Application and utilisation of certification of the quality management system, environmental management system and HACCP system in the food-processing companies in the Czech Republic.

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Commencement of certification of the system in the Czech Republic

- Milk processors, later others
- They expected competitive advantage by offering quality and safe foodstuffs in supermarkets just being established
- Increasing pressure of supervisory bodies responsible in particular for animal products (GMP, GHP, HACCP)
National rules for the HACCP system

In 1998 executive regulation to implement the HACCP system has been issued with effect from the 1st January 2000

Challenging period - unambiguous methodology was missing - lack of understanding both on the part of supervisory bodies and on the part of producers

In the Czech Republic the quality system in particular in dairy works was traditionally on very good level (e. g. CCP – pasteurisation always monitored)
How did our companies cope with that?

- At that time several dairy works have already been certified according to the ISO 900+ Standard including GMP, GHP, and so they succeeded to integrate the HACCP system into QMS.

- As a problem remained the companies, which have been interesting in quick earnings and in which enforcement of law by supervisory bodies was not consistent.
Who has ultimately profited from that?

- Unfortunately the companies that have not invested very much into the safety system because supermarkets preferred cheap foodstuffs products to more expensive but high-quality foodstuffs products from certified companies.

- Price – the main competitive advantage and not the quality and guarantee of safety
Thus what did it remain for our good companies?

- The product price reduction even though their production expenses have been clearly higher - the profit was lesser

- Further big investment in order to meet rigorous EU legislative requirements prior to the Czech Republic entry into the EU

- Implementation of other systems – in particular ISO 14001 and certification of the HACCP system under pressure of clients primarily from abroad
Attitude of supermarkets?

- Absolute non-recognition of national and international certificates and beginning of pressure for implementation of their own standards, e.g. BRC, IFS, GMP 13 etc.
- Mutual non-recognition of standards such as e.g. BRC and IFS
- Possible distrust could arise from non-implementation of certain GMP, GHP requirements and unambiguous requirements of the HACCP system within the ISO standard
What does it remain for our companies?

- Disgust against arrogance in such cases where requirements for GMP, GHP, HACCP system and other legislative requirements are met
- Elaboration of further and further documents in order to satisfy every certification body separately
- Expenditure of additional big financial sources for their own audits in favour of various certification bodies

It is common practice in our companies that they are certified according to the ISO 9001, ISO 14001, HACCP, BRC, IFS, GMP 13
The question remains „What is actually the objective of customers, distributors of foodstuffs product?“

- Is it still possible to speak on the consumer protection as an argument?
- Or is it promotion of their own interests in conformity with their own standards at the expense of internationally recognised one?

Will the foodstuffs sector pay for inconsistent enforcement of specific legislative and customers’ requirements within the ISO 9001 certification?
Proposal of ISO 22 000

Will ISO 22 000 assist us or will it be an additional standard, which the foodstuffs processors have to implement in framework of business and consumer protection and can they discard everything else?

Will distributors recognise this standard?
Would not it be high time to involve unequivocally all parts of foodstuffs chain including distributors in the system and mutually recognise one and only system with all attributes of safety and consumer protection in interest of all stakeholders?
Let’s try to give a thought on this international forum what could we together do for that.

Thank you very much!

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Czech Society for Quality