

# Explanation of the Labelling of Fruit, Vegetables, Potatoes as QS products



Stand: 01.01.2024

## Example Company

Example Company | Any Street 1 | 12345 Any City

Any Customer  
Any Street 123  
12345 Any Town

Delivery-ID.: 1234  
Customer-ID.: 5678  
Order-No.: 01010  
Date: 01/01/2015

### Delivery Note

We thank you for the excellent cooperation and deliver as agreed following goods:

Pos.	Art-No.	Description	Amount	Unit	Price/Unit (€)
	1234-567	Cocktail Tomato (QS)	1,00	Kg	0
	76-543	Cucumber	1,00	Kg	
	56-789	Radicchio	1,00	Kg	
		Shipping and packaging			



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# 1 Scope

This supporting document serves QS scheme participants as well as auditors in the implementation/checking of requirements regarding the labelling of QS produce on the following stages:

- Stage Production Fruit, Vegetables, Potatoes  
(**Note:** also relevant for producers participating in the QS scheme via a recognized certificate (e.g. GLOB-ALG.A.P., AMAG.A.P., Vegaplan))
- Stage Wholesale Fruit, Vegetables, Potatoes
- Stage Preparation/Processing Fruit, Vegetables, Potatoes
- Stage Food Retail Fruit, Vegetables, Potatoes

## 1.1 Definition of QS produce

QS produce is defined as produce that is produced resp. marketed/handled in accordance with the requirements of the QS scheme only by companies with QS eligibility of delivery. QS produce is clearly<sup>1</sup> labelled as QS produce in the accompanying documents.

The eligibility of delivery for the QS scheme can be checked, inter alia, via the public scheme participant search:

<https://www.q-s.de/softwareplattform/en/?lang=gb>

# 2 Labelling of QS produce

In the QS scheme the following issues are differentiated:

- QS labelling in the accompanying documents  
The QS labelling in the accompanying documents serves the identification of the goods and to ensure traceability. The labelling may take place
  - by use of the addition “QS” (→ chapter 3.1) or
  - by use of general regulations/use of synonyms (→ chapter 3.2)
- Labelling on the product label/packaging  
By using the QS certification mark, QS produce can be marked as such.

At all times a clear assignment between QS produce and the respective accompanying documents must be possible.

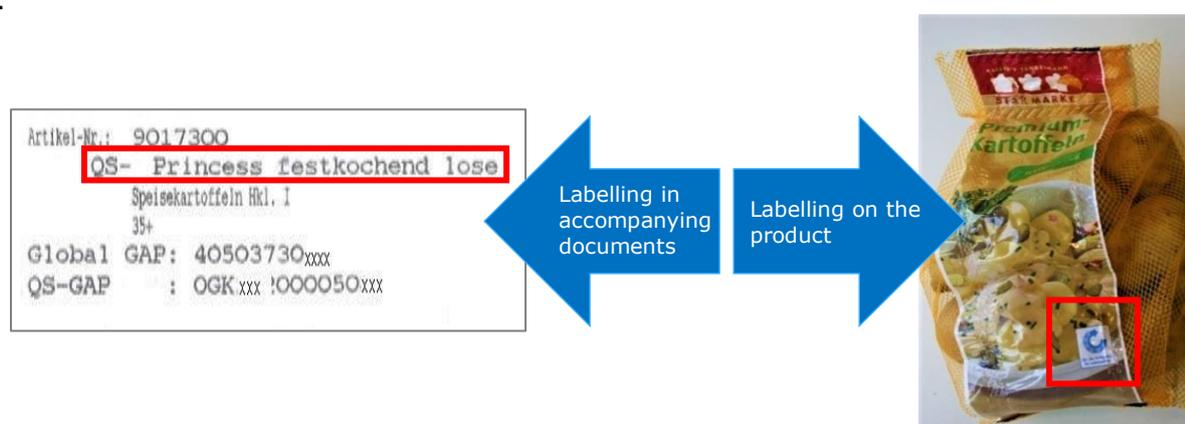


Figure 1: Example for the QS labelling on a accompanying document and the product label/packaging

<sup>1</sup> Exception: Labelling by general regulations/use of synonyms □ chapter 3.2

The QS certification mark may only be used according to the QS style guide (appendix 5.3 of the Guideline General Regulations).



Besides the illustration on the packaging, the QS certification mark can also be used for advertising purposes on the letterhead, on promotional material and websites. You can find more information about this in the style guide for the QS certification mark.

## 2.1 Labelling of QS produce at the stage production

Producers participating in the QS scheme can market their produce as QS produce. Prerequisite is that the respective producer is eligible to deliver for the relevant crop respectively production scope. This also applies to eligible producers participating in the QS scheme via a recognized certificate.

There are following marketing alternatives:

- Marketing alternative 1: Marketing as QS produce **with** use of the QS certification mark on the product label/packaging
  - The produce must be labelled as “QS” in the accompanying documents.
  - The produce may only be marketed/delivered to QS scheme participants.
- Marketing alternative 2: Marketing as QS produce **without** use of the QS certification mark on the product label/packaging
  - The produce must be labelled as “QS” in the accompanying documents.
  - The produce may be marketed/delivered to both QS scheme participants and non-QS scheme participants.  
If the produce is marketed/delivered to non-QS scheme participants, the labelling in the accompanying documents becomes meaningless.
- Marketing alternative 3: Marketing as non-QS produce
  - The produce must neither be marked as QS produce in the accompanying documents, nor may the QS certification mark be used on the label/packaging.
  - The produce may be marketed/delivered to both QS scheme participants and non-QS scheme participants.

**Important for producers purchasing goods from third parties!** Produce that is purchased as non-QS produce may not be marketed as QS produce under any circumstances (→ no labelling in the accompanying documents, no use of the QS certification mark)!

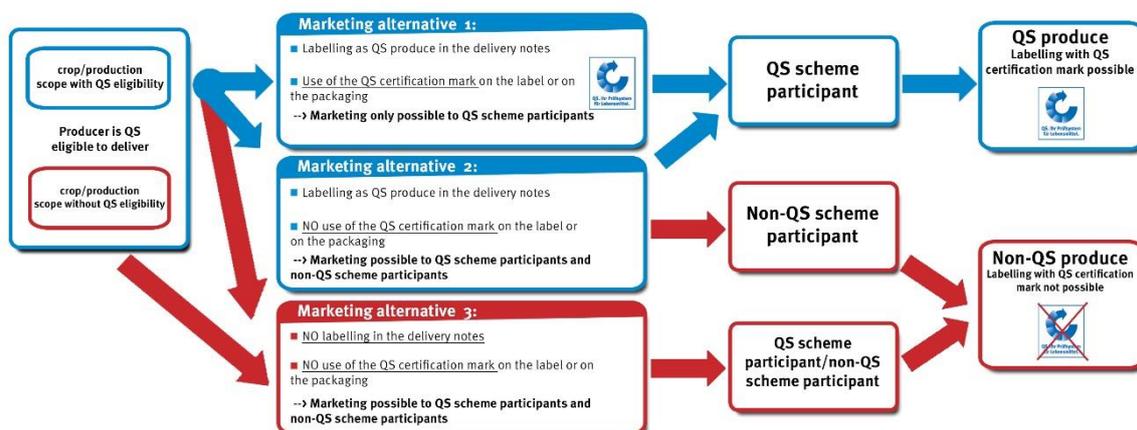


Figure 2: Marketing alternatives at the stage production

(Note: enlarged figure on page 10)

## 2.2 Labelling of QS produce at the stages wholesale and preparation/ processing

Wholesalers and preparation/processing companies that are eligible to deliver into the QS scheme have the possibility to market purchased QS produce as QS produce to their recipients/resellers.

There are following marketing alternatives:

- Marketing alternative 1: Marketing as QS produce **with** use of the QS certification mark on the product label/packaging
  - The produce must be labelled as “QS” in the accompanying documents.
  - The produce may only be marketed/delivered to QS scheme participants with eligibility of delivery.
- Marketing alternative 2: Marketing as QS produce **without** use of the QS certification mark on the product label/packaging
  - The produce must be labelled as “QS” in the accompanying documents.
  - The produce may be marketed/delivered to both QS scheme participants and non-QS scheme participants.

If the produce is marketed/delivered to non-QS scheme participants, the labelling in the accompanying documents becomes meaningless.
- Marketing alternative 3: Marketing as non-QS produce
  - The produce must neither be marked as QS produce in the accompanying documents, nor may the QS certification mark be used on the label/packaging.
  - The produce may be marketed/delivered to both QS scheme participants and non-QS scheme participants.

**Important!** Produce that is purchased as non-QS produce may not be marketed as QS produce under any circumstances (→ no labelling in the accompanying documents, no use of the QS certification mark)!



Figure 3: Marketing alternatives for wholesalers and preparation/processing companies  
(Note: enlarged figure on page 11)

### 3 Labelling options for QS produce in the accompanying documents

#### 3.1 Addition "QS"/explanatory note on the accompanying documents

QS goods are usually labelled with the addition "QS" in the accompanying documents (generally delivery notes or delivery notifications via EDI, or alternatively weighing slips) either on the article/article item (e.g.: Apples (QS), QS Apples) or with an explanatory note (e.g. "all goods are QS goods", "all apples are QS goods", "DE = QS goods"): Apples (QS), QS apples) or by an explanatory note (e.g.: "All items are QS goods", "All apples are QS goods", "DE = QS").

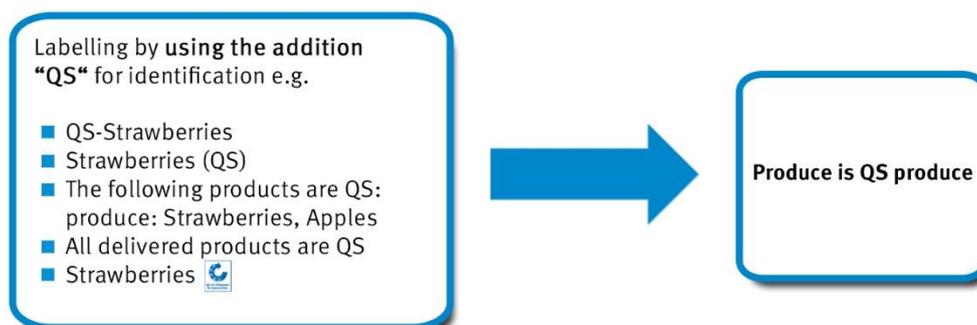


Figure 4: Examples of labelling options of QS produce in the accompanying documents

#### Negative examples

The following labelling options are **NOT SUFFICIENT** to mark QS produce as such in the accompanying documents:

- QS certification mark in the header or footer
- QS ID or QS location number of the producer/wholesaler in the header/footer of the accompanying documents or on the article description
- Mentioning a GGN/GLN of the producer/wholesaler
- Referencing that the goods are GLOBALG.A.P. goods
- Referencing to certification status:
  - "All items originate from QS/QS-GAP certified farms"
  - "All items originate from farms certified to the GLOBALG.A.P. standard or a standard recognised by GLOBALG.A.P."
  - "Our farm is QS certified."

### Digital accompanying documents

Digital solutions can also be used as an alternative to the usual physical accompanying documents. If the supplier and recipient of the QS goods use corresponding merchandise management systems, the QS goods can also be labelled digitally.

The prerequisite is that all QS requirements are met, for example:

- QS produce must be clearly marked as such.
- It must be possible at all times to clearly assign QS produce to the corresponding accompanying documents.
- QS produce can be clearly identified as such - also in the incoming/outgoing goods inspection.
- The procedure for QS labelling must be known to the responsible employees who work with the products.
- The labelling and registration system must ensure clear identification of the goods and traceability and plausibility of the flow of goods at all times.
- The digital goods accompanying documents must be retrievable at any time and comprehensible to third parties.

### 3.2 General Regulations/use of synonyms

General regulations or synonyms may be used on basis of definite agreements between the involved companies (e.g. suppliers, customers).

Prerequisites are:

1. An agreement on the arrangement must be made. The agreement is described in the quality management handbooks or other documents of the involved companies.
2. The agreement must be known by all responsible employees of the involved companies.

The agreement must be transparent so that it is clearly comprehensible for third parties (e.g. auditors).

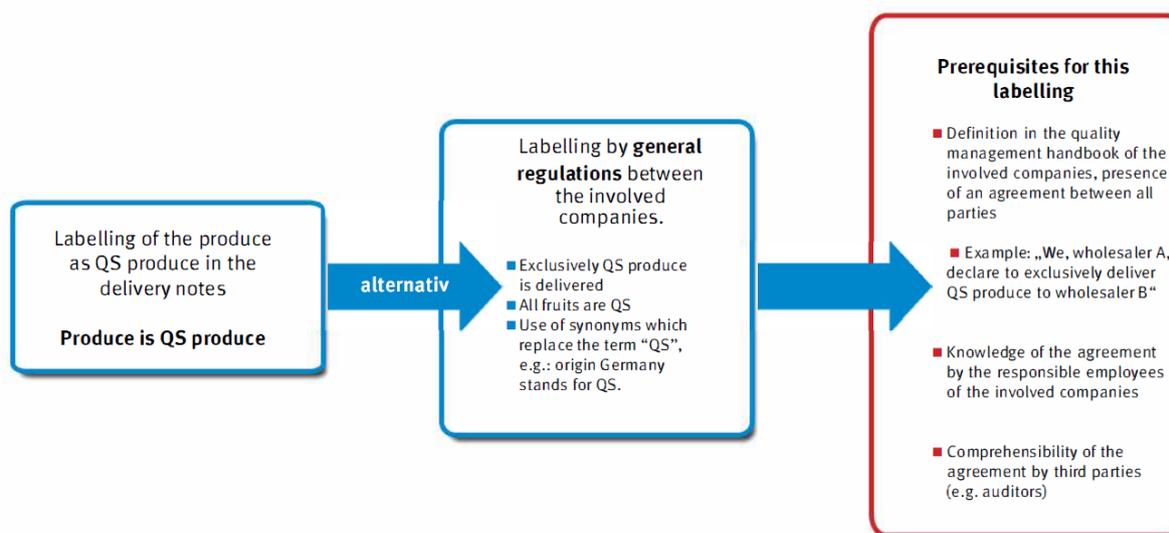


Figure 5: Alternative labelling options of QS produce due to general regulations/use of synonyms.

*Note: For the marketing of QS goods between scheme participants at the wholesale and/or preparation/processing stages, the possibility of using general regulations only applies until 31.12.2025.*

## 4 Other QS specific requirements for the labelling of QS produce

All self-placed information indicated on the label must be correct. In addition, the following aspects must be considered:

- Labelling of QS produce with an identification number (→ chapter 4.1)
- Use of the QS certification mark on goods from producers with GLOBALG.A.P. Option 2/Option 1 with QMS certificate (→ chapter 4.2)

- Use of the QS certification mark in food retail stores (→ chapter 4.3)

#### 4.1 Labelling of QS produce with an identification number

QS produce must be labelled with the OGK number or another in the QS database deposited identification number of the producer (e.g. GGN, GLN) in the accompanying documents or on the label of the goods (or box label).

In the case of batches which may contain goods from several producers due to mixing as a result of bulk goods storage or technical packaging or treatment processes (e.g. sorting system) and in the case of packed goods which contain goods from several producers, the QS-ID, the GH number or another in the QS database deposited identification number (e.g. the GGN, GLN) of the packing location can be used alternatively.

**Note:**

- Labelling producers: If not the OGK number or QS ID but another identification number (e.g. GGN or GLN) is used, it must be ensured that this number is deposited in the QS database as an identification number for the corresponding producer location.
- Labelling packing locations: If another identification number (e.g. GGN or GLN) is used instead of the GH number or QS-ID, it must be ensured that this number is deposited in the QS database as an identification number for the corresponding packing location.

#### 4.2 Use of the QS Certification Mark on Goods from producers with GLOBALG.A.P. Option 2/Option 1 with QMS certificate

Goods from producers with GLOBALG.A.P. Option 2 certificate or GLOBALG.A.P. Option 1 multisite with QMS certificate may only be labelled with the QS certification mark if producers are entitled to do so. Producers that are not entitled to use the QS certification mark are clearly indicated in the QS scheme participant search:

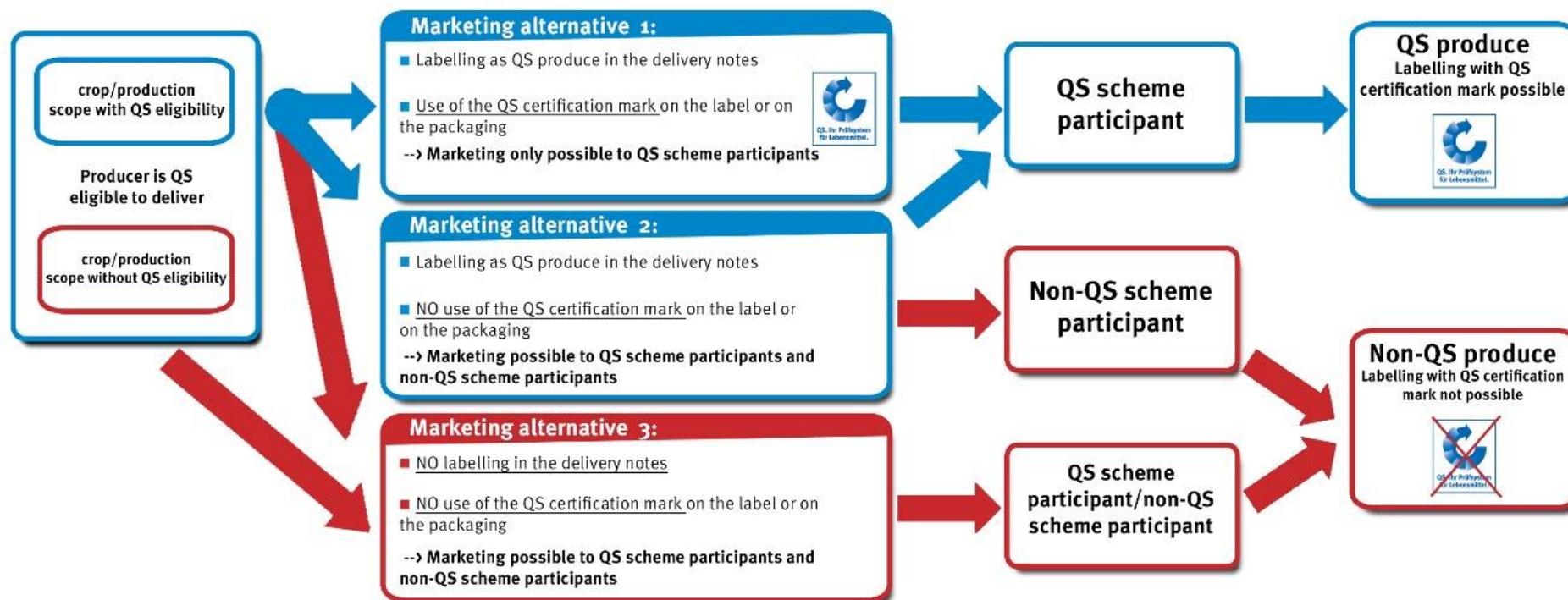
Location number	Approved production scope	product(s)	QS-ID	Scheme participant	Certification scheme	Identification number
		watermelon scarole (radicchio, endivie, ...) chard spinach white cabbage savoy cabbage mizuna (leaves and sprouts of brassica spp)			GLOBALG.A.P. Option 2 No use of the QS certification mark	

Figure 6: Indication of producers in the QS database that are not entitled to use the QS certification mark

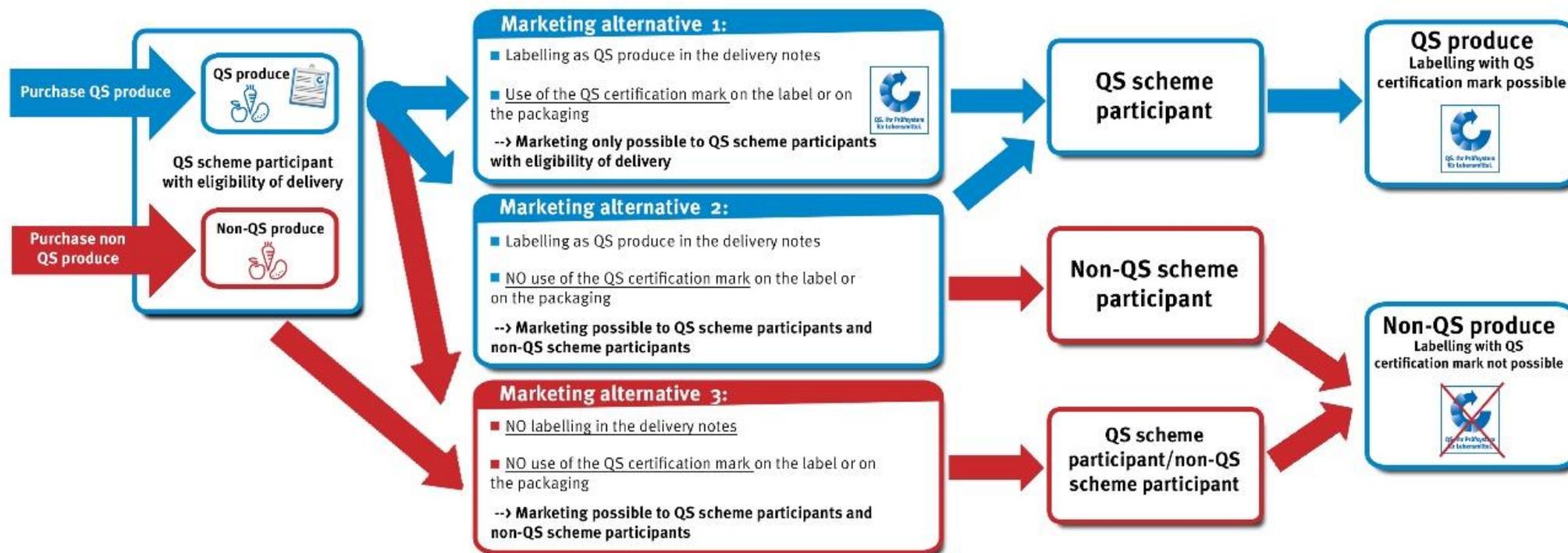
#### 4.3 Use of the QS certification mark in food retail stores

The QS certification mark can be displayed with reference to the goods on the price tag, on posters and brochures, at the service counter or directly on the goods. If the QS certification mark is displayed on the price tag, on posters and brochures or on the service counter etc., it must also be placed directly on the goods or on the box label/packaging.

## Marketing alternatives at the stage production



## Marketing alternatives at the stages wholesale and preparation/processing





## **Explanation of the Labelling of Fruit, Vegetables, Potatoes as QS products**

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