

# monitoringreport

A PUBLICATION OF QS FACHGESELLSCHAFT OBST-GEMÜSE-KARTOFFELN GMBH AND DFHV DEUTSCHER FRUCHTHANDELSVERBAND E.V.



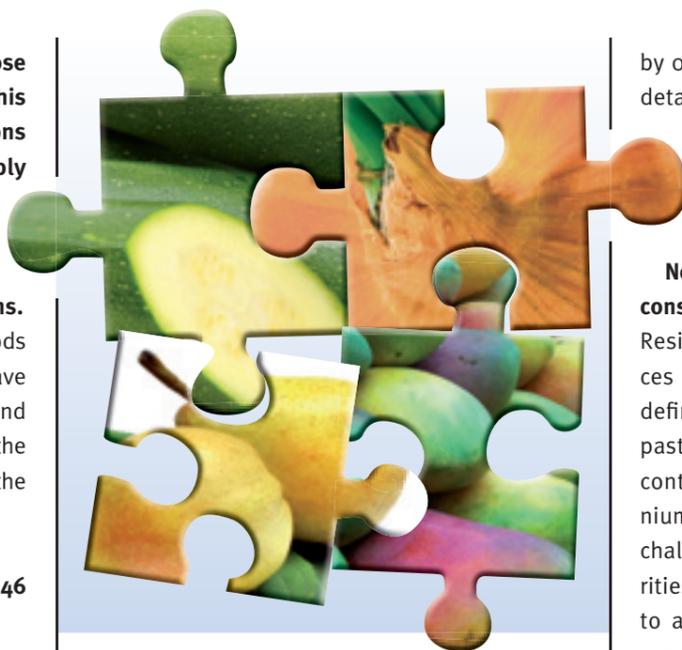
## Cooperation for Safe Food

**Substances that protect plants should not pose any risk to consumers. To make sure that this is the case, comprehensive legal regulations and mandatory maximum residue levels apply in Europe. Adherence is monitored by official controls on foodstuffs, as well as by private sector's residue monitoring programmes and companies' own quality management systems.**

The continuous further development of methods and the seamless interaction of the controls have contributed to the fact that residues in fruit and vegetables have been drastically reduced in the past number of years. This is confirmed by the results of the monitoringreport 2014.

### monitoringreport 2014: Evaluation of 16,446 samples from 65 Countries

Between 1 November 2012 and 31 October 2013, the German Fruit Trade Association (Deutscher Fruchthandelsverband e.V., DFHV) and QS Qualität und Sicherheit GmbH evaluated a total of 16,446 samples. In 40% of the samples, no



residues of plant protection products whatsoever were detected. The maximum residue level was exceeded in just 1.1% of the samples. These figures mean that the rejection rate has decreased

by 0.2% as compared to the previous year. The detailed analysis results for pears, mangos, courgettes and onions also confirm that the residue situation in fruit and vegetables is under control for the most part.

### New active substances pose challenge to consumer protection

Residue problems in the case of active substances for which no maximum level has yet been defined are difficult to predict. In the recent past, the events in connection with possible contamination of food with quaternary ammonium compounds (QAC) and perchlorate posed challenges both to the economy and to authorities. More such challenges can be expected to affect the industry in the future. We asked economic operators and representatives of state institutions what has been achieved in the cooperation between authorities and the economy in the past number of years and where they see potential for improvement.

In the case of QAC and perchlorate, unlike in the case of EHEC, cooperation and the exchange of information between state bodies, economic association and scientific institutions is working. Potential problems have been solved without unsettling consumers. However, at this time, the permanent members of the task force established by the German Federal Ministry for Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection are exclusively representatives of state bodies. From the point of view of the DFHV, to ensure efficient and responsible crisis management, it is absolutely essential that economic associations are also represented. It doesn't make sense to communicate with one another only after a crisis has occurred.



Dieter Krauß  
President of the German Fruit Trade Association e.V. (DFHV)

In the last two years, food monitoring has been increasingly focused on substances such as quaternary ammonium salts (QAC), perchlorate and chlorate. At first, only individual findings came to light which did not allow

conclusions to be drawn on either the possible entry paths or the general prevalence in food. During further clarification, QS and DFHV provided valuable support by collecting a large amount of additional data within a short time and making it available to the authorities for evaluation in a non-bureaucratic manner. In addition to continued good cooperation, our hope for the future is that QS will act even more proactively than before and will, for example, detect and report new residue problems in food even before public authorities do so.



Dr. Britta Michalski  
German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment  
Head of the Residue Assessment of Pesticides and Biocides Unit

Self-assessment systems in companies on the one hand and monitoring by authorities on the other are two sides of the same coin. Their aim is to guarantee the safety of processes and products in the interests of preventative consumer protection. Controls by the economy itself and by public authorities can complement one another, and this should happen in particular when it comes to discovering and evaluating new active substances. The examples of QAC and perchlorate showed that the chosen path of cooperation between economy and the authorities is going in the right direction. It allowed the BfR, on the basis of up-to-date analysis data supplied at short



Ulrich Schopohl  
REWE Group, Head of the Strategic Quality Assurance Department

notice by QS and DFHV, to propose maximum levels with regard to consumer protection. In the future, more use could be made of the "Plant Protection Product Residues in Food" task force of the German Federal Office of Consumer Protection and Food Safety (Bundesamt für Verbraucherschutz und Lebensmittelsicherheit, BVL) in order to enable an even faster and more efficient reaction to new issues and active substance findings. Economic operators and the authorities work together in this task force.

In the past few years, cooperation between the economy and the authorities in the field of food safety has improved immensely thanks to the setup of the "Plant Protection Product Residues in Food" task force at the BVL. This task force makes it possible to detect new risks promptly and discuss possible solutions with known contact partners. These mechanisms were developed in 2012 during handling of the quaternary ammonium compounds (QAC) issue and are now proving useful in dealing with perchlorate.



Dr. Karsten Hohgardt  
German Federal Office of Consumer Protection and Food Safety

However, it should be recognised that the use of chemicals which belong to different areas of law – for example, biocide products and plant protection products in the case of QAC – poses challenges which are not yet met satisfactorily due to differing areas of responsibility with respect to approvals and also, to an extent, with respect to evaluation. This is something that we need to work on together in the future.

### Number of samples per country

EUROPE	13,886
Austria	219
Belarus	3
Belgium	1,103
Bosnia-Herzegovina	1
Cyprus	8
France	173
Germany	8,270
Great Britain	2
Greece	110
Hungary	19
Italy	1,038
Macedonia	1
Netherlands	1,082
Poland	37
Portugal	37
Slovakia	2
Spain	1,778
Sweden	1
Switzerland	2

AFRICA	677
Burkina Faso	3
Central African Republic	1
Egypt	232
Equatorial Guinea	1
Ethiopia	1
Ghana	3
Guinea	2
Ivory Coast	9
Kenya	9
Madagascar	4
Mali	2
Morocco	94
Namibia	5
Senegal	12
South Africa	289
Tanzania	1
Tunisia	3
Zimbabwe	6

ASIA/PACIFIC	538
Australia	5
China	26
India	173
Indonesia	1
Iran	2
Israel	87
Malaysia	6
New Zealand	91
Russia	8
Saudi Arabia	1
Thailand	12
Turkey	124
Vietnam	2

NORTH/SOUTH AMERICA	1,345
Argentina	74
Barbados	1
Brazil	130
Chile	351
Columbia	90
Costa Rica	104
Dominican Republic	6
Ecuador	353
Honduras	2
Mexico	14
Panama	7
Peru	184
Puerto Rico	2
Uruguay	21
USA	6

Total 16,446

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