

*OECD Scheme for the Application of
International Standards for Fruit and Vegetables*

Peer Review of the Fruit and Vegetables Quality Inspection System in Finland

2015



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FOREWORD

The OECD Fruit and Vegetables Scheme undertook a mission as part of a review of the fruit and vegetables quality inspection system in Finland on 9-11 September 2014. The review included a 3 day visit to meet with officials and stakeholders in the fruit and vegetables sector.

Mr Jean Crombach (Netherlands) and José Brambila-Macías (OECD Secretariat) participated in the Peer Review Mission. The Team was accompanied by Mrs Niina Kauhajärvi from the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, by Mrs Kristiina Ala-Fossi-Aalto from the Customs Laboratory and by Mrs. Niina Matilainen from the Finnish Food Safety Authority Evira. During the Peer Review mission, meetings were held with officials at the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, the Customs Laboratory, and the Finnish Food Safety Authority Evira. The Peer Review Team managed to follow the implementation of the quality inspection in Finland.

This Draft Report was prepared by the Peer Review Team in close cooperation with officials at the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Evira and the Customs Laboratory. It brings together the policies and institutional structures related to the fruit and vegetables quality inspection system. In addition, it presents the experts' assessment of the organisation of the administrative structure and the implementation of the fruit and vegetables quality inspection system in Finland.

The peer review report is published under the responsibility of the OECD Fruit and Vegetables Scheme.

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The Peer Review Report has been approved by the OECD Fruit and Vegetables Scheme. It has been drafted by the OECD Secretariat: Jose Brambila-Macias and Jean Crombach (National Expert, Netherlands). The OECD Secretariat is grateful for the contributions provided by Mrs Niina Kauhajärvi from the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, by Mrs Kristiina Ala-Fossi-Aalto from the Customs Laboratory and by Mrs. Niina Matilainen from the Finnish Food Safety Authority Evira. The organisation of the review mission, editing and formatting of documents were done by Isabelle Braud and the OECD Secretariat.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Finland is mainly a fruit and vegetables producing and importing country. The climate of Finland is characterised by long, cold and dark winters and short growing periods, which is a significant competitive disadvantage for the Finnish horticulture. In Finland the growing period starts several weeks later and ends much sooner than in Central and Southern Europe. This is why the yields per hectare of production area are lower and costs per product unit are higher. Because of the short growing period Finland relies on imports of fruit and vegetables all around the year. Bananas are the main imported fruit; others are apples, table grapes, small citrus fruits and oranges. In the vegetable group, tomatoes, lettuces, peppers and cucumbers are the most dominant products. During the summer time Finland produces mostly vegetables and berries for the national market.

Finland has two inspection services that collaborate and coordinate fruit and vegetables inspections. The Finnish Customs (TULLI) focuses on imports and exports while the Food Safety Authority (Evira), with the help of the ELY Centres (Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment) oversee fruit and vegetables at the wholesale and retail level, under the supervision of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

Training of new inspectors at the Customs and Evira is organised as needed. When there is a need for more than one or two new inspectors, a separate training course is organised. Otherwise training is side-by-side training – a trainee is learning by working with a qualified inspector. Also private lectures, self-studying etc. are included in the training. The training ends when the trainee has passed the tests and is qualified enough to make own decisions. In the quality inspection, Finland follows the method described in the EU Regulation 543/2011. It is based on risk analysis and is in line with the OECD Fruit and Vegetable Quality Inspection System. The inspection system is the same at import and on the internal market.

The Peer Review Team visited the Central Offices of Evira, the Customs Laboratory (TULLI), and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. Evira and the Customs Laboratory also organised practical inspections to two warehouses (KESKO and INEX) and one supermarket (K-Supermarket Mankkaa).

The Peer Review team noticed that overall Finland has a good quality inspection system, with excellent coordination and communications amongst the different relevant authorities. The Peer review team made some minor suggestions to help improve further the Finnish quality inspection system.

The Peer Review team also highlighted that Finland has integrated the different kinds of inspection (inspection related to food safety, plant health and/or quality fresh fruits and vegetables) into one inspection. This improves the efficiency and lowers the costs. Nevertheless, the inspections of fresh fruits and vegetables in practice have less priority than the other types of inspections. A point of attention is that the inspectors must have enough time to perform the inspections thoroughly and that the inspections regarding the quality of fresh fruits and vegetables get the right priority.

The Peer Review has noticed that traders have to pay a fee for the inspections related to the Custom clearance (Import and Export). Also a fee has to be paid for the re-inspection that takes place after the rejection of a lot/consignment. The use of fees is positive, as it will lower inspections dependency on government budget. The Finnish Authorities are advised to investigate whether it could be possible to extend the use of fees. For instance a fee could be charged for the risk assessment of approved traders. Also a fee could be introduced to finance the inspections related to the controls on the domestic market. The use of fees could be combined with the introduction of objective/transparent criteria for risk analysis / risk assessment. Before these types of fees are introduced it is advisable to check whether the legal provisions for the use of these fees are adequate.

The Peer Review Team noticed that inspection conditions at the warehouses could be slightly improved. In some occasions the inspectors did not have an inspection table. This forced them to undertake the inspection in the corridors of the warehouse, with pickers and other warehouse personnel continuously passing by. If possible, the inspection service could make arrangements with the inspected companies about the inspection conditions. These could include a proper inspection table (with sufficient light) and safe inspection conditions, or even the provision of a separate room or area where the inspector could perform his/her tasks.

The Peer Review Team has gotten the impression that the number of inspection personnel and staff personnel is too tight if it is taken into account that inspections on fresh fruits and vegetables get less priority, that the training of inspectors could be enlarged and that there are made several suggestions in relation to the improvement and the setup of a risk analysis. Finnish Authorities are suggested to investigate whether the number of inspection personnel as well as staff personnel should be extended in order to make the suggested improvements possible.

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PEER REVIEW REPORT

Objective of the peer review

The Peer Review process is a systematic examination and assessment of the performance of a sector by experts from other countries under the auspices of the OECD Secretariat. The ultimate goal is to help to improve policy making, adopt best practices, and comply with established international standards and principles. The examination is conducted on a non-adversarial basis and relies heavily on mutual trust amongst the reviewers, as well as their shared confidence in the process.

A key goal of Peer Reviews of the fruit and vegetables sector is to harmonise the interpretation of quality standards and the implementation of common or similar rules applied in the fruit and vegetables quality inspection system. Another important goal is the learning process, made possible, where new ideas can be shared with existing and new countries. The value of establishing new and improving existing networks is an important part of the work of the Scheme.

Chapter 1 - Introduction

Finland joined the OECD in 1969. Since then, Finland has been an active participant in the various working groups and programmes of the organisation. Finland initially started participating in the OECD Fruit and Vegetables Scheme as an observer, and then became a full member in 1995, hosting the 14th Meeting of Heads of National Inspection Services in Helsinki in June 2009.

Finland is a producing and importing country; export hardly exists. Because of the short cultivation period, Finland has large imports of fruit and vegetables all around the year. Bananas are the main imported fruit; others are apples, table grapes, small citrus fruits and oranges, among others. For vegetables, tomatoes, lettuces, peppers and cucumbers are the most dominant products. During the summer season, Finland produces mostly vegetables and berries for the national market.

In 2013 Finland imported round 280 000 tons of fruit and 150 000 tons of vegetables. According to calculations, the second most important import products were fruit while vegetables were in fifth place. The value of imported fruit in 2013 was €303.2 million while the value of imported vegetables was €192.3 million.

The work done by the OECD Scheme for Fruit and Vegetables is highly appreciated among the operators and traders on the Finnish market. The explanatory brochures are widely used in training (the inspectors), as well as during inspections and among producers.

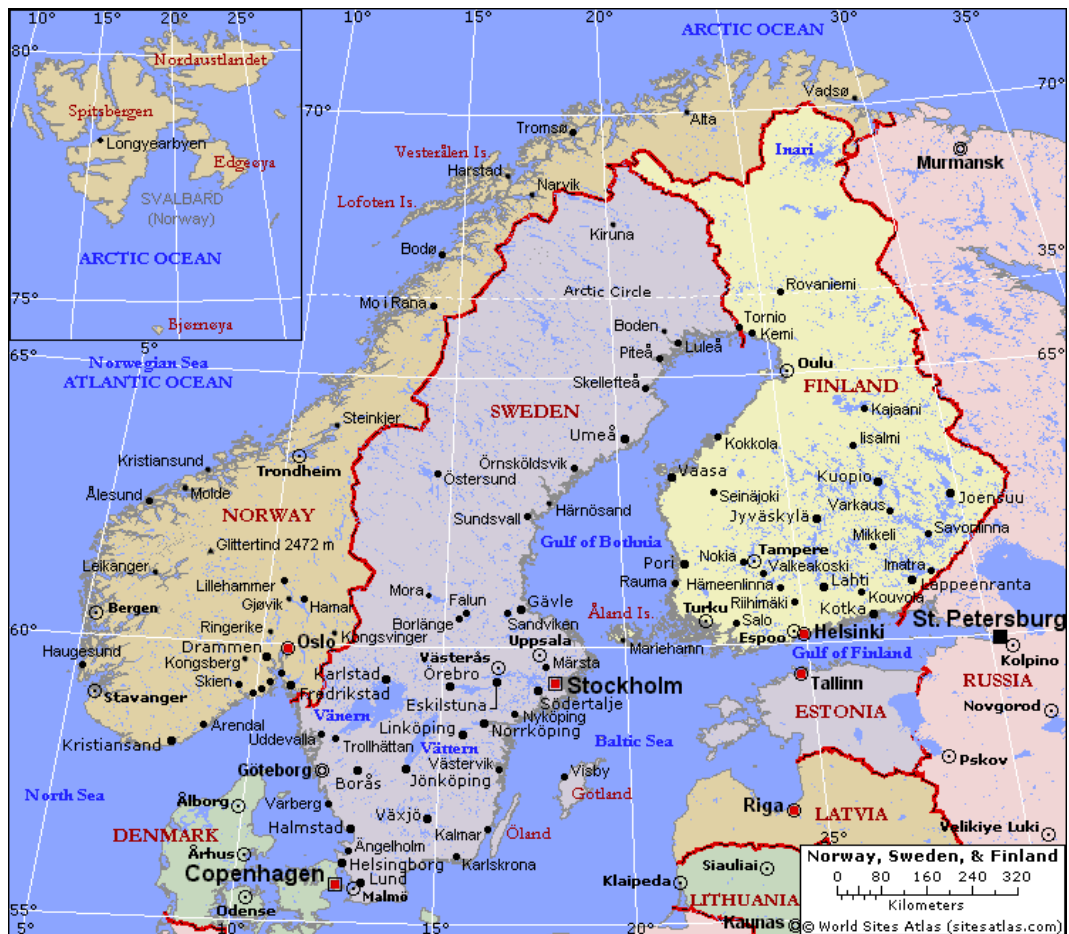
The Peer Review is a good opportunity to compare the Finnish quality inspection system with the systems in the other OECD-member countries. The outcome of the review will be taken into account in the future development and improvement of the national inspection system.

1.1 Overview of Finland

1.1.1 Geographical situation

The Republic of Finland (Finland) is in Northern Europe bordered by Sweden to the west, Norway to the north and Russia to the east; Estonia lies to the south across the Gulf of Finland. The total surface area of Finland is 390 903 km², of which 303 892 km² is land area. In terms of size, it is the eighth largest country in Europe.

There are a total of 188 000 lakes in Finland. Of the land area, 86% is covered with forest and 8.9% is agricultural land. Areas not included in forests, arable areas, settlement areas, roads and waters are mainly treeless peat land and mires and rock.



The population of Finland is 5.4 million. The capital is Helsinki with a population of 614 000. Finland is the most sparsely populated country in the European Union with a population density of just 17 persons per square kilometre. The population is geographically very unevenly distributed, with the majority of the population living in the coastal regions and in the southern and south-western parts of the country. Migration to towns and cities has been the dominant trend in the past decades, further reinforcing the concentration of the settlement to and around the largest growth centres. The urbanisation of Finland took place quite late, which is why the urbanisation trend in the demographic structure is expected to continue for several decades. More than a third of the surface area of Finland lies to the north of the Arctic Circle. The northern regions are extremely sparsely populated, and this is where most of the indigenous Sami people live.

The Province of Åland, or the Åland Islands, is in the Baltic Sea between Finland and Sweden, at some distance from the south-west coast of Finland. The Åland Islands is an autonomous, demilitarised and Swedish-speaking province of Finland. The Åland Islands is composed of more than 6 700 islands, but the population of 28 000 are distributed over just 65 islands. More than 40% of the population live in the only town, Maarianhamina (Mariehamn in Swedish), which is one of the 16 municipalities of the Åland.

The education level of the Finnish population is quite high. Of the 15-year olds, 62.7% have taken some degree after the basic education, 37.0 % at the upper secondary level and 25.0 % in higher education, 0.4 % of the Finnish population hold a doctor's degree.

In 2013, the GDP was €35 900/inhabitant. Of the Finns, 89.3% speak Finnish as their mother tongue and 5.3% speak Swedish, by religion 75.2% are Evangelical Lutherans and 1% are Greek orthodox.

The main export products of Finland are metal, paper products and IT and telecommunications equipment. The most significant international export partners are Germany, Sweden and Russia.

1.1.2 Agro-Climate situation

Finland mainly belongs to the temperate zone of the thermal zones of the globe and, in particular, to the northern part of it, which may also be called the cool zone. Of the vegetation zones, most of Finland belongs to the northern boreal forest zone. Finland is the northernmost country in the European Union and it is one of the most rural countries of the EU.

In southern Finland, the growing period is 160-185 days and in the north it is 105-150 days. The thermal conditions are more favourable than the northern location alone would imply thanks to the Gulf Stream and mild westerly winds, which cause the temperatures in Finland to be about 3-4 °C higher than normal in these latitudes. The annual variation in the temperature is between +30 and -30 °C.

The climate of Finland is characterised by a long, cold and dark winter and short growing period, which is a significant competitive disadvantage for Finnish horticulture – both greenhouses and outdoor production. In Finland the growing period starts several weeks later and ends much sooner than in Central and Southern Europe. This is why the yields per hectare of production area are lower and costs per product unit are higher in Finland. Because of the climate, the structures of the greenhouses and storage buildings need to be strong enough to allow heating equipment and insulation and bear the snow load in winter, which increases the building costs. The energy costs of the production activities itself are also much higher in Finland than in the rest of Europe, especially in greenhouse production.

Because of the climate, work in the fields (spring and autumn) have to be carried out in a very short period of time. Almost all plant species are sown in the spring, which causes a significant peak in the work load. On the clay soil of southern Finland, sowing needs to be carried out quickly in order to retain the spring moisture in the soil. In the autumn harvesting must often be carried out during the few days when it does not rain. All this requires efficient machine capacity, which again increases the costs. Due to the short growing period very few demanding or high-yielding species or varieties can be cultivated in Finland.

1.1.3 Agricultural sector and trade

One special challenge for vegetable production in the open is that in Finland the products need to be stored for longer periods. In many other countries storage is only used to balance supply but in Finland, products need to be stored because of the climate. The harvesting season is short because the crop must be harvested before the land is frozen and covered with snow. For many products, the storage period is very long and very high technical standards are required for storage facilities, this leads to higher building costs. Often the storage buildings need to be heated as well. The inevitable losses during the long storage period reduce the amount of marketable crop.

In 2013, there were 3 900 horticultural enterprises in Finland, 200 enterprises (5%) less than the year before. Outdoor vegetables were grown on 16 000 hectares and the area under greenhouse production was 400 hectares. In terms of the cultivation area, the most significant vegetables grown in the open were garden peas (2 800 ha), carrots (1 600 ha) and onions (1 100 ha). The total yield of outdoor vegetables was 176 million kg, of which 71 million kg were carrots. Berries made up a total of 16 million kg, produced in an area of 6 000 hectares. The share of strawberries in this was 13 million kg and the production area was 3 400 hectares. Greenhouse vegetable production totalled 79 million kg, of which 38 million kg were

tomatoes and 36 million kg cucumbers. The production of potted lettuce hit a new record of 77 million pots. In total, 97 million potted vegetables were produced.

Most of the vegetable production in the open takes place in south-western Finland, while the strongest berry production areas have traditionally been in the eastern parts of the country. The main concentration of greenhouse vegetable production is on the coast of western Finland, especially the Närpiö area. The cultivation of ornamental plants in greenhouses is more evenly distributed in different parts of the country, but the largest area is again in western Finland. Of the municipalities, the largest area of outdoor vegetables is in Sauvo (758 ha) and that of greenhouses in Närpiö (83 ha). Outdoor vegetable farms with the largest average cultivation area are in Tuusula (45 ha/farm) and the largest greenhouse enterprises are in Karvia (2.2 ha/enterprise).

Number and surface area of horticulture enterprises 1993–2013 (see Annex II).

Finland's import of fruit and vegetables is concentrated in southern Finland because the main port, Vuosaari, is in Helsinki. Also the biggest wholesalers and importers are located near Helsinki.

There are only a few major players in the retail food (also fruit and vegetable) business. The two largest chains have 80% of the market share together. Fruit and vegetables are mainly distributed via chains (supermarkets and smaller retail shops).

In 2013 Finnish people consumed about 58 kilos fruit and 61 kilos vegetables.

Chapter 2 - Legislative background for fruit and vegetables inspection

2.1 National agricultural policy

Finland has a multiannual control plan, which covers the entire food chain. The control plan is based on the national inspection plan which is confirmed yearly. Additionally Finland, as a member of the EU, applies the relevant EU provisions for agricultural markets.

2.2 Legislation

2.2.1 Legislation of the European Union

The Fruit and Vegetable sector is regulated within the European Union as part of the common organisation of agricultural markets. Finland implements these common policies including the relevant provisions to the fruit and vegetables sectors. The relevant EU regulations on quality standards, and their national and international application and inspection are as follows:

-Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 establishing a common organisation of the markets in agricultural products and repealing Council Regulations (EEC) No 922/72, (EEC) No 234/79, (EC) No 1037/2001 and (EC) No 1234/2007

-Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 543/2011 of 7 June 2011 laying down detailed rules for the application of Council Regulation (EC) No 1234/2007 in respect of the fruit and vegetables and processed fruit and vegetables sectors

-Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 1333/2011 of 19 December 2011 laying down marketing standards for bananas, rules on the verification of compliance with those marketing standards and requirements for notifications in the banana sector

2.2.2 National legislation

The most important national legislation relevant to fruit and vegetables are as follows:

- Act on the organisation of agricultural product markets (999/2012, amended by 1194/2011)
 - general rules
 - rules concerning marketing standards
 - competent authorities
- Act on the control of the requirements concerning the placing on the market of fruit and vegetables (720/2009)
 - more detailed and specific rules

Other legislation connected to the fruit and vegetables inspection:

- Food Act (23/2006)
- Act on the protection of the plant health (702/2003)

Chapter 3 - Marketing standards

3.1 International standards

Finland, as a member of the EU, applies the relevant EU provisions in the fruit and vegetables sector, including the EU marketing standards. There are 10 Specific Marketing Standards (SMS) and a General Marketing Standard (GMS). The products for which there is a specific marketing standard are the following:

- apples
- citrus fruits
- kiwifruits
- lettuces, curled leaved and broad-leaved endives
- peaches and nectarines
- pears
- strawberries
- sweet peppers
- table grapes
- tomatoes
- bananas (green)

The general marketing standard (543/2011, annex I) applies to the rest of the products.

The EU also allows the use of OECD/UNECE standards for the products which the EU does not have specific standards for. If they are used, the quality class can be labelled on the product.

The application of the OECD/UNECE standards is voluntary in Finland. If the producer or trader wishes to sell GMS products labelled with classes extra, I or II then it is recommended to use UNECE standards. Control authorities do not inspect produce according to the OECD/UNECE-standards at any stages.

In 2013, the standards for the 13 most important products in Finland (berries, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, headed cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, Chinese cabbage, cucumbers, cultivated mushrooms, leafy vegetables, leeks, onions, root vegetables and tubers) were translated into the Finnish language and are available on Evira's webpage¹ as well as on UNECE's webpage².

3.2 National standards

Furthermore, where no EU legislation exists, there are National Standards for fresh fruit and vegetables that may be applied at a national (domestic trade) or at export and import level depending on the product. The UNECE/OECD standards are taken into account during the elaboration of these National Standards.

¹ <http://www.evira.fi/portal/fi/elintarvikkeet/valmistus+ja+myynti/kasvikset/tuoreet+hedelmat+ja+vihannekset/kasvisten+merkintavaatimukset/yleisvaatimusten+mukaan/>

² <http://www.unece.org/trade/agr/standard/fresh/FFV-StandardsE.html>

Chapter 4 - Structure of the administration system

Finland has two inspection services that collaborate and coordinate fruit and vegetable inspections. The Finnish Customs (TULLI) focuses on imports and exports while the Food Safety Authority (Evira) – with the help of the ELY Centres (Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment) – oversees fruits and vegetables at the wholesale and retail level, under the supervision of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. The inspection authorities meet at least twice a year and maintain active communications via e-mail and phone calls as needed.

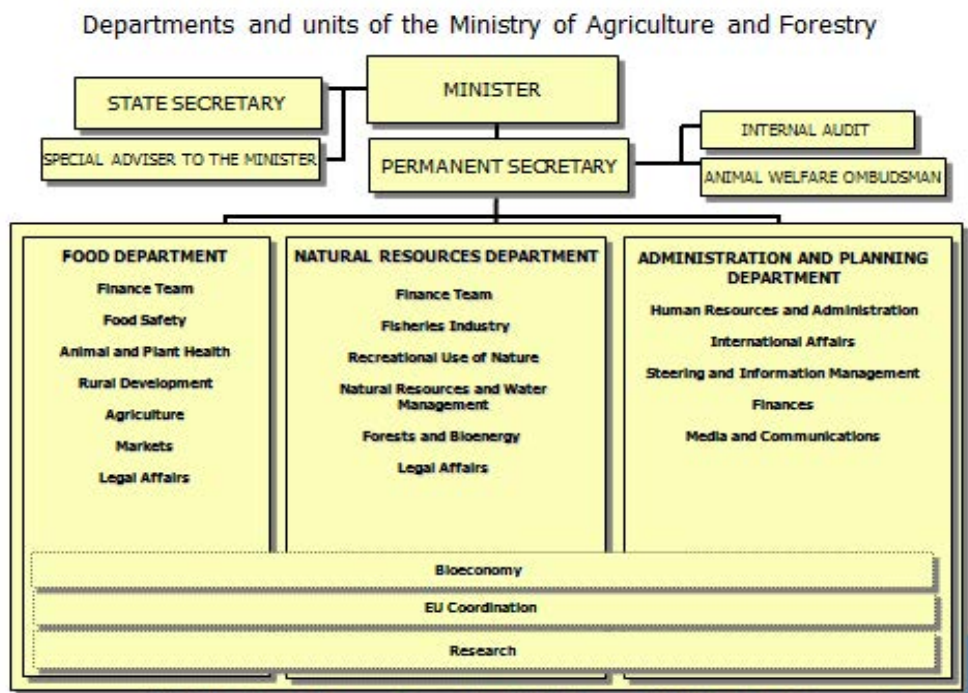
4.1 Ministry Of Agriculture and Forestry

The responsible authority is the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, which oversees agriculture, horticulture and forestry, fisheries, game and reindeer farming, other rural industries and the development of rural areas, the use and management of water resources, land surveying, veterinary care and the related monitoring of the health of animals and plants and foodstuffs of animal origin.

The mission of the Finnish Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry is to create the conditions for the sustainable and diversified use of renewable natural resources and for developing economic and leisure-based activities of the countryside, while also ensuring that the commodities obtained from renewable natural resources are safe and of high quality.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry contributes to the development of the common agricultural policy and fisheries policy of the European Union. The Ministry implements decisions within these sectors and in the field of veterinary medicine in Finland. It is also responsible for the preparation of legislation, financing of support measures and the monitoring and control related to their implementation, as well as steering and support of research and advisory services.

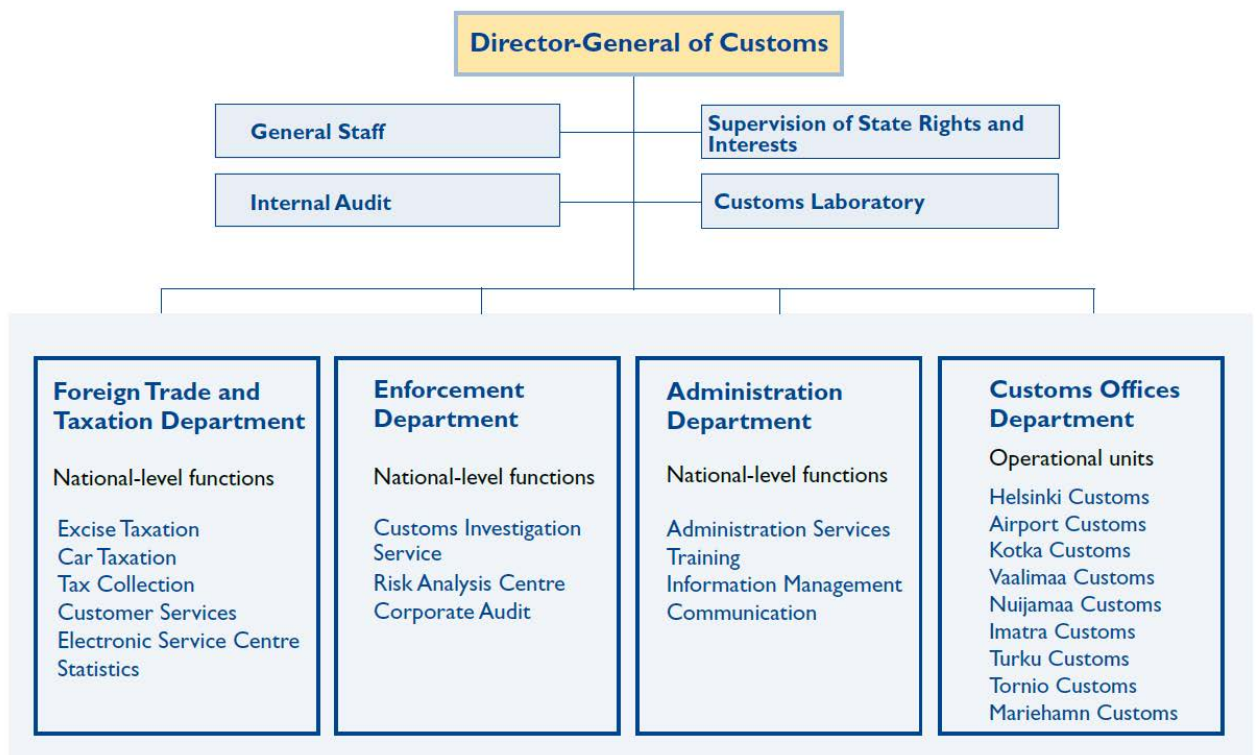
The Ministry has delegated tasks to Evira and the Customs. They are competent authorities in quality inspection of fruit and vegetables and their responsibilities are laid out in the Act on the organisation of agricultural product markets (999/2012).



4.2 Customs (TULLI) - Inspection Authority

Finnish Customs is a part of the customs system of the European Union. Customs is a state agency supervised by the Ministry of Finance through performance management. Finnish Customs cooperates with the trade community as well as with domestic and foreign authorities.

Finnish Customs has departments for foreign trade and taxation, enforcement, administration, as well as for customs offices and a laboratory (the Customs laboratory). Customs has nine independent offices with subordinate branch offices: Helsinki Customs, Airport Customs, and the customs offices of Kotka, Vaalimaa, Nuijamaa, Imatra, Turku, Tornio and Mariehamn.



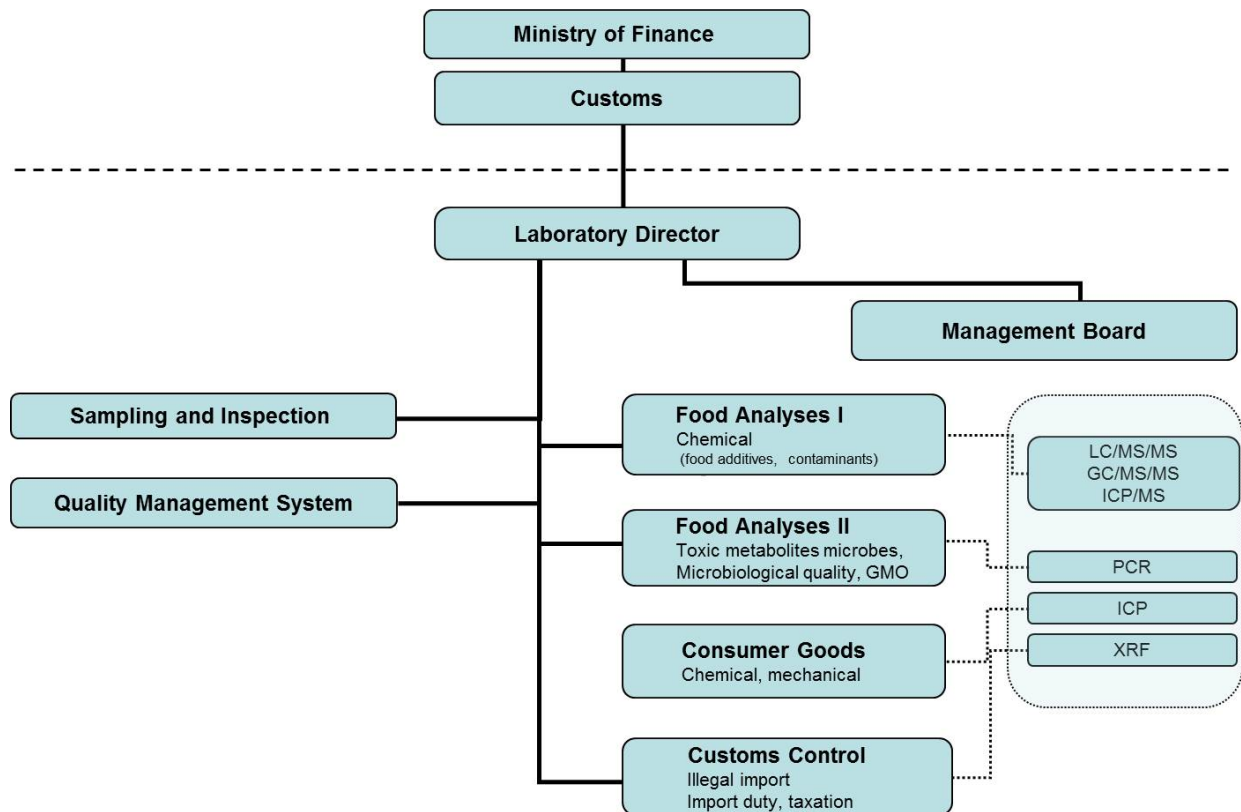
The organisation of the Finnish Customs

Foodstuffs and consumer goods are tested at the Customs Laboratory to ensure product safety, correct export refunds and tax treatment. The Customs Laboratory’s expertise in its field of activity is utilised in the regulatory supervision by Customs, but it can also be utilised by other authorities and businesses as needed.

The Customs Laboratory is accredited by FINAS (T006), and its quality system meets the requirements of the ISO/IEC 17025 standard. The Customs Laboratory's accreditation range covers all the most important laboratory research methods. In addition to the accredited methods, the Customs Laboratory also uses other research methods needed in food and consumer goods analyses. More than 300 different research methods are in use. The Customs Laboratory is also an official research institute approved by the Finnish Food Act.

Chapter 4 – Structure of the administrative system

In addition to sampling, the Sampling and Inspection Section of the Laboratory is in charge of conformity and phytosanitary inspection of fruit and vegetables within the Customs.



The organisation of the Customs Laboratory

4.3 Finnish Food Safety Authority (Evira) - Inspection Authority

The Food Safety Authority (Evira) ensures food safety, animal health and welfare, promotes plant health, as well as providing prerequisites for plant and animal production. Evira operates under the auspices of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and collaborates with research institutions, universities, and sister organisations in other countries, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), the various agencies of the European Union as well as the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE). Foreign universities and research institutions are also Evira's collaboration partners in the field of research.

Fields of operation at Evira include food control supervision and guidance, laboratory operation, risk assessment and scientific research. Evira also controls veterinarian certification, and the Zoonosis Centre operating over networks. The Plant Variety Board and the Secretary General of the National Nutrition Council also are located at Evira.

According to the National Act (999/2012) Evira's role in the quality inspection of fruit and vegetable is to serve as the National Co-ordinating Authority and Inspection Authority. Evira also supervises and develops quality controls, as well as provides adequate training and briefing for fruit and vegetable inspectors. In addition, its Product Safety Unit is responsible for the FFV trader base.



The organisation of the Finnish Food Safety Authority (Evira)

4.4 Centres for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment (ELY Centers) - Inspection Authority

The Centres for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment (ELY Centres) are responsible for the regional implementation and development tasks of the central government.

Finland has a total of 15 ELY Centres, which are tasked with promoting regional competitiveness, well-being, sustainable development and curbing climate change.

ELY Centres have three areas of responsibility:

- Business and industry, labour force, competence and cultural activities
- Transport and infrastructure
- Environment and natural resources

ELY Centres fall under the administrative branch of the Ministry of Employment and the Economy. ELY Centres also deal with tasks that fall under the administrative branches of the Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Transport and Communications, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Ministry of Education and Culture and Ministry of the Interior.

Chapter 4 – Structure of the administrative system

Local ELY Centres are responsible for fruit and vegetable inspections in collaboration with Evira. About 50% of Evira's quality inspections are done by the ELY inspectors.

4.5 Quality inspectors

This section provides information on the quality inspectors employed by Evira, ELY Centres and the Customs. It is important to highlight that the inspectors deal not only with fruit and vegetable quality inspection but often with phytosanitary issues or even with other types of tasks. They can be involved in quality control of agro-food products or food safety control of industrial products, among others.

Regarding fruit and vegetable inspections, Evira has nine trained inspectors and the ELY Centres have another 16. All inspectors work mainly as plant health inspectors, but they also carry out random checks of SMS-produce according to the control plan. Evira's inspectors are located in Helsinki, Turku and Oulu. ELY inspectors cover the rest of the country.

The Customs (TULLI) has 21 trained inspectors. Four of them inspect fruit and vegetables every day at the import stage; the others carry out random checks of EU-produce according to the control plan. These are not full-time quality inspectors; they also take samples for food safety or perform plant health inspections and other customs tasks.

Customs has a new organisation since 2013. Inspectors who are responsible for quality control of fruit and vegetables at import belong either to the Customs laboratory's or the Helsinki Customs organisation. Each Customs office has a mobile group and a trained inspector or inspectors to carry out inspections of fruit and vegetables if there are importers in their territory who imported fresh fruit and vegetables direct from other EU-member countries.

4.5.1 Training

Training of new inspectors in the Customs and Evira is organised as needed. When there is a need for more than one or two new inspectors, a separate training course is organised. Otherwise training for new recruits is carried out by working alongside a qualified inspector. Private lectures, study etc. are also included in the training. The training ends when trainees pass the tests and are qualified enough to make their own decisions.

Customs officials that want to become fruit and vegetable inspectors usually have many years of experience in food safety sampling at warehouses. They have also gone through customs vocational training at the Customs School.

The basic qualification for new personnel is secondary vocational education (e.g. matriculation exam or qualification in business and administration). The Finnish Customs has a Customs School of its own, where officials are trained in all customs activities. Customs training has recently achieved the status of a secondary vocational education.

The Customs training course includes both a theoretical and a practical part. The theoretical part lasts from three to five days. It consists of lectures on legislation and practical inspection sessions for different products. The practical part consists of working for about three months and carrying out at least 20 inspections. Inspectors have to pass both the theoretical and practical tests. When the inspector has passed the tests and is qualified enough he/she is allowed to carry out inspections alone.

The Sampling and Inspection section at the Customs Laboratory trains all inspectors in the quality control of fruit and vegetables.

Chapter 4 –Structure of the administrative system

At Evira, a plant health inspector needs at least secondary school education in the field of horticulture, agriculture or forestry and special training in fruit and vegetable quality control. The inspector is trained for inspection procedures as well as plant health control issues and fruit and vegetable conformity control issues. A novice inspector works with an experienced inspector as long as he/she is capable of working independently.

Training for advanced Customs quality inspectors is available for one day at least every second year. The training concentrates on Specific Marketing Standard (SMS) products that are imported in large quantities or on risky products. General Marketing Standard (GMS) products are also covered in this training.

The Customs has its own Inspectors manual (in hard copy). It will be available electronically later this year. Evira's manual is available on Evira's extranet as well. Customs inspectors get the German weekly bulletin called "Wochenbericht der Qualitätskontrolle" by e-mail of the latest news on rejections, openings of new import seasons etc.

Inspectors, both at Customs and Evira have access to OECD brochures (e-versions). Brochures in paper form are also available. Separate copies of the pictures in the OECD brochures of SMS products have been delivered during the training courses.

At Evira, additional training for advanced inspectors is organised when needed. In the past, additional training was organised annually, but lately there has been lack of resources in training. Instead, new guideline materials and checklists were provided for inspectors 2013. All supporting material is available on Eviranet (Evira's extranet) that all inspectors have access to. Some training has also been provided by remote access sessions.

During the course, inspectors also receive the latest information from international training courses in order to harmonize Finnish inspection systems with systems in other member countries. The Customs Laboratory and Evira regularly attend the UK harmonizing meetings in Great Britain, the Bonn meeting in Germany and occasionally the OECD training courses in Slovakia. Both inspection services also participate in the OECD meetings of the Heads of National Inspection Services.

4.5.2 Contact with the industry

The industry has not been provided with any training recently. Only in the beginning of the EU-membership the Customs Laboratory arranged a one-day seminar for importers. The latest one day seminar Evira arranged was in 2008; it was targeted to FFV wholesale trade.

The Inspection Services help traders in the interpretation of the standards as needed. They also provide expertise to the traders upon request. Information to the traders on quality inspection of fruit and vegetables (SMS) and the inspection procedures at import are provided on the Customs web-pages.

The link is:

http://www.tulli.fi/fi/suomen_tulli/julkaisut_ja_esitteet/kasikirjat/rajoituskasikirja/index.jsp (in Finnish)

The Customs Laboratory and Evira meet the representatives of the Finnish Grocery Trade Association (FGTA) twice a year.

Industry can also find relevant information on EVIRA's webpages on marketing standards for fresh fruit and vegetables³.

³ <http://www.evira.fi/portal/en/food/manufacture+and+sales/vegetables/fresh-fruit-and-vegetables/>

Chapter 4 – Structure of the administrative system

The Finnish Horticultural Products Society (Kotimaiset Kasvikset ry) is also working for increased consumption of fruit and vegetables in Finland. Their goal is to increase the consumption from the current level of 350 grams per person to 500 grams. The figure includes fruit, berries, vegetables, mushrooms and sprouts (potatoes are excluded).



The other goal is to improve the quality of fruit and vegetables in the supply chain. The Society also cooperates with institutional food service units and the supply chain of fruit and vegetables, publishing guidebooks for further education of the Supermarket personnel.

In order to use the domestic logo the producer has to follow the national quality auditing system.

Chapter 5 - Fruit and vegetables quality inspection

5.1 Inspection system

5.1.1 Imports

Finland's main entry point for fresh fruit and vegetable imports is the Vuosaari port in Helsinki. Quality inspections at import level are carried out by Customs and are usually joint quality and phytosanitary inspections. Many fruits (e.g. apples, citrus, pears) that have a quality standard also have plant health regulations to fulfil at import. Risk assessment is performed at the electronic customs clearance centre by consumer protection inspectors. They decide on all inspections and samplings of a lot. Inspectors that will carry out inspections are informed of future checks by e-mail with inspection and sampling orders.

The percentage of lots to be inspected is mainly determined by the percentages used in the phytosanitary control where it is possible to use reduced inspection levels. Reduced levels are introduced in the commission regulation No. 1756/2004 (percentage/product/country). If reduced levels cannot be used, consumer protection inspector makes the decision on the basis of risk assessment which lot is to be physically inspected. Products for which there is an obligation for 100% phytosanitary inspection, conformity checks could be less than 100% if there is low risk. In these cases, quality is also checked 100% at the same time with the phytosanitary inspection even though there would not be a need for 100% quality inspection. However, fees are not collected on quality inspections if a quality inspection is not ticked on the inspection order of the consumer protection inspector. These inspections, however, are taken into account for statistics. The aim is that when inspectors visit warehouses, they carry out all inspections and sampling at the same visit.

Importers are roughly classified into three groups on risk basis:

- Importers with a low risk: big importers with a quality management system (QMS), trained personnel, quality control of their own, significant players in the fruit and vegetable business (members of the FGTA);
- Importers with a medium risk: medium size importers, no import daily, no QMS, no trained personnel, no quality control of their own;
- Importers with a high risk: with a history of non-compliance, small seasonal importers, no QAS, no trained personnel, no quality control of their own, imports of risky products.

5.1.2 Exports

Since the Act on the organisation of agricultural product markets (999/2012) Customs is responsible also for export inspections. Need for export inspection is rare, there are occasionally some consignments to Russia.

Customs uses risk analysis in deciding export inspections.

5.1.3 Control of EU-products

Inspectors in each Customs office visit EU importers at least twice a year. During the visit they inspect SMS and GMS products, 10 lots at a time (if there are that many). They decide independently what they inspect depending on: type of products available, the amount of the product, the season (the beginning and end), storage time etc. Inspectors have a list of risk factors.

At Evira and ELY Centres, inspectors are advised to check mostly Finnish fruit and vegetables, at least one lot of each group of SMS products if there are lots available. It is recommended to inspect 10 different lots at one visit, if possible.

Regarding IT systems, in the case of Customs, the results of the inspections are collected in excel tables, there is no computerised system. Customs don't maintain statistical analysis of the results. The information is used in planning future inspections.

Evira is working on a data processing system for fruit and vegetable inspections. The system is expected to be in use in 2015.

Table 1. Number of inspections over the last three years.

Customs	(number of lots)	2011	2012	2013
Import	inspections	343	390	289
	rejections	7	3	17
	random checks on produce with accompanying conformity certificate	69	87	102
	inspections on green bananas	5	6	15
	inspection on raisins	-	-	1
EU-Import	inspections	276	306	336
	rejections	-	1	-
	inspections at sampling on SMS or GMS produce	700	700	745

Evira & ELY		2011	2012	2013
Inspection visits	wholesale	25	21	24
	retail trade	38	22	37
	control of country of origin	225	149	66
	export	4	3	-

5.2 Control procedures

For quality inspection, Finland follows the method described in the EU Regulation 543/2011. It is based on risk analysis and is in line with the OECD Fruit and Vegetable Quality Inspection System. The inspection system is the same at import as on the internal market.

The main aim of Customs is to check imports from third countries. At import, Finland inspects only SMS products.

Consumer protection inspectors carry out documentary checks and risk assessment to select lots for inspection. In making the decision, they take into account reduced percentages of plant health inspections and food safety sampling. Products coming from the approved countries are also checked – documentary check is 100%, physical check for about 5% - 10% of imported lots. At warehouses, quality inspectors at first select random boxes to check, from several pallets. No boxes from the first upper layer are selected because they might have gotten wet or otherwise damaged during loading or transport. At the initial inspection, inspectors collect 10 boxes to be inspected, if the phytosanitary inspection is also to be performed. Otherwise the inspector selects and inspects as many boxes as needed to ensure that the lot fulfils the quality requirements. A box selected for inspection is emptied and each item is examined. If the lot is in conformity, the quality inspector issues a certificate for the lot. He/she passes the information to the electronic customs clearance and the lot can be released for circulation.

At EU-imports the inspector follows the inspection plan (number of visits/year) and decides when to visit the trader. The lots to be inspected are chosen either on the basis of established risk factors or on the basis of expertise gained from previous inspections, and the present situation. Both SMS and GMS products are inspected, no certificates are issued.

If certain non-conformity is detected, inspectors follow the table in the 543/2011 regulation. Customs inspectors normally carry out inspections at warehouses where products are unloaded. Only when a pre-inspection at the harbour area is performed, do Customs inspectors check transport vehicles. Trucks or delivery vans or ferries coming from Estonia are pre-checked in case they have fresh fruit or vegetables with misleading labelling, e.g. a wrong country of origin. If a SMS product or non-conformity in labelling is detected, the vehicle has to be unloaded for thorough inspection in a warehouse approved by Customs.

5.3 Non-Conformity

If a trader has a history of several non-conformities, inspection visits are carried out more often. In the case of imports, Customs notifies Evira as soon as possible of non-conformities. Evira notifies the EU commission and the exporting country via AWAI ncn system.

Rejected lots are under Customs control until they are brought into conformity (e.g. re-labelled, re-sorted etc.). Lots in non-conformity are re-inspected by the Customs after e.g. re-sorting before releasing them for circulation.

If the holder does not want to bring the lot into conformity, the lot cannot be imported and is ordered to be destroyed under customs control on the holder's cost.

5.4 Domestic market

In 2013, there were about 3 860 producers, 30 wholesalers and 3 500 retailers. Evira is currently working on an improved version of its traders database. The numbers of inspections for the domestic market are as follows:

- Production level: No inspections at producer's premises. Products were inspected at packing plants and wholesale stocks. 6 inspection visits at packing plants;
- Wholesaler level: 18 inspection visits;
- Retailer level: about 100 inspection visits.

Usually, the biggest wholesalers have a good internal quality management system and trained personnel. All lots arriving are checked by their own quality control team. All wholesalers are inspected once a year by Evira/ELY.

Chapter 6 - Technical visit

The Peer Review Team visited the Central Offices of Evira, the Customs Laboratory (TULLI), and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. Evira and the Customs Laboratory also organised practical inspections to two warehouses (KESKO and INEX) and one supermarket (K-Supermarket Mankkaa).

KESKO's operations include food, home and speciality goods, building and home improvement, and car and machinery trades. Its divisions and chains act in close cooperation with retailer entrepreneurs and other partners. KESKO has about 2 000 stores engaged in chain operations in Finland, Sweden, Norway, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Russia and Belarus. Retail sales totalled about €11.6 billion (VAT 0%) in 2013. The K-Group employs around 45,000 people.

EVIRA's inspectors provided a demonstration of their inspection procedures at KESKO's warehouse. The inspectors targeted consignments of local apples and tomatoes. Afterwards, the Peer Review Team had the opportunity to discuss with KESKO's quality control staff, which provided a detailed explanation of their own quality control system.

Next, the Peer Review Team had the opportunity to witness Customs inspectors at work in one of the INEX warehouses in Kilo. INEX Partners Oy is a fully-owned subsidiary of SOK Corporation whose main task is to provide warehousing and transportation services for the grocery and consumer goods chain of the S Group. The group has 2 200 staff and a warehousing and processing area of approximately 300,000 square meters.

This time Customs inspectors checked oranges consignments from South Africa. Afterwards, the Peer Review Team had the opportunity to discuss with INEX personnel their quality control system and the internal procedures they follow to ensure that only the best quality fruit and vegetables reach their clients.

The technical visit concluded with a practical inspection of a supermarket by Evira's personnel. The inspectors checked the correct labelling and packaging of fruit and vegetables, as well as the state of the products. In this occasion, some very minor issues with respect to labelling were highlighted and the Manager of the Supermarket was informed and asked to make the proper arrangements to address the issue.

Chapter 7 - Assessments and recommendations

7.1 General remarks

This Peer Review team discussed the Finnish fruit and vegetables export and import quality inspection system, as well as the inspection at wholesale and retail stage. The assessment and recommendations on the quality inspection system are based on this experience.

7.2 Objective/transparent criteria for risk analysis

The Peer Review team has noticed that the inspections of the Customs and Evira are based on risk analysis, which is a good method of inspection. The criteria for risk analysis nevertheless are not put on paper. The Peer Review Team therefore suggests making objective and transparent criteria for risk analysis.

7.3 Integration of different types of inspections in relation with knowledge and practical experience of inspectors

It is good that Finland has integrated the different kinds of inspection (inspection related to food safety, plant health and/or quality fresh fruits and vegetables) into one inspection. This improves efficiency and lowers cost. The Peer Review team has noticed nevertheless that the inspection of fresh fruits and vegetables in practice have less priority than other types of inspection. One point in particular is that the inspectors must have enough time to perform the thorough inspections. In addition, inspections concerning quality of fresh fruits and vegetables should get the appropriate priority.

7.4 Knowledge and practical experience of inspectors

Customs and Evira train their inspectors before allowing them to carry out inspection by themselves. During the training, inspectors get theoretical and practical knowledge of the different types of legislation (food safety, plant health and/or quality fresh fruits and vegetables) and the different kinds of inspections that have to be carried out. However, the Peer Review team noted that the inspection of quality of fresh fruits and vegetables has less priority. This also impacts upon the time allocated to training. The inspectors must be able to handle all the different aspects of inspection. Training must cover all these aspects and the duration allotted to training should be in line with the requisite knowledge and experience.

7.5 Use of IT and tablets/PDA

The Peer Review team has noticed that there are developments regarding the use of IT and tablets/PDA. This is a positive development. It improves efficiency and assists in data collection, for instance, the number of inspections, content of inspected lots/consignments, which are useful in the risk analysis. A point of attention is that there must be enough time and capacity for the implementation of projects related to IT and/or the use of tablets/PDA. This to make sure that IT solutions are what they intend to be.

7.6 Use of fees

The Peer Review has noticed that traders have to pay a fee for the inspections related to Custom clearance (Import and Export). Also a fee has to be paid for the re-inspection that takes place after the rejection of a lot/consignment. The use of fees is positive, as it will lower inspection dependency on the government budget. The Finnish Authorities are advised to investigate whether it could be possible to extend the use of fees. For instance, a fee could be charged for the risk assessment of approved traders. Also, a fee could be introduced to finance inspections in the domestic market. The use of fees could be combined with the introduction of objective/transparent criteria for risk analysis/risk assessment. Before these types of fees are introduced, it is advisable to check whether the legal provisions for the use of these fees are adequate.

The Peer Review team has noticed that the main wholesaler companies in Finland have their own control personnel and/or have a quality management (assurance) system. The Customs/Evira could take into consideration providing (paid) training for the control personnel of traders'

7.7 Inspection Conditions

The Peer Review Team noticed that inspection conditions at the warehouses could be slightly improved. On some occasions, inspectors did not have an inspection table. This forced them to undertake the inspection in the corridors of the warehouse, with pickers and other warehouse personnel continuously passing by. If possible, the inspection service could make arrangements with the inspected companies about the inspection conditions. These could include a proper inspection table (with sufficient light) and safe inspection conditions, or even the provision of a separate room or area where the inspector could perform his/her tasks.

7.8 Sufficient inspection and staff personnel

The Peer Review Team has the impression that the number of inspection personnel and staff personnel is insufficient (taking into account that inspections related to fresh fruits and vegetables get less priority), that the training of inspectors could be augmented. The Team has also made several suggestions in relation to the improvement and the setup of a risk analysis framework. Finland authorities are advised to investigate whether the number of inspection personnel as well as staff personnel should be extended in order to make the suggested improvements possible.

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- ANNEX I. BASIC STATISTICS OF FINLAND
- ANNEX II. FINNISH FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PRODUCTION BY AREA OR WEIGHT AND NUMBER OF ENTERPRISES
- ANNEX III. FINNISH IMPORT OF FRUIT AND VEGETABLES BY VALUE AND WEIGHT
- ANNEX IV. SPECIMEN QUALITY INSPECTION FORM
- ANNEX V. PROGRAMME OF THE PEER REVIEW VISIT
- ANNEX VI. LIST OF PERSONS MET BY THE PEER REVIEW TEAM
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ANNEX I BASIC STATISTICS OF FINLAND, 2012

(Numbers in parentheses refer to the OECD average)⁴

LAND, PEOPLE AND ELECTORAL CYCLE				
Population (million)	5.4		Population density per km ²	16.0 (34.3)
Under 15 (%)	16.4	(18.1)	Life expectancy (years, 2011)	80.6 (80.0)
Over 65 (%)	18.5	(15.3)	Men	77.3 (77.3)
Foreign-born (% , 2011)	4.9		Women	83.8 (82.8)
Latest 5-year average growth (%)	0.5	(0.5)	Last general election	April 2011
ECONOMY				
Gross domestic product (GDP)			Value added shares (%)	
In current prices (billion USD)	247.4		Primary sector	2.8 (2.5)
In current prices (billion EUR)	192.4		Industry including construction	26.0 (27.4)
Latest 5-year average real growth (%)	-0.7	(0.6)	Services	71.2 (69.9)
Per capita, PPP (thousand USD)	38.3	(37.2)		
GENERAL GOVERNMENT (percent of GDP)				
Expenditure	56.6	(42.6)	Gross financial debt	64.0 (102.4)
Revenue	54.4	(36.2)	Net financial debt	-55.4 (64.1)
EXTERNAL ACCOUNTS				
Exchange rate (EUR per USD)	0.778		Main exports (% of total merchandise exports)	
PPP exchange rate (USA = 1)	0.929		Manufactured goods	29.6
In per cent of GDP			Machinery and transport equipment	29.2
Exports of goods and services	40.5	(53.8)	Chemicals and related products, n.e.s.	11.0
Imports of goods and services	41.4	(50.4)	Main imports (% of total merchandise imports)	
Current account balance	-1.9	(-0.5)	Machinery and transport equipment	27.1
Net international investment position	18.4		Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials	22.0
			Chemicals and related products, n.e.s.	11.7
LABOUR MARKET, SKILLS AND INNOVATION				
Employment rate (%) for 15-64 year-olds	69.4	(65.0)	Unemployment rates (%)	
Men	70.6	(73.1)	Total (age 15 and over)	7.7 (7.9)
Women	68.2	(57.0)	Youth (age 15-24)	18.8 (16.2)
Average hours worked per year	1,672	(1766)	Long-term unemployed (1 year and over)	1.6 (2.7)
Gross domestic expenditure on R&D (% of GDP, 2011)	3.8	(2.4)	Tertiary educational attainment 25-64 year-olds (% , 2011)	39.3 (31.5)
ENVIRONMENT				
Total primary energy supply per capita (toe)	6.2	(4.2)	CO ₂ emissions from fuel combustion per capita (tonnes, 2011)	10.3 (10.0)
Renewables (%)	29.1	(8.5)	Water abstractions per capita (1 000 m ³ , 2006)	1.2
Fine particulate matter concentration (urban, PM10, µg/m ³ , 2010)	15.2	(20.1)	Municipal waste per capita (tonnes, 2011)	0.5 (0.5)
SOCIETY				
Income inequality (Gini coefficient, 2009)	0.255	(0.305)	Education outcomes (PISA score, 2012)	
Relative poverty rate (% , 2009)	7.4	(10.7)	Reading	524 (496)
Public and private spending (% of GDP)			Mathematics	519 (494)
Health care (2011)	9.0	(9.5)	Science	545 (501)
Pensions (2009)	11.1	(8.7)	Share of women in parliament (% , November 2013)	42.5 (26.0)
Education (primary, secondary, post-secondary non tertiary, 2010)	4.1	(4.0)	Net official development assistance (% of GNI)	0.5 (0.4)

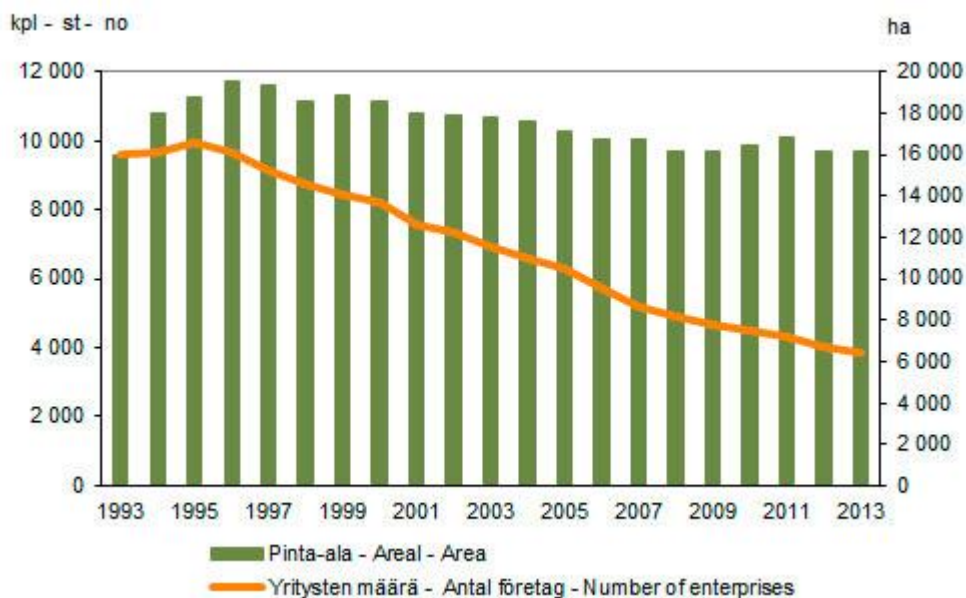
Better life index: www.oecdbetterlifeindex.org

⁴ Where the OECD aggregate is not provided in the source database, an OECD average of latest available data is calculated where data exists for at least 27 member countries.
Source: Calculations based on data extracted from the databases of the following organisations: OECD, International Energy Agency, World Bank, International Monetary Fund and Inter-Parliamentary Union.

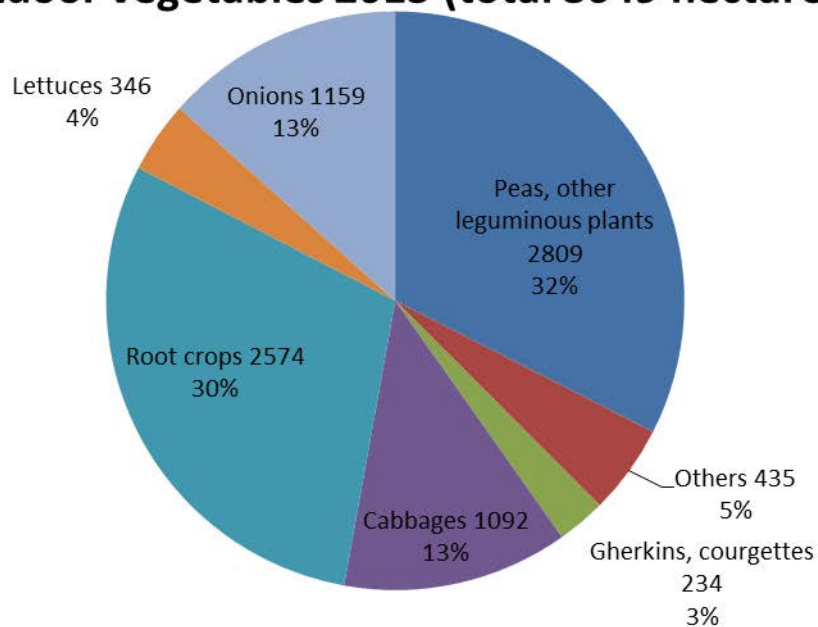
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ANNEX II.

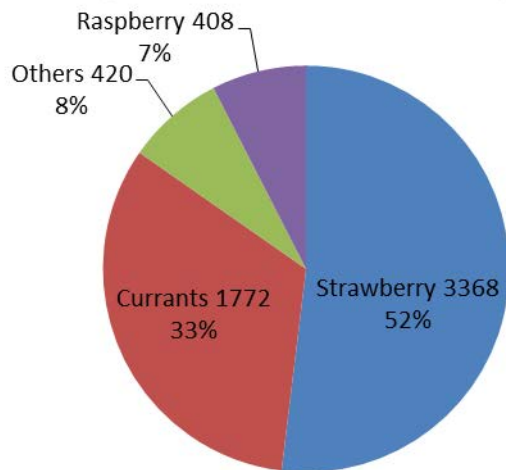
FINLAND FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PRODUCTION BY AREA OR WEIGHT AND NUMBER OF ENTERPRISES



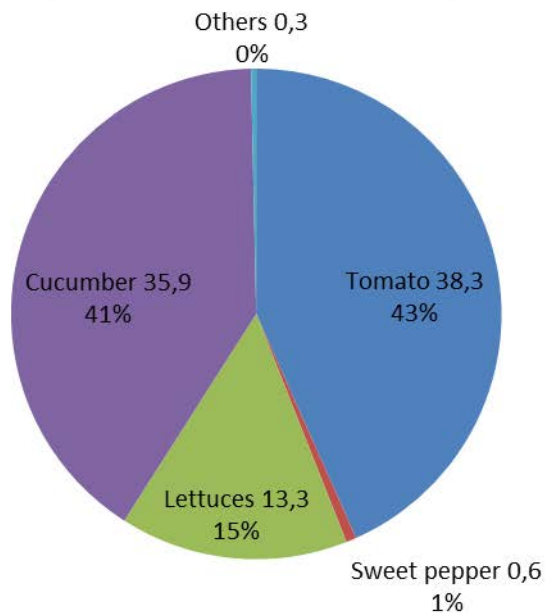
Outdoor vegetables 2013 (total 8649 hectares)



Berries and fruit grown in the open 2013 (total 5967 hectares)



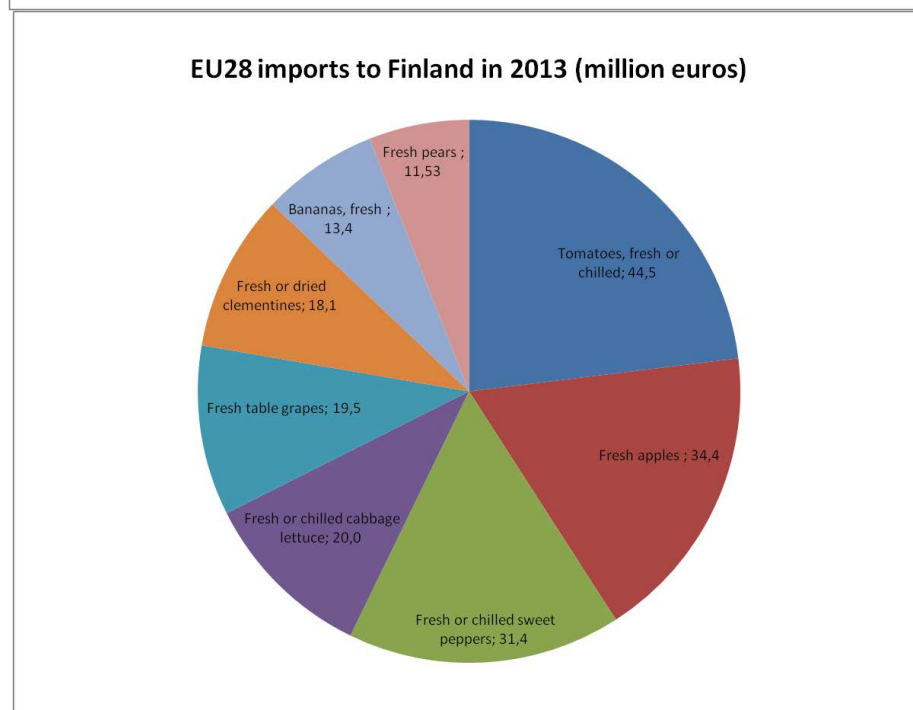
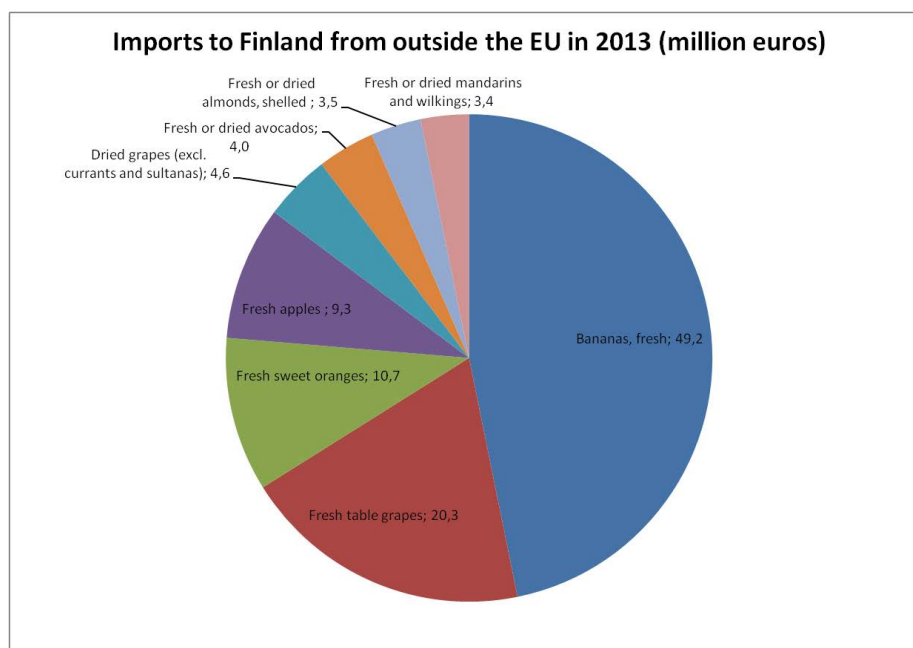
Vegetables in greenhouses 2013 (total 88,5 million kg)



Source: www.maataloustilastot.fi, Information Centre of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

ANNEX III

FINNISH IMPORT OF FRUIT AND VEGETABLES BY VALUE AND WEIGHT



Source: Foreign Trade Statistics, Finnish Customs

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ANNEX IV.

SPECIMEN INSPECTION FORM

Alkuperäinen / Original	
1. Toimija / Akteur	
Tuoreiden hedelmien ja vihannesten vaatimustenmukaisuustodistus / Intyg om överensstämmelse för färsk frukt och färska grönsaker	
Nro/Nr 5002	
<small>(* Tämä todistus on täytettävä alhaastaan tarkastusviranomaisille / Detta intyg är utskickande endast för kontrollorganet)</small>	
2. Pakkauksessa mainittu pakkaaja (jos eri kuin toimija) / Förpackare enligt uppgift på förpackningen (om annan än aktören)	3. Tarkastusviranomaisen / Kontrollorganet
	
4. Tarkastuspäivä: alkuperämaa / Kontrollställe / Ursprungsland	5. Määräalue tai -maa / Bestämningsområde eller -land
6. Kuljetusvälineen tunnisteet / Lippu / Transportmodell	7. <input type="checkbox"/> Sisäinen / Intern <input type="checkbox"/> Tuonti / Import <input type="checkbox"/> Vienti / Export
8. Pakkaus (tarkka määrä ja tyyppi) / Rollen (antal och typ)	9. Tuote (lajike, jos vaatimukset siltä koskevat) / Typ av produkt (nort om namnet föreskrivs därtill)
	10. Lastuluokka / Kvotklass 11. Kokonstenttopaino kilogrammoina / Sammantaget nettovikt i kg
12. Tällä kuvalla, jota on valmistettu yhteisen kaupun sääntöjen vaatimusten mukainen tämän todistuksen myöntämistarkoituksella. Den härskriften som visas här överensstämmer, vid tillämpligt, med förordningen för utfärdandet, med gemenskapens gällande handelsnomenklatur.	
Aiotti tullilainpöytäkirja / Tullkontor	
Vnmääräaika / Giltighet	päivä / dagar
Myöntämispäivä ja -paiva / Plets och datum för utfärdandet	
Toimitusta sen vakuutusta sen toivota / Den behövliga handlingsstämpel	
Allekirjoittaja (nimi suoraan) / Undertecknare (namn i rättsliggande)	
Allekirjoitus / Namnteckning	
13. Huomautukset / Anmärkningar	
<small>* Jällekirjoitus alkuperäisen merkinnän mukaan 5. / Vid återexport av produkten ska dess ursprung anges i till 5</small>	

Tullitarkastus nro: 6720: 11

Tullitarkastus nro: 6720: 11

Tullitarkastus nro: 6720: 11

ANNEX V.

PROGRAMME OF THE PEER REVIEW VISIT

Tuesday 9.9.2014

- 8.30 The PR Team will be picked from the hotel and taken to Evira (Finnish Food Safety Authority Evira)
- 9.00 - 11.30 Presentations, discussions, Evira's role in quality inspection work
- The Finnish Horticultural Production (Anna-Kaisa Jaakkonen)
The Structure of the Finnish Horticultural Trade (Jyrki Jalkanen)
- 11.30 - 12.30 Lunch in Evira
- 12.30-16.00 Inspections in practice (KESKO, wholesaler, both imported and Finnish products)
- 16.00 The PR Team will be taken to the hotel
- 18.30 Dinner

Wednesday 10.9.2014

- 9.00 The PR Team will be picked from the hotel and taken to a big retail shop (K-Supermarket Mankkaa) – Practical inspection
- 10.30 - 11.30 Presentations, discussions, practical inspection at INEX Partners (wholesaler)
- 11.30 - 12.30 Lunch at INEX Partners
- 13.00 - 16.00 The Customs Laboratory, the Laboratory's role in quality inspection work, presentations, discussions
- 16.00 The PR Team will be taken to the hotel

Thursday 11.9.2014

- 9.00 - 11.30 To the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry via the Market Square
- The Ministry's role in the quality inspection work
- The PR Team's conclusions and suggestions, discussions
- 11.30 -12.30 Lunch

End of the Peer Review

ANNEX VI.

LIST OF PERSONS MET BY THE PEER REVIEW TEAM

The Pear Review Team:

Mr. Jean Crombach
Mr. Jose Brambila-Macias

The Customs Laboratory:

Mrs. Kristiina Ala-Fossi-Aalto
Mrs. Jenni Vuokko
Mr. Janne Nieminen

Finnish Food Safety Authority:

Mrs. Annika Nurttila
Mrs. Niina Matilainen

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry:

Mr. Veli-Pekka Talvela
Mr. Pekka Sandholm
Mr. Jouni Pynnöniemi
Mrs. Niina Kauhajärvi

The Information Centre of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry:

Mrs. Anna-Kaisa Jaakkola

Finnish Glasshouse Growers' Association:

Mr. Jyrki Jalkanen

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ANNEX VII.

LIST OF REFERENCES

- Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 establishing a common organisation of the markets in agricultural products and repealing Council Regulations (EEC) No 922/72, (EEC) No 234/79, (EC) No 1037/2001 and (EC) No 1234/2007
- Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 543/2011 of 7 June 2011 laying down detailed rules for the application of Council Regulation (EC) No 1234/2007 in respect of the fruit and vegetables and processed fruit and vegetables sectors
- Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 1333/2011 of 19 December 2011 laying down marketing standards for bananas, rules on the verification of compliance with those marketing standards and requirements for notifications in the banana sector
- Act on the organisation of agricultural product markets (999/2012, amended by 1194/2011)
 - o general rules
 - o rules concerning marketing standards
 - o competent authorities
- Act on the control of the requirements concerning the placing on the market of fruit and vegetables (720/2009)
 - o more detailed and specific rules

Other legislation connected to the fruit and vegetables inspection:

- Food Act (23/2006)
- Act on the protection of the plant health (702/2003)
- OECD (2006)
Council Decision Revising the OECD 'Scheme' for the Application of International Standards for Fruit and Vegetables [C\(2006\)95](#)
- www.maataloustilastot.fi (Information Centre of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry)
- Foreign Trade Statistics, Finnish Customs

Peer Review of the Fruit and Vegetables Quality Inspection System in Finland

2015

This Peer Review is produced within the framework of the Scheme for the Application of International Standards for Fruit and Vegetables established by the OECD in 1962. The Peer Review is a systematic examination and assessment of the performance of national fruit and vegetables quality inspection systems by experts from other countries under the umbrella of the OECD Fruit and Vegetables Scheme. The ultimate goal is to help to improve policy making, adopt best practices and comply with established international standards and principles. The examination is conducted on a voluntary basis, and relies on mutual trust and co-operation among reviewers, as well as their shared confidence in the process.

Finland's Peer Review primarily focuses on the fruit and vegetable import quality inspection system. The climate of Finland is characterised by long, cold and dark winters and short growing periods, so Finland relies on imports of fruit and vegetables all around the year. Bananas are the main imported fruit; others are apples, table grapes, small citrus fruits and oranges. In the vegetable group, tomatoes, lettuces, peppers and cucumbers are the most dominant products. During the summer time Finland produces mostly vegetables and berries for the national market. Finland has two inspection services that collaborate and coordinate fruit and vegetables inspections. The Finnish Customs (TULLI) focuses on imports and exports while the Food Safety Authority (Evira), with the help of the ELY Centres (Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment) oversee fruit and vegetables at the wholesale and retail level, under the supervision of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. Moreover, the Peer Review also outlines recommendations on possible further improvements in the Finnish quality inspection system such as the use of fees, improvements in the inspections conditions and to study the feasibility of increasing the number of staff assigned to inspections.