards related to food processing	<a href="http://www.cenorm.be/cenorm/index.htm">http://www.cenorm.be/cenorm/index.htm</a>
<b>FAO</b> Food and Agriculture Organization	UN organization for food and agriculture related issues	FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission	<a href="http://www.fao.org/">http://www.fao.org/</a>
<b>ILO</b> International Labour Organization	standards and fundamental principles and rights at work	labour standards	<a href="http://www.ilo.org/public/english/standards/index.htm">http://www.ilo.org/public/english/standards/index.htm</a>
<b>IPPC</b> International Plant Protection Convention	global instrument for harmonizing phytosanitary measures	WTO reference standards	<a href="https://www.ippc.int/">https://www.ippc.int/</a>
<b>ISO</b> International Organization for Standardisation	reference framework agreed between suppliers and customers worldwide	voluntary standards; partly adopted in national legislation	<a href="http://www.iso.org">http://www.iso.org</a>

<b>OECD</b> Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development	promotion of democratic government and the market economy	promote standards for national regulatory frameworks	<a href="http://www.oecd.org">http://www.oecd.org</a>
<b>OIE</b> World Organization for Animal Health	global instrument for harmonizing animal health issues	WTO reference standards	<a href="http://www.oie.int">http://www.oie.int</a>
<b>UN/ECE</b> United Nations Economic Commission for Europe	facilitation of fair international trade	voluntary multilateral standards; basis for inter-/national standards	<a href="http://www.unece.org">http://www.unece.org</a>
<b>WHO</b> World Health Organization	UN specialized agency for health	FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission	<a href="http://www.who.org">http://www.who.org</a>

## 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](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

[http://agritrade.cta.int/en/commodities/fruit\\_and\\_vegetable\\_sector/executive\\_brief](http://agritrade.cta.int/en/commodities/fruit_and_vegetable_sector/executive_brief)

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](http://agritrade.cta.int/en/key_topics/wto_agreement_on_agriculture)

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

[http://www.fao.org/ag/agn/food/quality\\_en.stm](http://www.fao.org/ag/agn/food/quality_en.stm)

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/>

RSSL (Reading Scientific Services Limited) – Food e-news

<http://www.rssl.com/OurServices/FoodENews/>

### 7.4 Private Standards

	related activities	of special interest	URL
<b>BRC</b> British Retail Consortium	specification of food safety and quality standards by UK retailers	third party certification	<a href="http://www.brc.org.uk">http://www.brc.org.uk</a>
<b>EFSIS</b> European Food Safety Inspection Service	third party independent standard	standard closely corresponds to the BRC standard	<a href="http://www.efsis.com/">http://www.efsis.com/</a>
<b>EurepGAP</b>	GAP framework for existing Farm Assurance Schemes and standards	benchmarking/ certification	<a href="http://www.eurepgap.org">http://www.eurepgap.org</a>
<b>GFSI</b> Global Food Safety Initiative	approach towards harmonization of private standards	benchmarking of private standards	<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>
<b>IAF</b> International Accreditation Forum, Inc.	world association of Conformity Assessment Accreditation Bodies	guidance documents related to accreditation	<a href="http://www.iaf.nu/">http://www.iaf.nu/</a>
<b>IFOAM</b> International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements	broad based constituency committed to develop organic agriculture worldwide	standards and certification	<a href="http://www.ifoam.org/">http://www.ifoam.org/</a>
<b>IFS</b> International Food Standard	joint standard of German retailers	private standards for the processing industry	<a href="http://www.food-care.info/">http://www.food-care.info/</a>
<b>QS</b> Qualitaet und Sicherheit (Quality and Safety)	German private initiative meeting public requirements	private standards for meat; fruit & vegetables in preparation	<a href="http://www.q-s.info/">http://www.q-s.info/</a>
<b>SCV</b> Stichting Certificatie Voedselveiligheid	standard established by the National Board of Experts – HACCP, Netherlands	focus on GMP and GHP requirements	<a href="http://www.foodsafetymanagement.info/net-book.php">http://www.foodsafetymanagement.info/net-book.php</a>
<b>SQF</b> Safe Quality Food	whole chain approach initiated by SGS international	HACCP-based food safety and quality risk management system	<a href="http://www.sqfi.com/">http://www.sqfi.com/</a>



## 7.5 Research, Consultancy, Training

	related activities	of special interest	URL
<b>CCFRA</b> Campden & Chorleywood Food Research Association	UK – research, publications, training (food law, HACCP, GMP etc.)	codes, quality specification guidelines for specific products etc.	<a href="http://www.campden.co.uk">http://www.campden.co.uk</a>
<b>DIL</b> Deutsches Institut fuer Lebensmitteltechnik e.V.	Germany – applied research, training, business solutions and advice	technology development, HACCP concepts etc.	<a href="http://www.dil-ev.de/">http://www.dil-ev.de/</a>
<b>Leatherwood Food RA</b>	UK – food safety related issues	training (short courses and studies)	<a href="http://www.lfra.co.uk">http://www.lfra.co.uk</a> <a href="http://www.foodlineweb.com">http://www.foodlineweb.com</a>
<b>RSSL</b> Reading Scientific Services Limited	UK – research and technology solutions as well as consultancy and training for the food industry	training courses for the food industry	<a href="http://www.rssl.com/ourservices/Training/">http://www.rssl.com/ourservices/Training/</a>
<b>JIFSAN</b> Joint Institute for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition	USA – joint initiative of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the University of Maryland	International Training Center; GAP manual	<a href="http://www.jifsan.umd.edu/">http://www.jifsan.umd.edu/</a> <a href="http://www.jifsan.umd.edu/itc.htm">http://www.jifsan.umd.edu/itc.htm</a> <a href="http://www.jifsan.umd.edu/PDFs/GAPS_English/english.pdf">http://www.jifsan.umd.edu/PDFs/GAPS_English/english.pdf</a>

## 7.6 Associations

	related activities	of special interest	URL
<b>CIAA</b> Confederation of the Food and Drink Industries in the EU	representation of and services for the EU food and drink industry	partnership; exchange of experiences; EU food law up-date	<a href="http://www.ciaa.be">http://www.ciaa.be</a>
<b>DFHV</b> Deutscher Fruchthandels- verband (German Association of Fresh Produce Trade)	representation of and services for the German fruit & vegetable trade	partnership; exchange of experiences; 4fresh – quality assurance from farm to fork	<a href="http://www.dfhv.de">http://www.dfhv.de</a> <a href="http://www.4fresh.org/">http://www.4fresh.org/</a>
<b>Freshfel Europe</b> the Forum for the European Fresh Produce Industry	representation of and services for the European fruit & vegetable trade	partnership; exchange of experiences; fresh quality guide	<a href="http://www.freshfel.org">http://www.freshfel.org</a> <a href="http://www.freshquality.org/">http://www.freshquality.org/</a>
<b>OEITFL</b> Organisation of European Industries Transforming Fruit and Vegetables	representation of and services for the European fruit and vegetable processing industry	partnership; exchange of experiences; codes of practices	<a href="http://www.oeitfl.org/">http://www.oeitfl.org/</a>

## 7.7 Technical assistance

	related activities	of special interest	URL
<b>CBI</b> Centre for the Promotion of Imports from Developing Countries	market information; company matching; export marketing training; development of business support organisations	exporters in selected countries in Asia, Africa, Latin America and Europe (Balkan) are eligible	<a href="http://www.cbi.nl/">http://www.cbi.nl/</a>



<b>DFID/IIED/NRI</b> 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”	<a href="http://www.agrifoodstandards.net/">http://www.agrifoodstandards.net/</a>
<b>GTZ</b> 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	<a href="http://www.gtz.de/en/themen/laendliche-entwicklung/12786.htm">http://www.gtz.de/en/themen/laendliche-entwicklung/12786.htm</a>
<b>ITC</b> 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	<a href="http://www.intracen.org/eqm/">http://www.intracen.org/eqm/</a>
<b>STDF</b> Standards and Trade Development Facility  joint initiative of: WTO, WHO, World Bank, OIE, FAO	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	<a href="http://www.standardsfacility.org">http://www.standardsfacility.org</a>
<b>UNCTAD</b> 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)	<a href="http://www.unctad.org/trade_env/projectCTF.asp">http://www.unctad.org/trade_env/projectCTF.asp</a>
<b>UNIDO</b> 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	<a href="http://www.unido.org/doc/25409">http://www.unido.org/doc/25409</a>
<b>World Bank</b>	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	<a href="http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/TOPICS/TRADE/0,,contentMDK:20629901~menuPK:222955~pagePK:148956~piPK:216618~theSitePK:239071,00.html">http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/TOPICS/TRADE/0,,contentMDK:20629901~menuPK:222955~pagePK:148956~piPK:216618~theSitePK:239071,00.html</a>