

# Every participant delivers quality Storage and transport of fruits and vegetables in the QS scheme



**T**he quality and safety of fruits and vegetables must not only be ensured during production, but also in the wholesale phase, during the tasks of conditioning and storage of the produce, as well as along the transportation routes between stations. Every scheme participant must be able to rely on each other – across national borders. The German quality standard QS stands for certified quality assurance of fresh fruits and vegetables – from the farm, throughout the wholesale and transport stages, until the shop.

Nearly 850 wholesalers and 370 logistics companies are eligible to deliver in the QS scheme, of which around 35 percent are outside Germany. The QS certificate allows the wholesale and logistics companies to communicate to their clients that they are being controlled by independent organisations and are well positioned in terms of storage, hygiene, transportation and product traceability. This strengthens the confidence of the partners along the supply chain.

**WHOLESALE OF FRUIT, VEGETABLE AND POTATOES**  
All companies manipulating, storing, conditioning (eg packaging) and/or transporting fresh, prepared or processed fruits and vegetables are considered as wholesal-

ers by QS. As part of the QS scheme, they ensure that fruit and vegetables are brought from the producer to the retailer and remain safe and fresh.

QS supports them in their everyday work with practical requirements for quality assurance, compiled in its Wholesale Guidelines. Correct storage, transport that takes into account special product conditions, as well as documentation of the different process steps all have the highest priority. In this way, the accompanying documents make it possible to trace back to which company produced every product. With the application of QS residue monitoring, it is also possible for wholesalers to ensure that their products are tested by independent laboratories. On this basis, QS certification allows them to demonstrate to their clients verified production and commercialisation processes.

## STEPS FOR THE PARTICIPATION OF WHOLESALE COMPANIES IN THE QS SCHEME:

1. Registration in the QS databa at [www.q-s.de/en](http://www.q-s.de/en)
2. Selection of certification body that will arrange participation in the QS scheme
3. The certification body conducts an independent audit
4. Signature of the scheme agreement

## HIGHEST FLEXIBILITY FOR LOGISTICS COMPANIES

If logistics service providers regularly transport or store QS produce, they also need to participate in the QS scheme. The focus of the QS requirements lies on hygiene and traceability. Smaller companies in particular benefit from a catalogue of streamlined and practical requirements called QS Guideline Logistic.

Full recognition of the IFS Logistics audit means no additional effort is required from companies that already have such a certificate. Companies with an IFS logistics certificate can participate in the QS scheme without additional certification. As of 1 January 2019, the IFS Food and IFS Cash&Carry/Wholesale standards will also be recognised for logistics involving fruit, vegetables and potatoes.



## STEPS FOR THE PARTICIPATION OF LOGISTICS COMPANIES IN THE QS SCHEME:

1. Registration in the QS database at [www.q-s.de/en](http://www.q-s.de/en)
2. Selection of certification scheme and certification body, which will arrange participation in the QS scheme
3. Signature of the declaration of participation and power of attorney
4. **a—For logistics companies with IFS certification: the certification body enters the validity of the certificate in the database**  
**b—For logistics companies without IFS certification: the certification body conducts an independent audit**

As soon as these steps are completed, and all necessary conditions are met, the logistics company appears in the QS database as a scheme participant with eligibility to deliver. ●



## CONTACT PERSONS FOR YOUR QUESTIONS

Do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions about the participation of wholesalers and logistics companies in the QS system:

**Jana Nägler**  
+49 (0) 228 35068-171  
[jana.naegler@q-s.de](mailto:jana.naegler@q-s.de)

**Juliane Weinmann**  
+49 (0) 228 35068-176  
[juliane.weinmann@q-s.de](mailto:juliane.weinmann@q-s.de)

