



Hoofdproductschap Akkerbouw Sector Teeltaangelegenheden

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Hygiene code arable farm sector approved

On the 24th of January, 2006 the Dutch Minister of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality (LNV) approved the Food Safety Certification Scheme for the Arable Farming Sector (VVAK) as a hygiene code (see Annex 1). As a result, growers who work in accordance with the scheme or the underlying food safety certificates (VVCs) comply with the requirements of Regulation (EC) no. 852/2004*. Compliance to VVAK or VVCs is demonstrated through certification.

Explanation

Under Article 8 of Regulation (EC) no. 852/2004*, the food industry has the authority to draw up national guides for good hygiene practice. In the Netherlands these guides are called hygiene codes.

Since the coming into force of the European hygiene regulations growers crop production organisations are permitted to draw up hygiene codes for their sector. The hygiene code for the arable farming sector is one of the first to be approved by the Minister of Agriculture.

The VVAK was created by merging the VVCs for potatoes (starch, potato crisps/chips), sugar beet, industrial vegetables (including onions), and seeds, grains and pulses (GZP). The VVCs are included as modules in the VVAK. The VVAK is owned by the HPA Certification Committee in which the industry (owners of the VVCs), arable farmers, breeders and agricultural contractors are represented.

Arable farms are inspected by Certification Bodies (CBs) before they obtain the VVAK or VVC certificates. The CB's work under supervision of the Dutch Accreditation Council (RvA) according at least ISO/IEC 17020.

On behalf of the HPA Certification Committee,

P. Hijma MSc
Secretary of the HPA
Chairman of the HPA Certification Committee

Annex: Decree by the Minister of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality (LNV) of 24 January 2006, no. TRCJZ/2006/227, related to approval for a hygiene code for the arable sector.

Bankrekeningen

Postbank 46 31 42
Postbank 84 520
ABN-AMRO 47 35 31 186
Mees Pierson 25 73 76 607
ING Bank 66 74 36 529
t.n.v. HPA

*) Regulation (EC) No 852/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 on the hygiene of foodstuffs