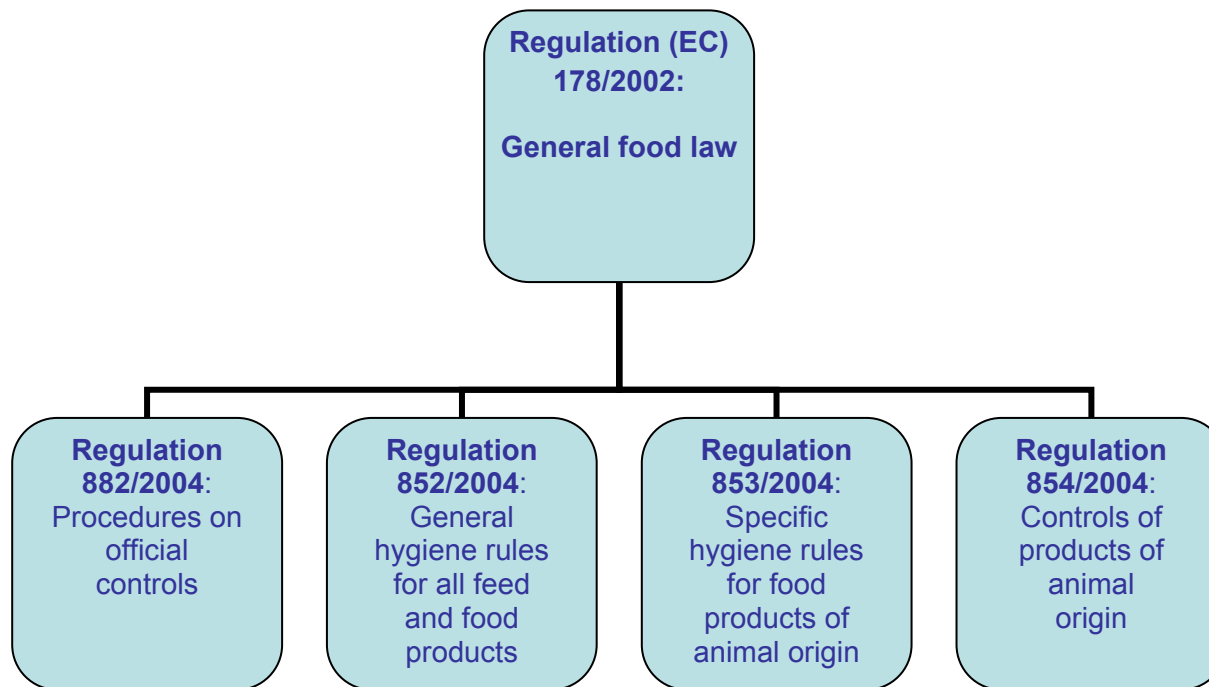


OVERVIEW OF EC LEGISLATION ON FOOD SAFETY

EU legislation concerning food safety is determined by Regulations and is automatically applicable and harmonised in all Member States. Food safety is the key issue in EU food legislation. Food crises in the nineties put safety on the top of the agenda in EU food policies, which lead to a restructuring of EU food legislation.

The General Food Law, Regulation (EC) 178/2002, constitutes the framework of European food law and establishes that all food marketed in the EU must be safe and further lays down requirements on transparency in the food chain. These principles form a horizontal framework, on which other food legislation in the EU is based.

The figure below provides an overview of the structure of EU food safety legislation.



In-depth overview of the EU food safety regulations and other legislation tools adopted since 2000

Year	Category	Title and/or code	Main subject/Description
2000	White Paper on Food Safety		Sets out plans for a proactive new food policy and recommended significant changes to the previous system, including 80 separate actions on legislative and enforcement issues within the overall EU food safety framework.
2000	Council Directive	2000/29/EC	<p>Protective measures against the introduction into the Community of organisms harmful to plants or plant products and against their spread within the Community.</p> <p>Amended by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Directive 2001/33/EC ▶ Directive 2002/89/EC ▶ Directive 2003/116/EC ▶ Regulation 882/2004
2001	Commission Decision	2001/881/EC	List of border inspection posts agreed for veterinary checks on animals and animal products from third countries and updated detailed rules concerning the checks to be carried out by the experts of the Commission.
2001	Commission Regulation	1788/2001	Laying down detailed rules for implementing the provisions concerning the certificate of inspection for imports from third countries under Article 11 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 2092/91 on organic production of agricultural products and indications referring thereto on agricultural products and foodstuffs.
2002	Directive	2002/63/EC	Community methods of sampling for the official control of pesticide residues in and on products of plant and animal origin.
2002	Council Directive	2002/99/EC	Sets out animal health rules governing the production, processing, distribution and introduction of products of animal origin for human consumption.

Year	Category	Title and/or code	Main subject/Description
2002	Regulation of the European Parliament & the Council	178/2002	Known as the General Food law, this regulation constitutes the framework for EU legislation on food safety, establishing General principles of food law and Procedures for food safety ¹ , and creating the <u>European Food Safety Authority (EFSA²)</u> . Article 50 establishes the <u>Rapid Alert System For Food And Feed³ (RASFF)</u> as a network involving the Member States, the Commission and the EFSA. <i>Amended by Regulation (EC) No 1642/2003 & 575/2006.</i>
2003	Commission Regulation	223/2003	Labelling requirements related to the organic production method for feedingstuffs, compound feedingstuffs and feed materials and amending Council Regulation (EEC) No 2092/91.
2003	Regulation of the European Parliament & the Council	1642/2003	Amending Regulation (EC) No 178/2002.
2003	Regulation of the European Parliament & the Council	1882/2003	Amending Council Directive 90/496/EEC of 24 September 1990 on nutrition labelling rules of foodstuffs.
2003	Commission Directive	2003/120/EC	Amending Council Directive 90/496/EEC of 24 September 1990 on nutrition labelling rules of foodstuffs (use of salatrims).
2003	Commission Decision	2003/623/EC	Development of an integrated computerised veterinary system known as TRACES (TRAdE Control and Expert System), a single electronic database for monitoring the movement of animals and certain products of animal origin within the European Union (EU) and from third countries, as well as providing all the reference data

1 The recent food crises have shown that it is necessary to improve the procedures relating to food safety. For this reason, the scope of the rapid alert system was extended to cover animal feed and to identify measures to be taken in emergencies and for crisis management. A **Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health** was also set up to replace the existing committees.

² The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) is the keystone of European Union (EU) risk assessment regarding food and feed safety. In close collaboration with national authorities and in open consultation with its stakeholders, EFSA provides independent scientific advice and clear communication on existing and emerging risks. In 2006, new strategic orientations were set by the Management Board, based on an external evaluation carried out in 2005, and the Stakeholder Consultative Platform, a key pillar of EFSA's policy of openness and transparency, had its mandate extended for a further three years after positive feedback from participants.

³ RASFF is a system which has been in place since 1979 with the objective of providing the control authorities with an effective tool for exchange of information on measures taken to ensure food safety.

Year	Category	Title and/or code	Main subject/Description
			relating to trade in such goods.
2004	Commission Directive	2004/103/EC	Health checks of plants, plant products or other objects, listed in Part B of Annex V to Council Directive 2000/29/EC, which may be carried out at a place other than the point of entry into the Community or at a place close by and specifying the conditions related to these checks.
2004	Commission Directive	2004/105/EC	Models of official phytosanitary certificates or phytosanitary certificates for re-export accompanying plants, plant products or other objects from third countries and listed in Council Directive 2000/29/EC
2004	Commission Decision	2004/478/EC	Adoption of a general plan for food/feed crisis management.
2004	Regulation of the European Parliament & the Council	852/2004	General hygiene rules for all feed and food products. <i>This revision of Community legislation concerns food hygiene rules as contained in Council Directive <u>93/43/EEC</u>, with a view to establishing a comprehensive and integrated policy covering all food from the farm to the point of sale to the consumer</i>
2004	Regulation of the European Parliament & the Council	853/2004	Specific hygiene rules for food products of animal origin.
2004	Regulation of the European Parliament & the Council	854/2004	Specific rules for the organisation of official controls on products of animal origin intended for human consumption. <i>Amended by:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ <i>Regulation (EC) No 882/2004</i> ▶ <i>Regulation (EC) No 2074/2005</i> ▶ <i>Regulation (EC) No 2076/2005</i>
2004	Commission Decision	2004/613/EC	Creation of an advisory group on the food chain and animal and plant health.
2004	Regulation of the European Parliament & the Council	882/2004	The Feed and Food Controls Regulation establishes how official controls of food and feed in the EU are to take place. The requirements of the Regulation entered into force on January 1, 2006 and are expected to introduce a harmonised EU-wide regime for official control of all food and feed imports. The current regime for controls on the imports of products of animal origin remains, but a more harmonised approach to controls on imports of food and

Year	Category	Title and/or code	Main subject/Description
			<p>feed of non-animal origin is introduced with this legislation.</p> <p>The Regulation also provides that the Commission can organise EU level training allowing the national control authorities to have a high level of competence and expertise, as well as to be capable of checking compliance with the legislation. This gave rise to the “Better training for safer food” programme.</p> <p>Amended by: ▶ Commission Regulation (EC) No 776/2006 ▶ Council Regulation (EC) No 1791/2006</p>
2004	Regulation of the European Parliament & the Council	1935/2004	Materials and articles intended to come into contact with food and repealing Directives 80/590/EEC and 89/109/EEC.
2005	Regulation of the European Parliament & the Council	183/2005	Requirements for feed hygiene. In 2006, following the implementation of this Regulation, RASFF’s tasks were expanded to include pet food and animal health issues. This is an important step and will further improve the safety guarantees that the EU seeks to provide throughout the food and feed chain.
2005	Regulation of the European Parliament & the Council	396/2005	Maximum residue levels of pesticides in products of plant and animal origin
2005	Commission Decision	2005/51/EC	Authorising Member States temporarily to provide for derogations from certain provisions of Council Directive 2000/29/EC in respect of the importation of soil contaminated by pesticides or persistent organic pollutants for decontamination purposes.
2005	Commission Decision	2005/432/EC	Laying down the animal and public health conditions and model certificates for imports of meat products for human consumption from third countries and repealing Decisions 97/41/EC, 97/221/EC and 97/222/EC
2005	Commission Regulation	2073/2005	Microbiological criteria for foodstuffs and implementing rules to be complied with by food business operators when implementing the general and specific hygiene measures referred to in Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 852/2004.
2005	Commission	2074/2005	Laying down implementing measures for certain products under Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 and for the organisation of official controls under Regulations (EC) No

Year	Category	Title and/or code	Main subject/Description
	Regulation		854/2004 and No 882/2004, derogating from Regulation (EC) No 852/2004 and amending Regulations (EC) No 853/2004 and No 854/2004.
2005	Commission Regulation	2075/2005	Laying down specific rules on official controls for <i>Trichinella</i> in meat.
2005	Commission Regulation	2076/2005	Laying down transitional measures for the implementation of Regulations (EC) No 853/2004, (EC) No 854/2004 and (EC) No 882/2004 of the European Parliament and the Council and amending Regulations (EC) No 853/2004 and (EC) No 854/2004.
2006	Commission Regulation	178/2006	Amending Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 to establish Annex I listing the food and feed products to which maximum levels for pesticide residues apply
2006	Council Regulation	509/2006	Agricultural products and foodstuffs as traditional specialities guaranteed.
2006	Council Regulation	510/2006	Protection of geographical indications and designations of origin for agricultural products and foodstuffs.
2006	Commission Regulation	575/2006	Amending Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 as regards the number and names of the permanent Scientific Panels of the European Food Safety Authority.
2006	Council Regulation	1791/2006	Adapting certain Regulations and Decisions in the fields of free movement of goods, freedom of movement of persons, company law, competition policy, agriculture (including veterinary and phytosanitary legislation), transport policy, taxation, statistics, energy, environment, cooperation in the fields of justice and home affairs, customs union, external relations, common foreign and security policy and institutions, by reason of the accession of Bulgaria and Romania
2006	Regulation of the European Parliament & the Council	1924/2006	Nutrition and health claims made on foods.
2006	Regulation of the European Parliament & the Council	1925/2006	Addition of vitamins and minerals and of certain other substances to foods.
2006	Regulation	2023/2006	Good manufacturing practice for materials and articles intended to come into contact with food.
2007	Commission Decision	2007/275	Lists of animals and products to be subject to controls at border inspection posts under Council Directives 91/496/EEC and 97/78/EC.

Year	Category	Title and/or code	Main subject/Description
2007	Council Regulation	834/2007	Organic production and labelling of organic products and repealing Regulation (EEC) No 2092/91
2007	Commission Regulation	884/2007	Emergency measures suspending the use of E 128 Red 2G as food colour.

USEFUL LINKS

SUMMARY OF EU LEGISLATION ON FOOD SAFETY

<http://europa.eu/scadplus/leg/en/s80000.htm>

EXPORT HELPDESK

The Export Helpdesk is an online service, provided by the European Commission, to facilitate market access for developing countries to the European Union. This free and user-friendly service provides relevant information required by developing country exporters interested in supplying the EU market.

<http://exporthelp.europa.eu/>

GENERAL GUIDANCE ON EU IMPORT TRANSIT RULES FOR LIVE ANIMALS AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS FROM THIRD COUNTRIES

http://ec.europa.eu/food/international/trade/guide_thirdcountries2006_en.pdf

KEY QUESTIONS RELATED TO IMPORT REQUIREMENTS AND THE NEW RULES ON FOOD HYGIENE AND OFFICIAL FOOD CONTROLS

http://ec.europa.eu/food/international/trade/interpretation_imports.pdf

GUIDANCE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLES 11, 12, 16, 17, 18, 19 AND 20 OF REGULATION (EC) N° 178/2002 ON GENERAL FOOD LAW

http://ec.europa.eu/food/food/foodlaw/guidance/guidance_rev_7_en.pdf