Updated Commission guidance on food safety management systems

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Commission Notice on the implementation of food safety management systems covering Good Hygiene Practices and procedures based on the HACCP principles, including the facilitation/flexibility of the implementation in certain food businesses

European Commission (2026) Overview report on the outcome of a survey in Member States in 2025 on Food Safety Culture official controls [download].

What is changing and why?

The European Union (EU) regularly reviews its guidance document (Commission Notice) on the EU's hygiene rules for producing food. The latest review in 2022 introduced several changes, including the concept of food safety culture, which was agreed at Codex Alimentarius level and introduced in Regulation 2021/382. The Commission Notice includes definitions, links to relevant legislation and reference documents, and clarifications on flexibilities for small companies.

Actions

The EU hygiene rules for producing food (Regulations EC/852/2004 and EC/853/2004) are fully applicable to food exported to the EU. The Commission Notice clarifies how to understand and implement these rules (including Good Hygiene Practices (GHP)/Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) procedures, food safety culture (FSC), etc.).

The European Commission published its first report on the implementation of FSC official controls in June 2026.

Timeline

The new requirements on FSC and allergens are already in application via Regulation 2021/382.

The revised Commission Notice was published on 16 September 2022.

The first report on the implementation of FSC official controls was published in June 2026.

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