

Food Safety and Problems Associated With Food Trade



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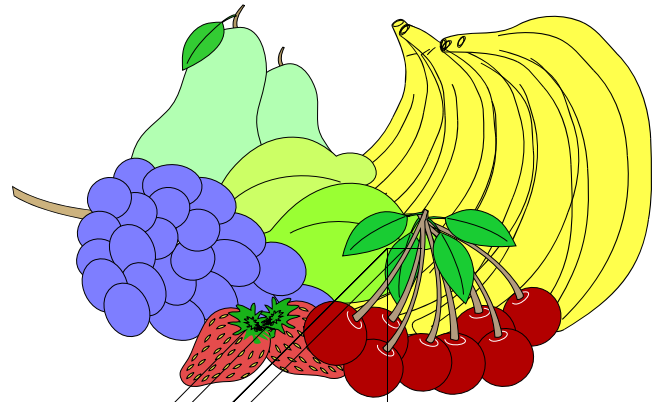
Food Trade

- It is estimated that around 500 million metric tons of food stuffs are traded internationally, with estimated value of 400 billion U.S. Dollars.



The GCC Countries and Food Trade

- **GCC countries import enormous quantities of all sorts of foods from all over the world.**



What is Food Safety?

- **Food Safety is a method for monitoring all types of foods to ensure they are:**
- **Safe**
- **Wholesome**
- **Packaged and labeled correctly.**



Why Food Safety Is Important?

- **Presence of contaminants.**
- **Food-borne illnesses.**
- **New technologies (biotechnology, irradiation of foods).**
- **Movement of people and change in consumption patterns.**
- **Trade of live animals and food products across the globe.**



Typical Problems Related to Imported Food Products 1

- Presence of microbial contaminants.
- Presence of heavy metals in certain foods.
- Contamination of fruits and vegetables with pesticides.
- Presence of mycotoxins in pistachio, peanuts.



More Problems Related to Imported Food Products 2

- Physical changes.
- Improper labeling
- Incomplete documents



What is Required From The Food Authorities?

- **Commitments to ensuring that food imported, or produced in the GCC countries are safe and of high quality. Imported, in farms and throughout the agricultural food chain.**



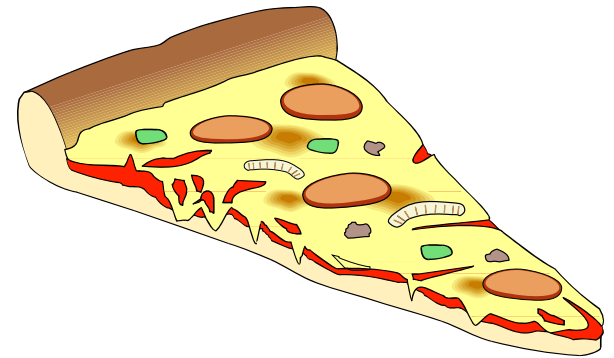
The Role of the Responsible Authorities 1

- Inspect imported foods and food premises.
- Implement National and International laws and regulations
- Evaluate the safety of food and additives.



The Role of the Responsible Authorities 2

- Develop standards, guidelines and hygiene requirements
- Establish and monitor GMP.
- Recommend, evaluate and monitor HACCP.



The Role of the Responsible Authorities 3

- Work with merchants, and manufacturers to recall unsafe food
- Inspect meat and poultry slaughter and processing plants
- Educate food workers, industry and consumers.



The Role of the Responsible Authorities 4

- Work with concerned agencies to revise, update and implement food safety standards.
- Stop the sale of unsafe food products made or distributed within or outside the GCC countries.



More important Points to Consider 1

- The owner or person in charge of a place shall give the inspectors all reasonable assistance and furnish them with any information they may require.



More important Points to Consider 2

- No one shall obstruct or hinder, or knowingly make any false or misleading statement either orally or in writing to the inspectors while the inspectors are engaged in carrying out their duties.



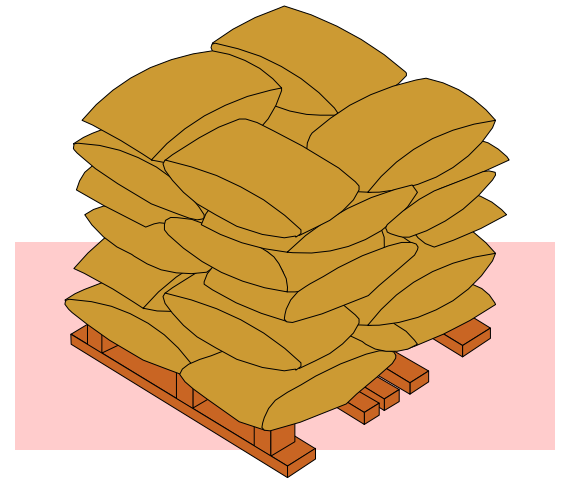
More important Points to Consider 3

- No one shall remove, alter or interfere in any way with anything seized by inspectors.



More important Points to Consider 4

- Any food seized by inspectors, must be kept or stored in the place where it was seized or, at the direction of the inspectors.



More important Points to Consider 5

- Inspectors who have seized any food, shall release it when they are satisfied that all the provisions and regulation have been fulfilled, and the particular food is safe for consumption.



More important Points to Consider 6

- The owner is responsible to return the detained imported foods to the country of origin, or may be destroyed as the concerned authority may direct.



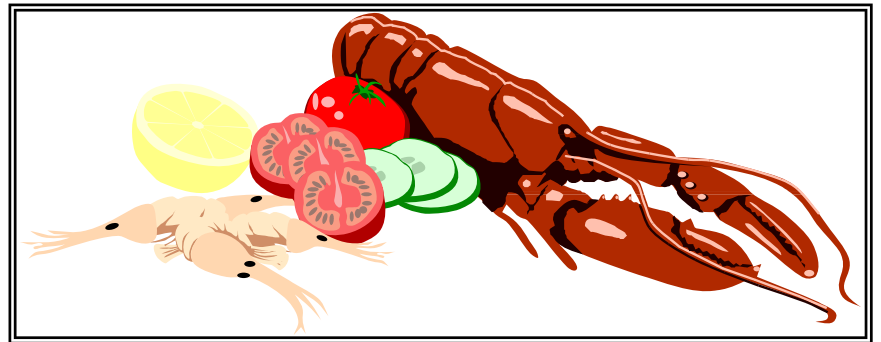
The World Trade Organization and Food Trade

- Every member country is obliged to fulfill international trade requirements which are listed as Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures.



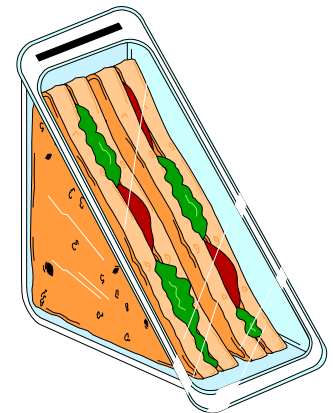
WTO and The SPS

- The SPS agreement clarifies the basic roles for food safety and animal and plant health.



The SPS Requirements

- It allows countries to use their own standards, provided that these standards and regulations are based on science, and only applied to the extent necessary to protect human, animal, or plant life or health.



The Most Favored Nations

- The SPS measures should not discriminate between countries where identical or similar conditions prevail.



Export Requirements 1

- The processing and manufacturing plants must be licensed and approved by concerned authorities.
- Strict hygiene measures must be followed throughout the processing stages..



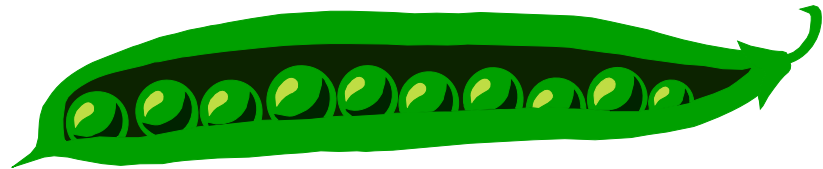
Export Requirements 2

- Follow international standards and
- recognize particular countries restriction for all kinds of food additives, raw materials.
- Use only safe and permissible food ingredients and additives.
- Use only foods that are culturally, religiously acceptable.



Export Requirements 3

- Recognize any restriction imposed by a country before exporting any food product.



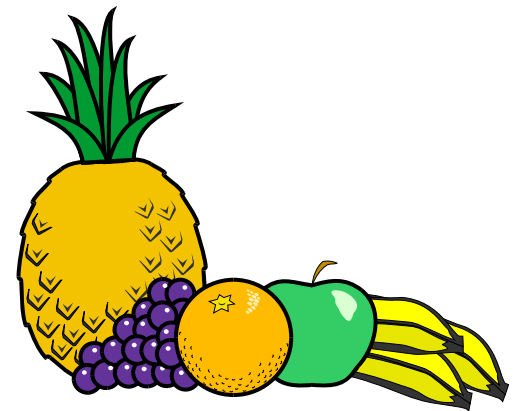
Export Requirements 4

- Samples for laboratory analysis must be withdrawn periodically to test for contamination and quality. All results must be recovered and documented for at least one year to refer to when required.



Future Considerations 1

- Authorities must work with foreign governments to ensure the safety of imported food products.
- Make sure all foreign food processing plants exporting to this region meet national and international standards, through bilateral and multilateral collaboration.



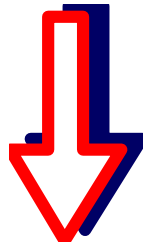
Future Considerations 2

- Increase coordination and communication between merchants and food authorities to ensure: importing safe food, improving transportation, storage, display, etc



Future Considerations 3

- **Food merchants and workers occupy a significant part in food safety.**



Empowerment



Future Considerations 4

- Also empower food merchants and increase their awareness in the WTO requirements, and the national and international standards to meet the health requirements of local markets and importing countries.



Future Considerations 5

- Strengthen and empower food officials in risk assessment, advance food control procedures such as HACCP to determine the level of protection required.



Future Considerations 6

- Improve capacities and laboratory technical abilities within the GCC countries to meet the ever increasing demand placed on Food Safety.



Future Considerations 7

Collaborate with food merchants in:

- Planning for emerging food related threats.
- Establishing and improving the food recall system.
- Developing, and updating new policies, procedures and standards.



Future Considerations 8

- Data sharing between concerned government and non government agencies to ensure that a clear legal policy is adopted.



Future Considerations 9

- Establish conformity assessment scheme for the GCC countries.
- Secure technical assistance to improve food safety and market access.



Officials and Community Mobilization

- **Work with food producers, food workers and the consumers to strengthen food safety measures that includes producing safe and quality foods, enable the tracing of food products back to the source, and share vital information.**



Thank you For Your Attention

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