



Quality Assurance. **From farm to shop.**



Press Release

Monitoringreport Fruit & Vegetables 2017 underlines strong sense of responsibility among producers

QS and DFHV present updated residue monitoring findings at the Fruit Logistica

The new issue of the Monitoringreport Fruit, Vegetables, Potatoes underlines once again the quality of the operations of producers in the QS scheme and of the suppliers to the member companies of the German Fruit Trade Association (DFHV). The residue levels of plant protection products were below the legal limit values in 97 percent of all tested samples. 36.6 percent of samples contained no residues of plant protection products at all – an impressive figure. At the same time, the Monitoringreport also identified potential for improvement in third countries.

For the Monitoringreport 2017, the DFHV and QS evaluated a total of 28,306 samples from 78 countries of origin, thus increasing the testing volume by a further 8.6 percent over the previous year. While 66 percent of all samples came from Europe, 16 percent were from businesses in North and South America, 11 percent from Africa and 7 percent from Asia.

Low level of complaints in Europe

While the complaint rate for products from Germany has fallen once again (from 0.64 to 0.60 percent), complaints in Europe as a whole are on a similarly low level as in the previous year (1.8 percent). The complaint rate for products from non-European countries has increased from 4.8 to 6.7 percent. Exotic products and stone fruit in particular exhibit above-average percentages of substance levels above the legally stipulated limits. Such levels were found, for example, with regard to sulphur dioxide in lychees and phosphonic acid in pomegranates and sweet cherries.

Working together to ensure the sustainable use of plant protection products

The *National Action Plan for the Sustainable Use of Plant Protection Products* aims to further reduce the risks that may arise from the use of plant protection products. In the latest issue of the Monitoringreport, Dr. Wolfgang Zornbach from the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL) and Dr. Hans-Dieter Stallknecht from the Federal Committee on Fruit and Vegetables (BOG) report on the measures that have already been implemented since the plan was introduced in April 2013 and how these measures are taking effect. Their conclusion is that the successes are clear to see. The occurrence of residues of

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QS Fachgesellschaft
Obst-Gemüse-Kartoffeln
GmbH

Schedestraße 1-3
53113 Bonn

Phone +49 (0)228 35068-0
Fax +49 (0)228 35068-10

presse@q-s.de
www.q-s.de



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plant protection products in food exceeding the legal limit values has declined steadily in recent years.

The new Monitoringreport is being published to mark the Fruit Logistica 2017 and is available for download from the websites of QS (www.q-s.de) and the DFHV (www.dfhv.de).

*As the top national organisation within the industry, the **German Fruit Trade Association (DFHV)** represents the interests of companies from all trading areas of the fruit and vegetable sector. The association represents direct marketing, import and export companies, as well as wholesalers and retailers. The vast majority of all sales of fresh fruit and vegetables in Germany are made by DFHV member companies.*

***QS Fachgesellschaft Obst-Gemüse-Kartoffeln GmbH** is the scheme owner and promoter of QS quality assurance with fruit, vegetables and potatoes. The standards defined by QS set clear and verifiable production requirements for all stages of the food supply chain – from producer right through to the food retail. The cross-stage monitoring of these requirements as well as the traceability of agricultural products and goods made from them characterise the QS scheme. More than 29.000 companies in the fruit, vegetables and potatoes supply chain have already chosen to become part of the QS scheme.*

Your contact:

Barbara Wibbe
Deutscher Fruchthandelsverband e.V.
(DFHV)
Bergweg 6
53225 Bonn

Tel +49 (0) 228 911 45-0
Fax +49 (0) 228 911 45-45
E-Mail wibbe@dfhv.de
Internet www.dfhv.de

Caroline Thiesmeier
QS Fachgesellschaft Obst-Gemüse-Kar-
toffeln GmbH
Schedestraße 1 - 3
53113 Bonn

Tel +49 (0) 228 35068-153
Fax +49 (0) 228 35068-16153
E-Mail presse@q-s.de
Internet www.q-s.de