

Food deceptions - standards, legislation and practice

Cornelia ȘULEA

Quality, Food Safety - Lead Auditor SRAC CERT, Bucharest, ROMANIA
cornelia_sulea@yahoo.com

Abstract

The idea of drawing up this work emerged due to the attendance invitation for SRAC CERT to Food Fraud Community of Practice, an initiative accomplished with PriceWaterhouse Coopers and Wageningen University. At that moment, we realised that we, the auditors do not fully understand the concept of Food Fraud and that we are not ready to conduct an audit on this requirement. Therefore I started to study the law, the existing standards, and to read about incorrect practise of companies worldwide. Thus I read in John Spink's book „Food Safety in China: Past, Present and Future” a generous chapter on Food Fraud and the history of food Fraud in China. I have realized the size of the phenomenon worldwide, as of all counterfeit goods, about 10% are food products, and of total merchandised food products, between 1% -3% are counterfeit. This work aims to be an informative material that explain and differentiate related concepts, such as Food Safety, Food Defense and Food Fraud. I extracted from the existing European Union and Romanian Legislation those articles referring to this type of law-breaking. I presented the most frequent and most recent types of fraud in the food branch. I have searched in the quality and food safety standards, for those requirements that explicitly refers to food frauds, or requirements of general standards to which the identified nonconformities of the audits could be enframed and would give evidence of vulnerabilities for the audited organizations. I have proposed several questions for the responsible persons of the organizations, in order to detect possible discrepancies in regard to standards requirements, legal requirements and clients' requirements.

References:

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