

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

# Peer Review of the Fruit and Vegetables Quality Inspection System in France

2016



*Codes and Schemes*  
**Trade and Agriculture**

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## FOREWORD

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. Seven Peer Reviews have already been released (Finland, Hungary, Morocco, the Netherlands, Slovakia, Spain and Turkey).

The OECD Fruit and Vegetables Scheme undertook a mission as part of a review of the fruit and vegetables quality inspection system in France on 8-10 September 2015. The review included a 3-day visit to Paris and its vicinity to meet officials and stakeholders in the fruit and vegetables sector.

Mr Shawn Coetzee (South Africa), Mr Jose Brambila-Macias and Mrs Marie Russel (OECD Secretariat) participated in the Peer Review mission. The team was accompanied by Mrs Emilie Maire and Mr Bruno Cauquil (Directorate General for Competition Policy, Consumer Affairs and Fraud Control (DGCCRF)). During the Peer Review mission, meetings were held with officials at the DGCCRF. The Peer Review Team managed to follow the implementation of the quality inspections at open market, retail and import level.

This draft report was prepared by the Peer Review Team in close cooperation with officials at the DGCCRF. 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 France.

The Peer Review report is published under the responsibility of the OECD Fruit and Vegetables Scheme.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Peer Review Report has been approved by the OECD Fruit and Vegetables Scheme. It has been drafted by the OECD Secretariat: José Brambila-Macias, and Shawn Coetzee (National expert, South Africa). The OECD Secretariat is grateful for the contributions provided by Ms Emilie Maire of the Directorate General for Competition Policy, Consumer Affairs and Fraud Control (DGCCRF) of the Ministry of Economic Affairs of France and by Mrs H  l  ne Gayon and Mrs Annie-Claude Ladrat of the Service Commun des Laboratoires   conomiques et financiers (SCL, The Joint Laboratory Service). The organisation of the review mission, editing and formatting of documents were done by Isabelle Braud and Marie Russel of the OECD Secretariat.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Within the European Union, France is the third producer of fruit and vegetables after Italy and Spain: nine million of tonnes and five million of tonnes of potatoes. The revenue of the production of fruit and vegetables was of EUR 7.8 billion in 2013. About 530 000 hectares were devoted to the production of fruit and vegetables, including potatoes. The most cultivated vegetables are the potatoes and then the tomatoes (795 000 tonnes) and by far the most cultivated fruit is apple (1.4 million of tonnes). 39% of the national production of vegetables and 15% of the production of fruit are for the industrial transformation. Potatoes, tomatoes, mushrooms, prunes and 'bigarreau' cherries are the main processed fruit and vegetables.

The French production is covered by quality labels: 18 Protected Designation of Origin (PDO) and 23 Protected Geographical Indication (PGI).

The organic production of fruit and vegetables remains marginal: 5 660 farms for 14 900 ha in fruit and 3 927 farms for 9 600 ha in vegetables.

France has one dedicated inspection service, the Directorate General for Competition Policy, Consumer Affairs and Fraud Control (DGCCRF) that oversees fruit and vegetables at the export, wholesale and retail level, under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Economy. At import level, the Phytosanitary inspections service of the Ministry of Agriculture, DGCCRF and Customs are the main authorities while at producer level it is the Ministry of Agriculture that oversees compliance.

The Peer Review Team visited the Central Offices of DGCCRF in Paris. The DGCCRF - Bureau 4C also organised practical inspections and visits to an open air market, to a Carrefour supermarket in Paris, to a vegetable farmer (EARL Francis Tremblay) in Neuville sur Oise and to Rungis gross-market, where the team was able to visit and witness practical inspections to Comexa Services (importer and exporter of fruit and vegetables), UNIVÉG KATOPE France (importer of exotic fruits and vegetables) and Georges Helfer S. A. France (importer of exotic fruits and vegetables).

The French inspection system supports efficiently the provisions of the applicable EU Regulation No 543/2011 which is in line with the OECD Rules for Conformity Checks on Fruit and Vegetables. There is good evidence that amendments to this regulation are considered continuously from a quality inspections perspective. The Peer Review Team was highly impressed with the laboratory infrastructure dealing with Fresh Fruit and Vegetables and other products in France. The system applied for approved traders in France was found to be very effective and characterized as well structured and effectively managed from a quality management system point of view. The Peer Review Team also noted that the inspectors were handling inspections in an effective way despite noting that inspections on the open market differ from the normal inspections at ports, warehouses, etc.

As part of their recommendations, the Peer Review Team suggested to ensure that inspections are done in more ideal conditions with fixed or mobile inspection tables, proper lightning, wash basins, etc. This would enhance the professional image of inspections. It was further highlighted that this could be one of the conditions of inspections. Furthermore, the Peer Review Team suggested studying the feasibility of introducing an approval mark for produce that has passed the inspection process and conformed.

Finally, the Peer Review Team recommended that the refresher sessions that are conducted with Inspectors annually should include a practical part as well. In this regard it was recommended that a principle of "measurement" should support the harmonisation process towards indicating the degree of leniency and strictness per inspector. The Peer Review Team also noticed that the human resources are

under pressure. However mention was made that to manage this aspect the French administration assigns more responsibility to traders, notably via self-regulation conventions signed between DGCCRF and professional organisations.

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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

Over the past 50 years, France has been an active member of the OECD Scheme for the Application of International Standards for Fruit and Vegetables and was recently rapporteur of the brochures on melons and shallots.

Production and export of fruit and vegetables plays an important role in the agriculture and the economy of France. The fruit and vegetables quality inspection system has a central role to maintain the quality of the French fruit and vegetables products and, therefore, facilitate trade. This Peer Review can provide useful information and feedback to the self-assessment of the French Inspection system with the identification of strengths and weak points of the system from the point of view of the OECD Scheme as an independent third party.

Participating at the Peer Review is a way to improve policy making and is an opportunity for benchmarking. France is interested by the assessment of the experts from other member countries of the OECD scheme. The outcome of the review would be taken into account in the future development and improvement of the national inspection system.

Annex I provides general statistics for France.

#### **1.1. Geographical situation**

France is the biggest country within the EU with a surface of 632 834 km<sup>2</sup> (552 000 km<sup>2</sup> metropolitan), the second being Spain with 505 991 km<sup>2</sup>. France stretches on about 1 000 km from North to South and from West to East. The density of population (main land) is 117 persons per square kilometre (Figure 1).

In January 2015, the total population of France was 66.32 million of persons.

In 2014, the GDP was EUR 2 132.4 billion (+ 0.8% vs 2013). In the 1st quarter of 2015, the growth rate was + 0.6% and the unemployment rate was 10.3%.

Figure 1. Map of France (metropolitan) and its borders



Source: Directorate for Competition Policy, Consumer Affairs and Fraud Control.

## 1.2. Agro-climate situation

Temperatures are mild: the average is between 10° and 15°. Rain is moderate and well-spread all around the country.

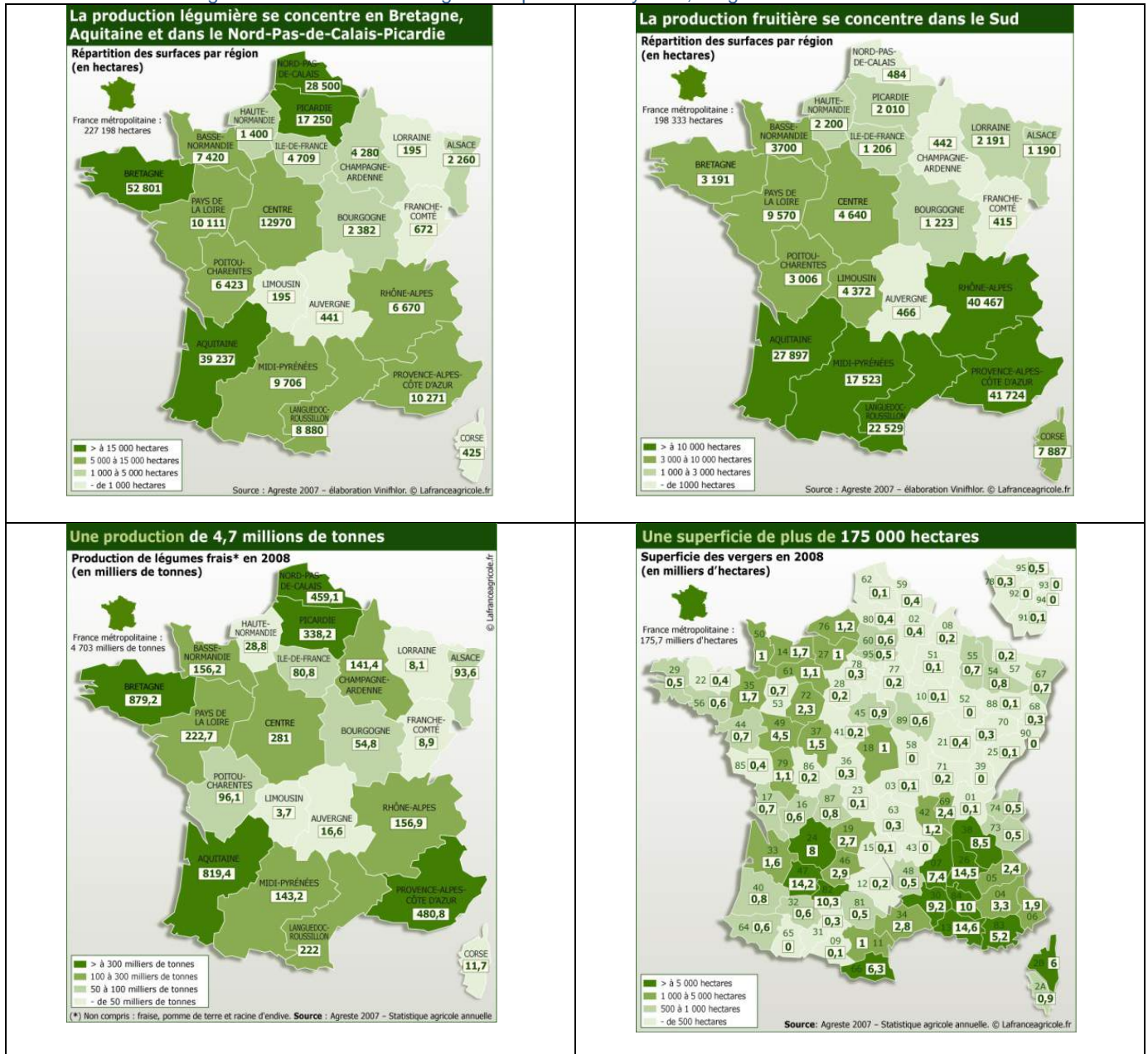
## 1.3. Agricultural sector and trade

### 1.3.1. Production

Within the European Union, France is the third producer of fruit and vegetables after Italy and Spain: nine million of tonnes and five million of tonnes of potatoes.

The revenue of the production of fruit and vegetables was EUR 7.8 billion in 2013. About 530 000 hectares were devoted to the production of fruit and vegetables including potatoes (Figures 2 and 3).

Figure 2. French fruit and vegetables production by area, weight and value



Source: Directorate for Competition Policy, Consumer Affairs and Fraud Control.

The most cultivated vegetables are the potatoes and then the tomatoes (795 000 tonnes) and by far the most cultivated fruit is apple (1.4 million of tonnes).

39% of the national production of vegetables and 15% of the production of fruit are for the industrial transformation. Potatoes, tomatoes, mushrooms, prunes and 'bigarreau' cherries are the main processed fruit and vegetables.

The French production is covered by quality labels: 18 Protected Designation of Origin (PDO) and 23 Protected Geographical Indication (PGI).

Figure 3. Fruit and vegetables sector



Exploitations fruitières = fruit farms; Exploitations légumières = vegetables farms; Grossistes = wholesale; GMS = supermarkets; Primeurs = green grocer

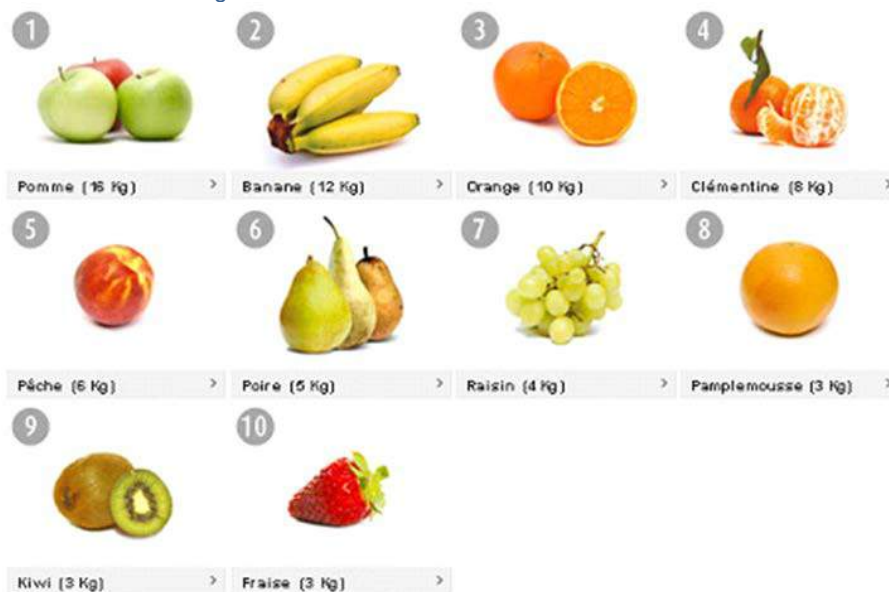
Source: Directorate for Competition Policy, Consumer Affairs and Fraud Control.

The organic production of fruit and vegetables remains marginal: 5 660 farms for 14 900 ha in fruit and 3 927 farms for 9 600 ha in vegetables.

### 1.3.2. Consumption

The trend of consumption is unfavorable to fresh products in general. The French consumption of fruit and vegetables is estimated at EUR 15.5 billion (excluding potatoes). In average, French households buy around 170 kg of fresh fruit and vegetables per year representing an amount of EUR 350 (Figures 4 and 5).

Figure 4. The 10 most consumed fruits in France



Consumption per household (2 to 3 persons) and per year, in kg

Source: Kantar World panel; INSEE.

Figure 5. The 10 most consumed vegetables in France



Consumption per household (2 to 3 persons) and per year, in kg

Source: Kantar World panel; INSEE.

The majority of the exchanges of fruit and vegetables take place within the European Union.

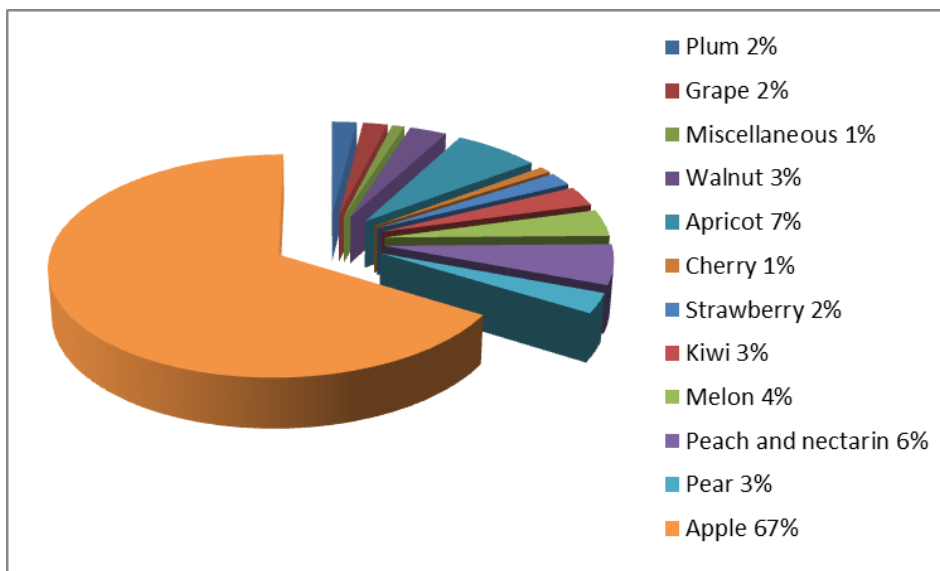
France exports mainly potatoes, apples, bananas, tomatoes, cauliflowers and carrots. It imports tomatoes, bananas, potatoes, oranges, small citrus fruit, apples and melons (Figures 6 and 7).

## Chapter 1 - Introduction

Whereas the French trade balance is in deficit for fresh fruit and vegetables (- EUR 1.83 billion for fruit and EUR 717 million for vegetables in 2012), it is largely in excess for potatoes (+ EUR 311 million).

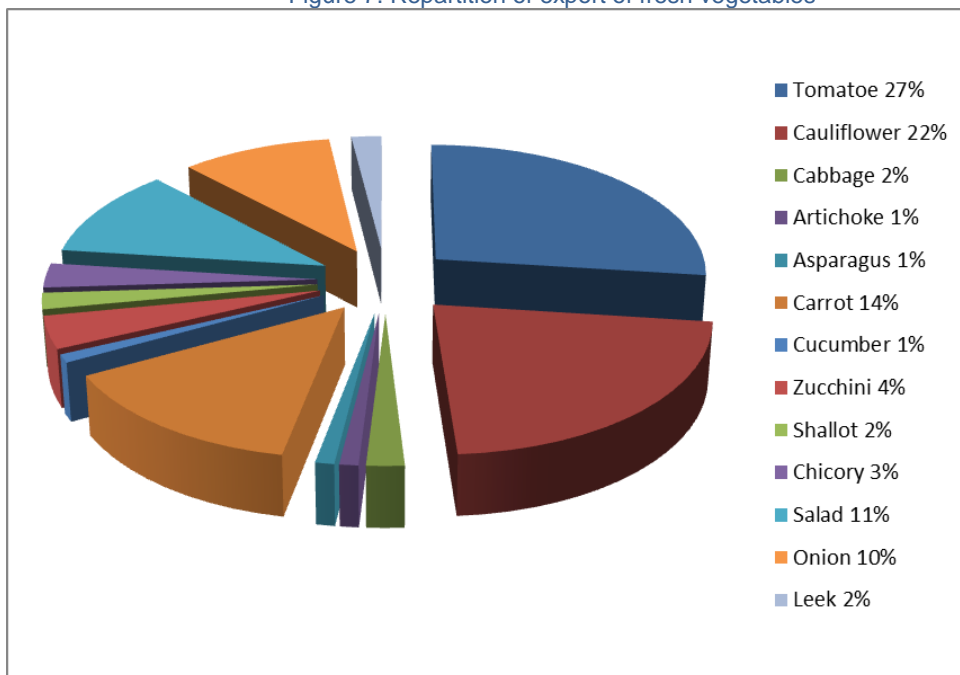
Competition of other countries (Spain, Morocco, and the Netherlands) has a huge impact on the balance of the industry.

Figure 6. Repartition of exports of fresh fruit



Source: Directorate for Competition Policy, Consumer Affairs and Fraud Control.

Figure 7. Repartition of export of fresh vegetables



Source: Directorate for Competition Policy, Consumer Affairs and Fraud Control.

### Chapter 2 - Legislative background for Fruit and Vegetables Inspection

#### *2.1. National Agricultural Policy*

The national agricultural policy is elaborated by the ministry of Agriculture. There is no such thing as a strategic plan specific to fruit and vegetables inspection at a governmental level.

#### *2.2. Legislation of the European Union*

The fruit and vegetables sector is regulated within the European Union as part of the common organisation of agricultural markets. As a member of the EU, France implements the common policies.

The relevant EU regulations on quality standards are:

- Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 of 17 December 2013, establishing a common organisation of the markets in agricultural products
- Regulation (EU) No 543/2011 of 7 June 2011, laying down detailed rules in respect of the fruit and vegetables and processed fruit and vegetables sectors.

#### *2.3. National Legislation*

For some other specific products, France has got national regulation e.g. shallots; potatoes; prunes.

The agricultural sector has also to deal with professional organisations that can set BtoB agreements for the relevant product group, not only for primary production but also for supply, trade and processing.



## Chapter 2 - Legislative background for Fruit and Vegetables Inspection

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### Chapter 3 - Marketing standards

As a member state of the EU, France implements Regulation n°543/2011 in respect of the fruit & vegetables sector, which lays down a general marketing standard (GMS) and ten specific marketing standards (SMS). The GMS is a list of minimum requirements completed with provisions on tolerances and on labelling of the country of origin. The SMS are on the following products: apples; citrus fruit; kiwifruit; lettuces, curled leaves and broad-leaved endives; peaches and nectarines; pears; strawberries; sweet peppers; table grapes and tomatoes.

The application of the EU marketing standards (Regulation n° 543/2011) is mandatory in France.

EU standards are elaborated and/or reviewed at the EU level, by the institutions (European Commission and Parliament) in collaboration with the member states.

The implementation of the OECD and UNECE standards is made on a voluntary basis in France. The trader can choose to label a quality class on the product.

OECD and UNECE standards are available in French. They are regularly updated.

Regular meetings or exchanges of contacts are organised between the administration in charge of the fruit & vegetables sector and the professional families (import, export, wholesale, retail) to prepare the UNECE specialized sections and also to provide them with a feedback of these international meetings.

Inspectors are kept up to date mainly via an annual meeting and an annual training session on a product covered by specific marketing standards.

### Chapter 4 - Structure of the Administration System

The Ministry of Economy is the responsible authority for the proper legal implementation of the international and national regulations on fresh fruit and vegetables quality inspection and for the OECD Fruit and Vegetables Scheme. Among the ministry, the administration in charge of implementing the fruit and vegetables quality controls is the DGCCRF: Directorate General for Competition Policy, Consumer Affairs and Fraud Control.

Inspections are made at the following stages with the following body responsible for the checks:

- export level: DGCCRF
- import level: Phytosanitary inspections service of the Ministry of Agriculture, DGCCRF, and Customs for the release for free circulation
- producer level: Ministry of Agriculture mainly. Also DGCCRF once it is traded to another trader or to the consumer.
- wholesale level: DGCCRF
- retail level: DGCCRF.

#### 4.1. Ministry of Economy

The Ministry of Economy prepares and implements government policy in economic matters as well as in industry, services, small and medium enterprises, crafts, trade, postal and electronic communications, monitoring and supporting of tourism activities, the digital economy and innovation.

As such, it sets out measures to promote growth and competitiveness of the French economy and to encourage and guide investment. The Ministry is responsible for the preparation of macroeconomic scenarios for France and its international environment. It is also responsible for corporate finance and debt capital, especially for small and medium businesses and midsize companies. It is responsible for the promotion and development of the social economy. It is responsible for the policy in favor of the creation of businesses and the simplification of formalities imposed on them. It exercises guardianship of the chambers of trade network of institutions and chambers of commerce and industry.

Under the responsibilities defined above, the Ministry of Economy is responsible for:

- the policy of growth and competitiveness of the French economy, foreign direct investment, attractiveness of the territory
- competition, consumption and fraud prevention
- regulation, analysis and control of public procurement
- industrial strategic direction and monitoring of industrial and service sectors
- the policy on small and medium enterprises and crafts
- the policy of raw materials and mining, together with the Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy regarding energy matters

## Chapter 4 - Structure of the Administration System

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- political posts and electronic communications
- support for new technologies, their promotion and dissemination
- the development of digital technology and the digital economy and digital data policy
- industrial property
- the fight against counterfeiting
- monitoring and support of tourism activities, without prejudice to the powers of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development.

The Ministry is competent, together with the Ministry of Finance and Public Accounts, for:

- corporate finance and exports
- economic forecasting
- the interests of public policy
- economic and financial control
- statistics and economic studies.

The Ministry participates in the definition of business taxation.

The Ministry of Economy, Industry and Digital is competent, together with the Ministry of National Education, Higher Education and Research, in defining and monitoring the policy of innovation.

It prepares and implements the policy of development of the social economy, in conjunction with the Department of the City, Youth and Sports regarding the policy towards associations and city and in liaison with the Ministry of Labour, Employment, Vocational Training and Social Dialogue in terms of integration policy through economic activity and inclusion in employment.

It is associated with the definition and implementation of policy in the field of agri-food and forestry industries.

It contributes, in particular by ensuring the adaptation of the French economy to developments in international trade, to the definition and implementation of the Government's policy on foreign trade.

It contributes to the definition and implementation of energy policy.

### **4.2. Directorate General for Competition Policy, Consumer Affairs and Fraud Control (DGCCRF)**

#### **4.2.1. Mandate**

The DGCCRF has a mandate to work on behalf of consumers and enterprises. The mandate has three vectors:

- regulation of market competition

## Chapter 4 - Structure of the Administration System

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- economic protection of consumers
- consumer safety.

The main legal basis for DGCCRF interventions are : i) Treaty on European Union and its implementing regulations; ii) French Commercial Code section on competition (Book IV); iii) French Consumer Code; iv) French Public Procurements Code; and v) Provisions in other codes (e.g. Rural, Public Health,, Social Security, Employment, Construction and Intellectual Property), etc.

### *Regulation of market competition*

The DGCCRF combats cartels and abuses of dominant position in liaison with the Competition Authority and prevents and controls unfair trade practices between professionals (in particular in trade and industry relations).

### *Economic protection of consumers*

The DGCCRF also ensures that clear and honest information is provided on products and services. It supervises labelling rules (price, ingredients and description), quality indicators and fair market practices for consumers as well as on e-commerce, real estate and housing, health and social services, transport and tourism, banking and insurance, environmental claims, metrology. The DGCCRF also undertakes price monitoring (monthly online publication of the findings of the Prices and Margins Monitoring Centre).

### *Consumer safety*

The DGCCRF also monitors the safety of food products, e.g. ingredients, general and nutritional labelling, claims, hygiene and maintenance of a continuous cold chain. In the case of non-food products, it monitors the composition, labelling, "CE" marking, verification of product registration and test compliance.

Action methods:

- stronger action in high-risk sectors: toys, baby products, sports and leisure, individual protective equipment, cosmetics, chemical substances and products, etc
- initial market release audits ("CPMM"): verification of an undertaking's capacity to market compliant products (risk analysis, quality policy and self-monitoring)
- taking samples for analysis (laboratories) or risk assessment by national agencies (French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety [ANSES] and French Agency for Drug and Healthcare Product Safety [ANSM])
- reporting of dangerous products as part of the RASFF (Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed) and RAPEX (Rapid Exchange of Information on Non-Food Products) procedures, which include consumer information initiatives.

#### *4.2.2. Resources and organisation*

The DGCCRF has a central administration in Paris (Figure 8). Regional services are located within Unit C of the **22 DIRECCTE** (regional directorates for enterprises, competition, consumer affairs, labour and

## Chapter 4 - Structure of the Administration System

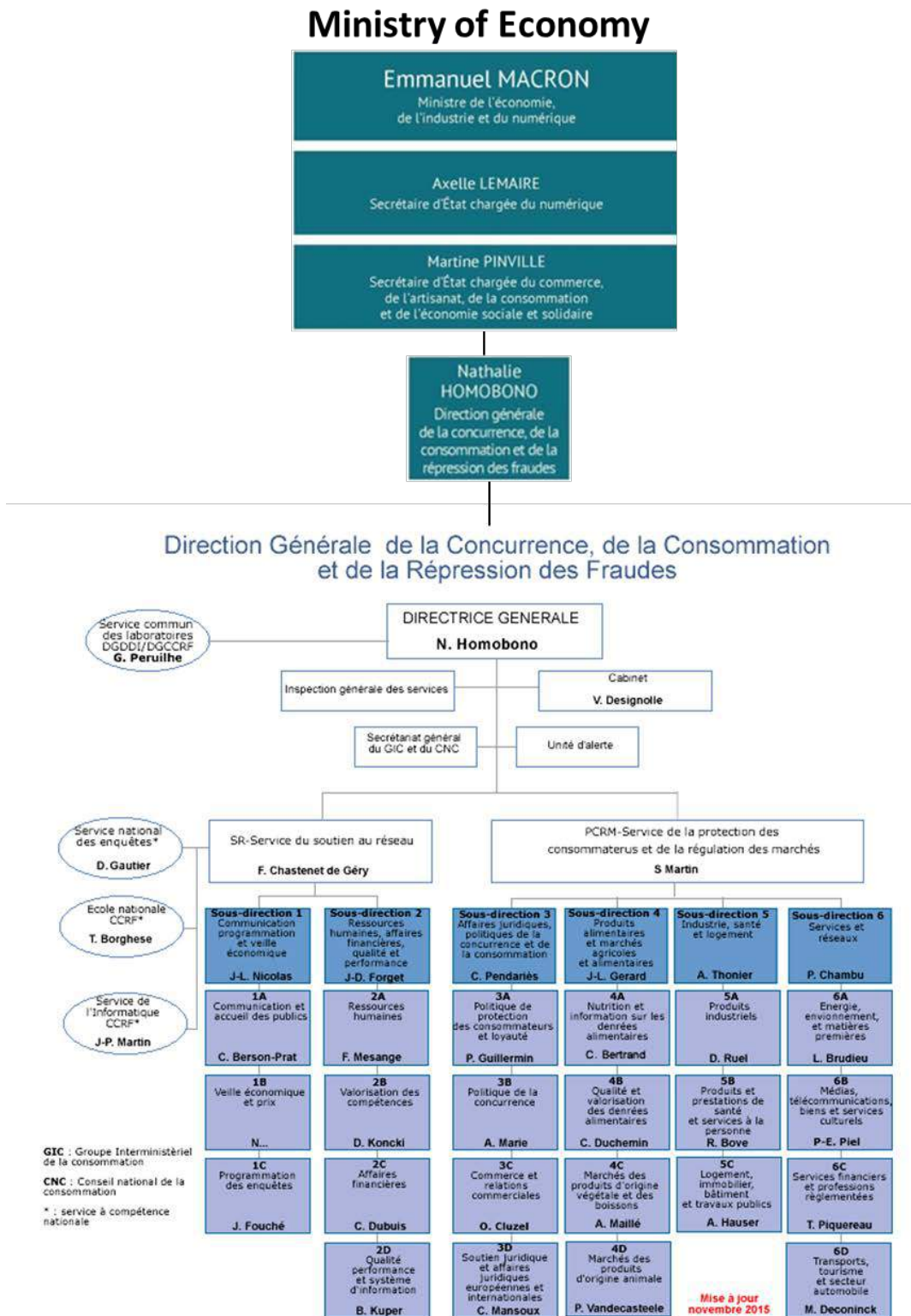
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employment) The Unit C mandates encompass competition, consumer affairs, fraud control and metrology. Unit C works in liaison with **96 inter-ministerial department directorates** organised into:

- DDPP: Departmental Directorates for the Protection of Populations (départements > 400 000 inhabitants)
- DDCSPP: Departmental Directorates for Social Cohesion of the Protection of Populations (départements < 400 000 inhabitants)
- DCSTEP: a Directorate for Social Cohesion, Labour, Employment and the Population in Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon.

Outside metropolitan France, the monitoring is done by five DIECCTE (directorates for enterprises, competition, consumer affairs, labour and employment).

Figure 8. Organisation



Source: Directorate for Competition Policy, Consumer Affairs and Fraud Control.

Updated November 2015.

### *Departments with national scope and networks*

- a Joint Laboratory Service with the Customs - SCL - in Marseille, Bordeaux, Montpellier, Rennes, Lille, Strasbourg, Lyon, Le Havre, Île-de-France, Les Antilles and La Réunion
- a National Investigations Department - SNE - which includes an Electronic Commerce Surveillance Centre in Morlaix (Brittany)
- a National Academy for competition, consumer affairs and fraud control - ENCCRF - in Montpellier with offices in Montreuil (near Paris)
- an IT Department - SICCRF - three centres in Paris, Lyon and Montpellier
- institutional Networks: fruits and vegetables, wine, cross-border cooperation, etc.
- sectorial inspection networks: toys, seafood, fertilizer and crop-growing, food supplements, animal feed, media, etc.

### *4.2.3. Permanent actions*

- to comply with EU market surveillance requirements as stipulated in the EU regulations for food and non-food products
- to guarantee well-functioning competitive markets and balanced commercial relations by detecting and dealing with restrictive or anti-competitive practices
- to check the compliance and safety of products and services.

### *4.2.4. Main tasks for 2015*

- to balance commercial relations between professionals and consumers : implementation of a new law published in 2014
- to follow the evolutions of consumption : e-business, collaborative economy, crowdfunding, apps, etc.
- to fight against economic frauds: honey, olive oil, energy savings, etc.

## **4.3. Fruit and vegetables quality inspectors**

At the regional level, 22 inspectors have special skills in quality control of fruit and vegetables. In addition, around 100 officers are involved with the control of food products, including fruit and vegetables. Those officers do not deal only with fruit and vegetables quality inspections but also with phytosanitary issues, pesticides residues and even sometimes competition law.

The basic qualification for the personnel is a higher education. The DGCCRF has a school on its own where officials are trained in competition and consumption law and in fraud control investigations. This includes both theoretical and practical parts. Newly employed inspectors in charge of fruit and vegetables receive a specific and additional two-day training session.

## Chapter 4 - Structure of the Administration System

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### 4.3.1. Training

There is an annual meeting between the 22 inspectors and the administration. This is a way to keep the network up to date with changes within European and national law and with the administrative doctrine. Inspectors also attend an annual training session on a product covered by a specific marketing standard. For instance, in 2015, the training session was devoted to tomatoes.

Inspectors and the administration maintain an active communication, exchanging regularly via emails and phone calls.

Inspectors use guidelines on control methods. When needed, they may have access to technical equipment. Inspectors have access to visual aids on how to interpret the standards. They can consult the OECD and the UNECE brochures via an internal website kept up to date by the DGCCRF. The inspectors have access to the updated national legislation via the intranet.

The officer in charge of the fruit and vegetables in the French administration keeps the inspectors up to date with the changes in the standards.

At the annual meeting, the 22 regional inspectors discuss about the inspections they undertake in order to harmonise the practices.

### 4.3.2. Contact with the industry

To avoid conflict of interests, the DGCCRF does not provide training session directly to the industry. However, during the inspection, if questions are asked, inspectors provide information. There is a collaboration with professional structures such as CTIFL and INTERFEL.

Established in 1952, CTIFL is a non-profit organisation. All experimentation, studies, training and publications are aimed at improving the level of expertise necessary in all sectors of the fruit and vegetables industry, as well as improving company performance.

Created in 1976, INTERFEL is also a non-profit organisation. It represents the whole industry from production to distribution. It can establish binding instructions with professional families. It has an active role in promoting fresh fruit and vegetables consumption in France.

Actions to improve the quality of production in France are under the responsibility of the ministry of Agriculture.

Producers, wholesalers, retailers and consumers may ask the regional inspectors and/or the officer at the national level for information on standards and quality control. The administration officers help traders in the interpretation of the standards as needed.

The industry is informed of changes in the standards via an annual meeting organised between the administration in charge of the fruit and vegetables sector and the professional families (import, export, wholesale, retail).

On request, meetings can be arranged with representatives of the industry discussing quality aspects on specific products (tomatoes for instance, to deal with some varieties issues).



5.1. Inspection system

Following the requirements of the EU Regulation 543/2011, the French fruit and vegetables quality inspection system is based on a risk analysis. The criteria for the risk assessment are as follow:

- approved traders or with internal self-checking procedures and/or an quality management system
- type of companies (grower, importer, exporter, packer, wholesaler, retailer, etc.)
- history of compliance or non-compliance from past inspections in the last three years
- type of products traded: the priority is given to the 10 fruit and vegetables under specific marketing standards.

The application of these criteria leads to a mark defining three types of risks: low, medium and high. The higher the risk is, the more often the trader will be inspected.

The trader database required by EU Regulation 543/2001 is updated after every inspection.

**Table 1. Number of inspections and actions over the last three years**

Level of trade	Dry and dried fruit and vegetables						Fresh fruit and vegetables					
	2012		2013		2014		2012		2013		2014	
	I	A	I	A	I	A	I	A	I	A	I	A
Total	860	1 299	831	1 336	695	994	37 768	101 146	34 729	96 493	29 764	78 075
Wholesale	134	212	122	214	103	184	5 194	11 841	4 410	9 939	3 838	8 310
Retail	277	387	272	438	227	294	18 460	52 810	16 487	49 202	14 355	39 987
Import	373	546	346	479	292	358	8338	19 909	8 648	22 588	7 172	18 031
Export	5	13	5	12	9	16	3 316	10 115	3 125	9 314	2 241	6 267

**NB:** I = inspection; A = action. As a matter of fact, several actions are usually undertaken during an inspection. The retail level includes wandering traders.

Source: Directorate for Competition Policy, Consumer Affairs and Fraud Control.

During the annual meeting, the results of the inspections are studied. Statistics are made among other things on a product basis, on the countries of origin. Trends in terms of number of inspections per year and the ratio of non-conformities are analysed.

There are follow-up procedures in case of non-conformity in products from France exported to other countries and vice versa.

To harmonise the French inspections with those made in other countries, the officer in charge of the fruit and vegetables in the French administration attends international meetings on quality control of fruit & vegetables (in Germany and in the United Kingdom).

As the official authority, the DGCCRF is the only one in charge of quality inspections. There is no private control body allowed to undertake those inspections.

There is no cost levied upon the market actors.

The DGCCRF has also set two agreements about self-controls for approved traders (see chapter 7).

### 5.2. Control procedures

The inspection methods of the OECD mentioned in the annex IV of Regulation 543/2011 are applied.

The inspectors choose the lots to be inspected based on a risk analysis described in section 5.1. The inspection system is the same whatever the level of trade. During the visit, the inspectors check in priority specific marketing standards but also general marketing standards. They decide independently what they inspect depending on type of products available, the quantity of product, the season (beginning/end), storage time, etc.

#### 5.2.1. Exports

In 2014, 18 629 notifications have been received by the DGCCRF representing 272 180 tonnes.

The main exported products were:

- kiwis: 9 059 tonnes
- pears: 4 002 tonnes
- table grapes : 2 432 tonnes
- lettuces: 2 045 tonnes
- carrots: 1 829 tonnes
- nectarines: 1 775 tonnes
- peaches: 1 181 tonnes
- garlic: 931 tonnes
- apricots: 814 tonnes
- potatoes: 555 tonnes
- melons: 508 tonnes.

The main countries of destination were:

- Algeria: 79 310 tonnes
- Emirates: 33 548 tonnes
- Russia: 22 531 tonnes
- Saudi Arabia: 22 529 tonnes
- Switzerland: 11 072 tonnes

## Chapter 5 - Fruit and vegetables quality inspection

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- Malaysia: 9 497 tonnes
- Singapore: 7 393 tonnes
- China: 7 036 tonnes
- Thailand: 6 444 tonnes
- Israel: 6 307 tonnes
- Oman: 4 688 tonnes
- Senegal: 4 467 tonnes
- Hong Kong: 4 357 tonnes
- Taiwan: 4 197 tonnes
- Qatar: 3 823 tonnes.

Inspections at the export level are based on a risk analysis. The risk assessment is based on the knowledge the inspection service has from the company (approved trader or not, past inspections) Priority is given to the 10 products under specific marketing standards. For non-approved traders, 100% of the lots exported should be checked. For approved traders, the percentage is 5% of the lots.

If a non-conformity is found at the export level, the lot can be sent but the official authority of the incoming country has to be informed.

The approved traders are required to keep a register over their actions of control. It may include the exported lots.

To prevent export of products found to be in non-conformity, traders are encouraged to be approved. If the exporter does not act in accordance with what the inspector has said, legal actions can be taken: an early warning if this is the first infringement and a report in case of previous negative inspections.

Penalties/sanctions at this level are rare.

### 5.2.2. Imports

In 2014, the main notifications (via the IT system) concerned the following regions:

- Nord Pas de Calais (Dunkerque): 162 267 tonnes
- Provence Alpes Côte d'Azur (Marseille): 101 338 tonnes
- Haute-Normandie (Le Havre): 16 274 tonnes
- Rhône-Alpes (Lyon): 10 005 tonnes.

## Chapter 5 - Fruit and vegetables quality inspection

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All imports of fresh fruit and vegetables should be notified to the DGCCRF. Companies can notify by using an IT system. The risk assessment is based on the knowledge the inspection service has from the company (approved trader or not, past inspections) Priority is given to the 10 products under specific marketing standards.

The main points of entry for imports are the ports of Le Havre and Marseille; airports of Roissy and Orly; Rungis (near Paris) and Saint Charles (Perpignan) as the biggest wholesale market places.

Usually, import controls are carried out in the port/airport ware-houses or at inspection offices (agriculture services/customs/fraud control).

For approved countries, 5% of the lots are checked.

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 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.

To prevent import of products found to be in non-conformity, traders are encouraged to be approved. If the importer does not act in accordance with what the inspector has said, legal actions can be taken: an early warning if this is the first infringement and a report in case of previous negative inspections.

### 5.3. Domestic market

To fulfil the requirements of Regulation 543/2011, France has got a centralised traders' database, updated after each inspection.

The visits to stakeholders are not notified beforehand. When stakeholders dispatch the products to the market, they do not notify the inspection service.

In 2014, the number of inspections carried out at the different levels of the supply chain were as follow:

- producer's level: 1 428
- wholesale's level: 3 838
- retailer's level: 14 355.

As for the other stages of trade, the implementation of the domestic market inspections is based on a risk assessment system.

Conformity certificates are not issued in the domestic market; only for exported products when required.

### 5.4. Non-Conformity

In the case of non-conformities found in the domestic market, officers issue certificates of non-conformity (see Annex III). The trader has to decide what to do with the lot depending what the problem is: class, size, presentation, labelling, maturity requirements, etc.

## Chapter 5 - Fruit and vegetables quality inspection

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To prevent marketing of products found not to be in conformity with standards, traders are encouraged to have good practices. As a matter of fact, there are in France two conventions signed between traders and the DGCCRF. One implies the different professional organisations: import, export and wholesale -called FeL Partenariat®- and the other one concerns the largest private gross-market called Saint Charles International based in Perpignan (near the Spanish border) (see chapter 7).

In both cases, the scope is larger than quality control but includes hygiene, pesticides, traceability, and good practices in general. To sign this text is an engagement for the firms to fulfil legal requirements dealing with quality standards, hygiene, pesticides, etc.

If the holder does not act in accordance with what the inspector has said, the first mean of action is the early warning. But considering the gravity of the practice, other penalties/sanctions can be issued such a report and fine can be given by the court.

Chapter 6 - Service Commun des Laboratoires économiques et financiers (SCL) - The Joint Laboratory Service.

France has a most advanced laboratory service to monitor, identify and classify fruits and vegetables. The Joint Laboratory Service (SCL) is a scientific service providing essential support to the General Directorate of Customs and Excise (DGDDI) and to the General Directorate for Competition Policy, Consumer Affairs and Fraud Control (DGCCRF). The services counts with a network of 11 laboratories in mainland and overseas France (see Figure 9).

Figure 9. SCL Laboratory network



Source: Service Commun des Laboratoires économiques et financiers.

The SCL has diverse and complementary missions:

- consumer protection : product compliance, product authenticity, detection of illicit substances
- consumer safety : chemical contaminants, compliance with safety standards, ensuring toys comply standards
- economic : tariff classification, fair pricing of foodstuffs
- taxation : tax classification of alcohols, wines, petroleum products
- crisis management : E. coli outbreak, radioactive leaks.

The SCL receives over 70 000 samples and performs more than 400 000 analyses every year. The SCL consists of a high-tech network of 40 national centres of expertise specialised in detection of chemical contaminants, in investigation on product compliance, product authenticity, food hygiene, etc. Analysis are performed under an ISO-certified quality system (ISO IEC 17025) and accredited by the French certification body COFRAC. The SCL relies on highly-qualified staff specialised in physics, chemistry,

## Chapter 6 - The Joint Laboratory Service (SCL)

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biochemistry and microbiology, establishing a workforce of over 400 scientists. It ensures ongoing cooperation with national, European and international scientific communities.

The SCL is designated as the National Reference Laboratories (NRL) for Community bodies in nine priority areas (Regulation (UE) n°882/2004). It is also a member of the Group of European Customs Laboratories, EU Taxation and Customs Union (DG TAXUD).

Almost all samples taken off by the DGCCRF are controlled according to the French Consumer Code. Only state laboratories are allowed to analyse such samples. If analysis are not possible (for example outside the scope of SCL), the state laboratory is allowed to turn to a private laboratory.

The SCL includes 40 national centres of expertise that focus on: i) food products, e.g. transformed fruits and vegetables (Bordeaux) and vegetables and mushrooms (Montpellier); ii) non-food products, e.g. seeds (Lille); and iii) transversal analysis, e.g. pesticides, heavy metals, radioactivity, ionizer products and MGO (Strasbourg).

Among other products, the SCL applies its analytical skills to the Fruit and vegetables sector.

In the case of potatoes, Lille laboratory is able to check their variety by means of protein electrophoresis or PCR. Around 100 samples are analysed every year for the DGCCRF, quite as many for private clients.

In the case of dry and dried fruits, Bordeaux laboratory provides analysis to control these products according to UNECE standards (moisture, quality requirements, size, class, etc.) and Regulation (UE) n° 1333/2008 (Additives). A great part of the work consists also in verifying authenticity of some fresh fruits and dry or dried fruits: origin, variety, and other requirements of quality signs (Protected Geographical Indication, Protected Designation of Origin) or any other mentions on labelling. Furthermore, the Bordeaux laboratory is currently building a unique apple database with the objective to identify the origin.

### Chapter 7 - Fruit and Vegetables Agreements

The DGCCRF has set out two agreements for traders to ensure fruit and vegetables quality compliance.

#### 7.1. FeL Partenariat®

This is the 1<sup>st</sup> Quality Management System for French BtoB Fruit and Vegetables trade. The partnership works under a tripartite commitment: Company, Association and French Food Authority (DGCCRF).

FeL Partenariat® members are responsible for ensuring that regulations pertaining to standardization and labelling are enforced, and for those introducing a product to the market, for complying with health regulations. In 2015, 75 companies are FeL Partenariat® approved traders.

FeL Partenariat® is a national convention of voluntary quality management systems reserved to the ANEEFEL (National Association of Fruit and Vegetables Packers & Exporters), CSIF (French Federation of Fruit and Vegetables Importers) and UNCGFL (National Union of Wholesale Trade Fruit and Vegetables) companies (Figure 10). ANEEFEL, CSIF and UNCGFL are the three federations representing BtoB Fruit and Vegetables trade. These partner federations represent over 60% of the volume available to consumers.

Within this framework, ANEEFEL, CSIF, and UNCGFL wish to provide their members with a way to showcase their expertise of the products with which they work together with the DGCCRF to create a responsible, voluntary policy, based on a national Quality Management System.

The FeL Partenariat® helps members companies of the association to meet their clients' expectations as regards the quality, hygiene and food safety of FFV, whether they come from conventional or organic farming. In this framework, it delimits clear responsibilities and actions for companies, associations and the relevant French authorities.

The Company's tasks are mainly to designate and train one or more inspectors, to respect the procedures relative to the legal obligations, the quality and food safety aspects of the National Convention.

The national convention stipulates that companies should:

- comply with FeL Partenariat®'s rules
- set up an annual pesticides, contaminants and additives control scheme, based on a HACCP risk analysis
- comply with hygiene best practices guidelines
- inform the suppliers of the company's commitment to FeL Partenariat Convention
- register checks and decisions made, manage a rapid alert system with the DGCCRF
- carry out an external audit.

In the case of associations, their main obligations are to promote the convention and the companies voluntarily committed to the measures with authorities and professional partner organisations.



## Chapter 7 - Fruit and Vegetables Agreements

Furthermore, associations should provide adequate tools by proposing a control management system, a specific training adapted the professions, selected and accredited laboratories specified in F&V and a hotline for assistance, as well as forward to the companies EU safety alerts. Finally, associations should circulate the FeL Partenariat® companies list, ensure full compliance with the scheme and establish for authorities an annual report on checks carried out by member companies.

The role of the French Food Authority (DGCCRF) would be to generate a due diligence from which the FeL Partenariat® companies can benefit, to inform the local directions of the procedure and give them the list of FeL Partenariat® companies and to evaluate the pertinence of the measures implemented if needed.

Figure 10. FeL Partenariat®



Source: [http://www.felpartenariat.eu/export/sites/default/data/docs/FeL\\_PARTENARIAT\\_leaflet\\_2014.pdf](http://www.felpartenariat.eu/export/sites/default/data/docs/FeL_PARTENARIAT_leaflet_2014.pdf) (October 2015).

Annual audits are made by four external auditors trained to have harmonised methods of control with a renewed audit table. This table is also a tool of self-assessment for the firms.

Annual internal surveys are made by the FeL Partenariat® team to evaluate the impact of the quality process. Every three years, an assessment of the process is presented by the FeL Partenariat® team to the DGCCRF in order to decide on the renewal of the convention or not.

### 7.2. Convention with SNIFL

The SNIFL is the national trade union of importers and exporters of Saint Charles International.

Like FeL Partenariat®, the convention with SNIFL is based on the same model of strong commitment and presumption of compliance between the DGCCRF and the Saint Charles platform based in Perpignan.

The SNIFL Quality Approach consists of eight key operating principles that are described below.

#### 7.2.1. Self-audit validated by the DGCCRF

This process involves the practice of a self-audit, by sampling, of approved fruits and vegetables to ensure compliance with standards in force. It has been jointly defined and validated with the Directorate

## Chapter 7 - Fruit and Vegetables Agreements

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General of Consumption, Competition and Fraud Repression (DGCCRF) with the signing of an agreement in 2000.

### *7.2.2. A benchmark HACCP method*

For the sake of broad recognition, the “Saint-Charles Quality Approach” was designed to conform to the requirements of the HACCP (Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point) method, a national and international benchmark in the agri-food sector.

### *7.2.3. Training by the CTIFL*

All staff of the signatory countries have received initial training dispensed by the Centre Technique Interprofessionnel des Fruits et Légumes (CTIFL) and each year since 2000 have received further training at the beginning of the campaign. More than 100 Inspectors/Certifiers participate daily in setting up and applying the “Saint-Charles Quality Approach” within their company.

### *7.2.4. A well identified logo*

Creating a quality logo generally affixed on trade documents and packages attests to compliance with self-regulation procedures. An Accreditation Number recognized by the DGCCRF is thereby assigned to each signatory company.

### *7.2.5. Daily analyses and inspections*

Each company engaged in the “Saint-Charles Quality Approach” establishes, for each campaign, a sampling plan correlated with the volumes and products processed, validated by the DGCCRF, and conducts its health analyses (“screening” method for over 280 active materials) with the CAMP Departmental Analysis Laboratory, COFRAC accredited, in agreement with the SNIFL (National Association of Importers/Exporters of Fruits and Vegetables). This unique partnership set up with the CAMP lets SNIFL centralise all information related to health quality of fruits and vegetables passing through the site. The principle is as follows: – Deposit of specimens for analysis with the SNIFL, – Make two weekly collections, – Record each specimen for continuous monitoring. Any non-conformity detected by the Laboratory is immediately forwarded, copied, to the SNIFL services. This transparency, validated by the signatory companies, lets the Quality Manager send a reminder of the regulatory procedures to be respected to the company concerned, as well as making direct contact with the “Quality” managers of the companies in order to define the monitoring operations to be implemented.

### *7.2.6. Additional on-going training*

Since April 2013, beyond existing on-going training of “Quality” personnel, additional in-company group training on the formalisation of the HACCP Approach has been dispensed by the CTIFL to validate existing and provide training in good health practices for all personnel of signatory companies.

### *7.2.7. Hiring of a dedicated “Quality Manager”*

In February 2013 the SNIFL hired a “Quality Manager”, a Quality benchmark available to signatories of the agreement, to assist them and support them individually in carrying out their obligations. It also provides, through her function with each company, “quality pre-audits” as part of continuing education, and is the liaison with the Administration, the Laboratory and all signatories.

## Chapter 7 - Fruit and Vegetables Agreements

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### *7.2.8. A Quality Commission*

On the basis of details found by the Quality Manager during company audits with the goal of continuously verifying compliance by each of them with the commitment, the professionals decided with the DGCCRF's agreement to set up a "Quality" commission composed of "involved business leaders" to ensure the sustainability of this Label and penalise any violation.

In 2015, 62 companies are approved traders under the SNIFL agreement.

### Chapter 8 - Technical visits

The Peer Review Team visited the Central Offices of DGCCRF in Paris. The DGCCRF - Bureau 4C also organised practical inspections and visits to an open air market, to a Carrefour supermarket in Paris, to a vegetable farmer (EARL Francis Tremblay) in Neuville sur Oise and to Rungis gross-market, where the team was able to visit and witness practical inspections to Comexa Services (importer and exporter of Fruit and Vegetables), UNIVÉG KATOPE France (importer of exotic fruits and vegetables) and Georges Helfer S. A. France (importer of exotic fruits and vegetables). Please see in Annexes IV and V the full programme of the visits and the list of persons met by the Peer Review Team.

The visits started with EARL Francis Tremblay, a vegetable farmer. The owner explained to the Peer Review Team how he operates and the challenges that he faces in an ever changing market environment. He also highlighted the importance of ensuring the highest standards of quality for his products. Next, the Peer Review Team was able to witness a DGCCRF inspector check an open air market. The inspection targeted three stands randomly and the inspector was able to control labels, receipts and highlighted several minor infractions. Afterwards, the team followed the inspector to a nearby Carrefour supermarket against which an anonymous complaint regarding wrong labelling had been received. The inspector checked the labels and highlighted some very minor issues with respect to labelling. The manager of the Supermarket was informed and asked to make the proper arrangements to address the issues. The Peer Review Team was able to witness the whole inspection process as well as the various interviews that the inspector conducted with the supermarket manager and staff.

Next, the Peer Review Team had the opportunity to witness again DGCCRF inspectors at work controlling a shipment of avocados in one of the biggest Fruit and Vegetables markets in France, Rungis gross-market. The Rungis market opened in 1969, covers a surface of 600 ha and is located at 7 km from Paris, near Orly airport. 1 200 societies operate at Rungis, dealing with 1 620 141 tonnes of food-products, with a turnover of EUR 8 819 billion (2013). More specifically, 343 businesses (203 wholesalers, 73 brokers, and 67 producers) deal solely with fruit and vegetables, with a trade turnover of EUR 3.2 billion (roughly more than 1 million tonnes of fruit and vegetables).

Once the DGCCRF inspectors concluded the control of the avocados shipment, the Peer Review Team had the opportunity to discuss with Comexa, KATOPE and Georges Helfer personnel of their quality control systems and the internal procedures they follow to ensure that only the best quality fruit and vegetables reach their clients. The representative of the FeL Partenariat<sup>®</sup> also provided some insights and highlighted the importance to guarantee the best quality to consumers and the challenges arising from an increasing trend of counterfeit labels and “francisation” (relabeling of imported goods as French products).

### Chapter 9 - Assessments and Recommendations

#### 9.1. General remarks

The French inspection system supports efficiently the provisions of the applicable EU Regulation No 543/2011 which is in line with the OECD Rules for Conformity Checks on Fruit and Vegetables. There is good evidence that amendments to this regulation are considered continuously from a quality inspections perspective. The Peer Review Team was highly impressed with the laboratory infrastructure dealing with Fresh Fruit and Vegetables and other products in France. The system applied for approved traders in France was found to be very effective and characterized as well structured and effectively managed from a quality management system point of view. The Peer Review Team also noted that the inspectors were handling inspections in an effective way despite noting that inspections on the open market differ from the normal inspections at ports, warehouses, etc.

#### 9.2. Policy

The Peer Review Team was of the view that the policy formulation process could benefit from involving traders possibly by means of Trader Harmonisation workshops. These workshops could solicit inputs from traders to the norms stipulated for the respective products but might also include practical evaluation of samples to harmonise the interpretation of the standards between industry and the Ministry to a practical level.

#### 9.3. Inspections

a) The facilities where inspections are done need to be reconsidered. Recommendations have been made to ensure that inspections are done in more ideal conditions with fixed or mobile inspection tables, proper lightning, wash basins, etc. This would enhance the professional image of inspections. It was further highlighted that this could be one of the conditions of inspections.

b) An approval mark has been recommended for produce that has passed the inspection process and conformed. This is in line with the provisions of OECD guidelines and UNECE standards however it is at this stage an optional aspect in the standards.

#### 9.4 Harmonisation of Inspectors

It was recommended that the refresher sessions that are annually conducted with Inspectors should include a practical part as well. In this regard it was recommended that the principle of “measurement” should support the harmonisation process towards indicating the degree of leniency and strictness per inspector. The Peer review Team was of the opinion that this would safeguard the inspectors from accusations of being misaligned to the standards and the process in support of WTO principles for equal treatment of countries, traders, etc.

#### 9.5. Resources

The Peer Review Team noticed that the human resources are under pressure however mention was made that this aspect is managed by assigning more responsibility to traders. This is in line with Codex and EC principles however these regulations do stipulate that governments remain accountable for the overall conformance to standards and market access conditions.

ANNEXES

ANNEX I.	Basic statistics of France
ANNEX II.	French import/export of fruit and vegetables by value and weight
ANNEX III.	Specimen of a finding of non-conformity
ANNEX IV.	Programme of the peer review visit
ANNEX V.	List of persons met by the peer review team
ANNEX VI.	List of references

## ANNEXES

### ANNEX I. BASIC STATISTICS OF FRANCE, 2013

(Number in parentheses refer to the OECD average)<sup>a</sup>

LAND, PEOPLE AND ELECTRORAL CYCLE				
Population (million)	64.0		Population density per km <sup>2</sup>	116.6 (34.7)
Under 15 (%)	18.3 (18.2)		Life expectancy (years, 2012)	82.1 (80.2)
Over 65 (%)	18.0 (15.6)		Men	78.7 (77.5)
Foreign-born (%; 2012)	11.7		Women	85.4 (82.9)
Latest 5-year average growth (%)	0.5 (0.5)		Latest general election	June 2012
ECONOMY				
Gross domestic product (GDP)			Value added shares (%)	
In current prices (billion USD)	2 808.2		Primary sector	1.7 (2.5)
In current prices (billion EUR)	2 114.9		Industry including construction	19.8 (26.8)
Latest 5-year average real growth (%)	0.4 (0.8)		Services	78.5 (70.5)
Per capita (000 USD PPP)	38.8 (39.2)			
GENERAL GOVERNMENT				
Per cent of GDP				
Expenditures	57.1 (43.1)		Gross financial debt	110.4 (113.2)
Revenue	53.0 (38.3)		Net financial debt	67.2 (72.7)
EXTERNAL ACCOUNTS				
Exchange rate (EUR per USD)	0.753		Main exports (% of total merchandise exports)	
PPP exchange rate (USA = 1)	0.845		Machinery and transport material	38.2
In per cent of GDP			Chemicals and related products, n.e.s.	17.9
Exports of goods and services	28.3 (53.4)		Miscellaneous manufactured articles	11.2
Imports of goods and services	29.8 (49.4)		Main imports (% of total merchandise imports)	
Current account balance	-1.4 (-0.1)		Machinery and transport equipment	32.8
Net international investment position	-17.2		Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials	16.5
			Chemical and related products, n.e.s.	13.9
LABOUR MARKET, SKILLS AND INNOVATION				
Employment rate for 15-64 year-olds (%)	64.2 (65.2)		Unemployment rate, Labour Force Survey (age 15 and over) (%)	9.9 (7.9)
Men	67.9 (73.1)		Youth (age 15-24, %)	24.0 (16.1)
Women	60.5 (57.4)		Long-term unemployed (1 year and over, %)	4.0 (2.7)
Participation rate for 15-64 year-olds (%)	71.2 (71.1)		Tertiary educational attainment 25-64 year-olds (%; 2012)	30.9 (32.2)
Average hours worked per year	1 489 (1 771)		Gross domestic expenditure on R&D (% of GDP; 2012)	2.3 (2.4)
ENVIRONMENT				
Total primary energy supply per capita (toe)	3.9 (4.2)		CO <sub>2</sub> emissions from fuel combustion per capita (tonnes; 2012)	5.3 (9.7)
Renewables (%)	9.2 (8.8)		Water abstractions per capita (1 000 m <sup>3</sup> ; 2012)	0.4
Fine particulate matter concentration (urban, PM <sub>10</sub> , µg/m <sup>3</sup> ; 2011)	23.8 (28.0)		Municipal waste per capita (tonnes; 2012)	0.6 (0.5)
SOCIETY				
Income equality (Gini coefficient; 2011 <sup>b</sup> )	0.309 (0.308)		Education outcomes (PISA score; 2012)	
Relative poverty rate (%; 2011 <sup>b</sup> )	8.0 (11.1)		Reading	505 (496)
Median equivalised household income (000 USD PPP; 2010)	23.3 (20.4)		Mathematics	495 (494)
Public and private spending (% of GDP)			Science	499 (501)
Health care (2012)	11.6 (9.2)		Share of women in parliament (%; December 2014)	25.7 (26.7)
Pensions (2011)	14.3 (8.7)		Net official development assistance (% du GNI)	0.41 (0.37)
Education (primary, secondary, post sec non tertiary; 2011)	3.9 (3.9)			

Better life index: [www.oecdbetterlifeindex.org](http://www.oecdbetterlifeindex.org)

<sup>a</sup> Where the OECD aggregate is not provided in the source database, a simple OECD average of latest available data is calculated where data exist for at least 29 member countries.

<sup>b</sup> 2010 for the OECD average.

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.

## ANNEXES

### ANNEX II. FRENCH EXPORT AND IMPORT OF FRUIT AND VEGETABLES BY VALUE AND WEIGHT

#### Exports (Tonnes)

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Unité : tonne					
Ail	10 715	10 713	12 344	9 899	10 122
Artichaut	7 178	10 434	7 555	6 519	8 126
Asperge	3 794	2 965	3 522	3 600	3 548
Carotte	110 478	81 971	108 187	93 172	104 493
Chou-fleur	158 301	158 453	179 311	156 835	158 474
Concombre	8 440	9 702	11 413	11 872	13 323
Courgette	26 165	20 865	21 093	19 603	22 780
Endive (chicon)	17 747	15 231	16 294	13 535	19 984
Melon	41 249	39 809	38 179	44 332	45 593
Oignon	64 958	88 947	87 200	75 286	89 514
Poireau	16 963	18 876	19 450	19 206	17 842
Salade	79 371	76 590	75 299	70 174	76 667
Tomate	199 601	190 953	214 744	223 955	234 168
PDT primeur et nouvelle	36 531	33 649	37 428	46 549	49 789
PDT de conservation	1 890 109	2 156 038	1 803 322	1 775 813	1 701 364
Total pommes de terre	1 926 640	2 199 624	1 859 322	1 858 927	1 783 403
Abricot	60 360	47 875	48 750	58 667	45 335
Banane	236 615	322 764	254 540	266 504	283 194
Cerise	7 389	5 419	8 483	4 188	4 578
Fraise	23 292	18 001	18 179	20 388	17 273
Kiwi	23 650	25 991	23 202	23 757	28 164
Orange	41 398	45 331	36 526	45 636	43 179
Pêche/nectarine	51 259	48 358	43 983	47 370	44 414
Poire	31 181	39 261	31 291	21 001	24 898
Pomme de table	601 461	673 903	698 420	614 734	525 416
Prune de table	19 869	19 146	15 648	18 237	15 040
Raisin de table	15 024	13 787	15 501	16 824	13 935
Pruneaux	10 706	10 875	11 521	11 448	16 565
<b>Total fruits</b>	<b>1 343 681</b>	<b>1 493 799</b>	<b>1 434 401</b>	<b>1 377 759</b>	<b>1 282 264</b>
<b>Total légumes</b>	<b>937 022</b>	<b>936 732</b>	<b>1 016 809</b>	<b>979 136</b>	<b>1 030 054</b>

Source : GTA - douanes française - élaboration FranceAgriMer

#### Exports (EUR)

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Unité : million d'euros					
Ail	27,7	35,11	40,81	29,31	31,70
Artichaut	8,3	10,89	9,56	9,26	11,64
Asperge	14,3	12,63	14,85	15,78	18,65
Carotte	32,4	21,09	26,63	37,83	39,86
Chou-fleur	106,5	122,65	103,49	104,92	121,48
Concombre	9,9	10,31	10,87	12,96	15,48
Courgette	26,2	23,24	17,28	22,67	25,21
Endive (chicon)	19,4	19,62	18,23	17,03	21,73
Melon	52,3	55,91	55,07	56,94	63,86
Oignon	24,1	40,37	39,16	30,58	42,53
Poireau	15,3	17,98	15,41	18,05	21,68
Salade	148,1	154,65	128,19	136,86	145,30
Tomate	220,0	269,98	264,64	284,41	306,50
PDT primeur et nouvelle	15,3	16,65	15,60	15,99	22,52
PDT de conservation	282,7	398,53	420,98	325,06	485,50
Total pommes de terre	298,1	416,84	440,00	347,44	517,31
Abricot	77,0	79,93	76,73	84,02	84,65
Banane	142,5	183,98	136,84	155,65	163,33
Cerise	18,6	14,70	21,29	11,97	11,79
Fraise	46,2	37,25	44,19	48,85	41,44
Kiwi	32,7	34,45	34,72	34,37	42,75
Orange	26,2	33,69	23,57	32,29	34,69
Pêche/nectarine	69,6	73,33	63,07	76,80	76,61
Poire	18,8	28,74	19,17	16,87	21,62
Pomme de table	425,1	477,66	528,00	535,15	487,96
Prune de table	18,3	20,55	15,76	23,32	21,17
Raisin de table	23,6	22,64	25,12	30,24	25,68
Pruneaux	31,9	28,01	25,57	24,09	35,75
<b>Total fruits</b>	<b>1 234,0</b>	<b>1 379,86</b>	<b>1 384,04</b>	<b>1 488,70</b>	<b>1 449,33</b>
<b>Total légumes</b>	<b>847,9</b>	<b>952,53</b>	<b>916,34</b>	<b>953,09</b>	<b>1 051,49</b>

Source : GTA - douanes française - élaboration FranceAgriMer



## ANNEXES

### Imports (Tonnes)

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Unité : tonne					
Ail	25 621	24 480	22 712	22 783	22 276
Artichaut	16 106	12 892	12 792	15 963	15 940
Asperge	15 057	12 530	12 754	13 661	13 449
Carotte	136 526	124 088	120 394	138 145	141 281
Chou-fleur	42 450	41 851	46 032	47 006	49 634
Concombre	72 085	69 187	71 228	73 205	70 432
Courgette	150 212	142 864	143 315	136 905	139 883
Endive (chicon)	4 687	4 216	3 573	3 505	3 477
Melon	144 456	151 258	144 342	164 045	173 237
Oignon	106 722	106 086	102 120	115 613	139 358
Poireau	38 359	36 522	25 942	27 917	33 839
Salade	114 027	128 433	129 038	157 552	166 066
Tomate	542 952	502 906	521 261	553 719	558 948
PDT primeur et nouvelle	26 220	31 688	29 930	39 041	45 563
PDT de conservation	277 788	353 395	349 587	330 160	372 592
Total pommes de terre	304 008	386 427	381 381	373 556	433 095
Abricot	10 046	11 118	10 800	15 802	21 252
Banane	530 132	565 612	587 411	586 595	652 329
Cerise	6 880	6 580	10 662	8 081	6 917
Fraise	108 545	93 486	91 042	104 631	94 148
Kiwi	64 696	52 089	51 929	54 075	57 933
Orange	455 770	459 754	413 161	470 806	490 600
Pêche/nectarine	123 079	116 724	116 392	129 139	148 493
Poire	148 255	182 525	140 517	110 414	110 342
Pomme de table	94 453	167 122	139 323	204 476	249 535
Prune de table	16 992	11 887	14 426	17 302	16 433
Raisin de table	135 195	121 555	151 153	140 989	139 930
Pruneaux	3 848	2 128	2 376	1 051	1 187
<b>Total fruits</b>	<b>3 023 494</b>	<b>3 100 189</b>	<b>2 989 094</b>	<b>3 204 379</b>	<b>3 337 579</b>
<b>Total légumes</b>	<b>1 719 600</b>	<b>1 686 283</b>	<b>1 697 625</b>	<b>1 830 727</b>	<b>1 881 620</b>

Source : GTA - douanes française - élaboration FranceAgriMer

### Imports (EUR)

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Unité : million d'euros					
Ail	43,2	61,42	57,05	45,17	46,44
Artichaut	15,3	16,22	16,11	18,17	17,44
Asperge	35,8	34,02	32,21	36,94	40,16
Carotte	59,4	49,69	47,23	56,08	59,86
Chou-fleur	35,2	37,61	33,55	37,66	46,05
Concombre	53,7	58,71	50,08	59,09	62,32
Courgette	120,0	151,38	99,41	128,30	134,01
Endive (chicon)	4,3	4,93	3,37	3,71	3,25
Melon	114,9	129,18	118,33	139,60	166,96
Oignon	40,2	50,84	49,08	49,00	67,22
Poireau	31,0	30,16	21,31	25,30	32,08
Salade	113,5	135,71	125,42	158,77	164,58
Tomate	395,2	465,54	383,37	439,07	450,26
PDT primeur et nouvelle	11,3	12,91	12,71	15,83	19,89
PDT de conservation	43,6	55,46	51,39	58,46	89,15
Total pommes de terre	54,9	69,15	64,91	75,26	112,73
Abricot	106,7	14,87	13,57	20,87	33,57
Banane	316,2	323,41	333,05	369,72	413,44
Cerise	15,2	12,94	19,11	25,66	21,43
Fraise	186,2	170,09	193,78	199,24	167,31
Kiwi	63,2	54,58	57,07	62,06	71,68
Orange	282,4	322,98	265,79	309,27	340,69
Pêche/nectarine	119,4	141,61	112,27	143,54	183,34
Poire	121,0	161,06	102,47	95,07	118,22
Pomme de table	94,5	92,49	87,36	127,70	192,37
Prune de table	15,0	14,07	13,61	19,21	19,71
Raisin de table	133,9	139,10	160,27	168,01	164,81
Pruneaux	9,7	5,47	5,18	2,75	2,99
<b>Total fruits</b>	<b>2 806,5</b>	<b>3 054,23</b>	<b>2 975,47</b>	<b>3 352,69</b>	<b>3 649,72</b>
<b>Total légumes</b>	<b>1 469,6</b>	<b>1 689,84</b>	<b>1 536,16</b>	<b>1 673,00</b>	<b>1 793,82</b>

Source : GTA - douanes française - élaboration FranceAgriMer

## ANNEX III. SPECIMEN OF A FINDING OF NON-CONFORMITY

**DIRECTION GÉNÉRALE DE LA CONCURRENCE,  
DE LA CONSOMMATION ET DE LA RÉPRESSION DES FRAUDES**  
59, boulevard Vincent-Auriol - Télédéc 251  
75703 PARIS CEDEX 13

**CONSTAT DE NON-CONFORMITÉ N° 4319**

(application du règlement (CE) n° 543/2011 du 7 juin 2011)

Stade du contrôle (cocher la case correspondante)     Exportation     Importation     Marché intérieur

Le \_\_\_\_\_ à \_\_\_\_\_ heures en présence de (1)

Avons constaté que le lot suivant (cocher la case correspondante)

détenu en vue de la vente     exposé en vue de la vente     vendu     commercialisé de toute autre manière

DETAIL DU LOT (Utiliser la codification SORA de préférence)

Espèce                                      Variété                                      Type commercial  
Nombre de colis et type :                                      Poids  
Pays d'origine                                      et/ou Pays de provenance  
Catégorie de qualité                                      Calibre                                      Marques apposées sur les colis :  
Numéro de lot                                      - - Numéro de convention  
Identification du moyen de transport (cocher la case correspondante)     wagon,  camion,  bateau,  avion  
N°:                                      ou NOM :  
Nom, qualité et Adresse du conditionneur (1)

N° de convention                                      N° de certificat de contrôle

CONFORMEMENT A L'ECHANTILLONNAGE PREVU A L'ARTICLE 9, IL A ETE CONSTATE LES DEFAUTS SUIVANTS, EXPRIMES EN POURCENTAGE,

défauts et dégâts     décomposition et pourriture     défauts physiologiques     calibrage     sain  
 défauts de forme     propreté     coloration     maturité     présentation     Etiquetage

En conséquence, le lot ci-dessus ne répond pas aux prescriptions réglementaires en vigueur pour sa commercialisation

Observations et signature de l'opérateur

Destination finale donnée à la marchandise par l'opérateur : (cocher la case correspondante)

refus     déclassement     reclassement     reconditionnement     Réétiquetage  
 Réexpédition vers un autre État membre     Destruction     destination industrielle

Fait à \_\_\_\_\_ le \_\_\_\_\_ Nom du contrôleur et signature                                      cachet

Départements destinataires :

Service de contrôle étranger destinataire :  
(1) Nom, prénom, qualité:

## ANNEXES

### ANNEX IV. PROGRAMME OF THE PEER REVIEW VISIT

<b>Tuesday September 8th 2015</b>	
9h30 – 12h	Opening session DGCCRF - 59, boulevard Vincent Auriol Paris 13 <sup>ème</sup> Salle 5026 Bâtiment Condorcet
	Presentation of the DGCCRF
	Presentation of the fruit & vegetables industry in France
	Presentation of the organisation of the fruit & vegetables inspection services
Afternoon	Visit of a production site
<b>Wednesday September 9th 2015</b>	
9h30 – 10h30	Presentation of the activities of the Laboratory in the fruit and vegetables sector
10h30 – 12h30	Domestic market : open-field market ; retail shops
14h – 15h30	Presentation by the Laboratory (2 <sup>nd</sup> part)
15h30 – 17h30	Presentation of the gross-market of Rungis
	Presentation of conventions FEL PARTENARIAT and SNIFL
<b>Thursday September 10th 2015</b>	
8h –13h	Rungis gross-market : wholesale inspections ; import/export inspections
15h – 17h30	Questions & answers
	Closing session

## ANNEX V. LIST OF PERSONS MET BY THE PEER REVIEW TEAM

Name	Title	Address
<b>OECD Peer Review Team</b>		
Mr Shawn Coetzee	Program Manager: Harmonisation	PPECB Head Office 45 Silwerboom Ave, Platteklouf, Cape Town, 7560 South Africa Tel: +27 21 930 1134 Email: shawnc@ppecb.com
Mr José Brambila-Macias	Programme manager	OECD Trade and Agriculture Directorate Agricultural Codes and Schemes Marshall Building 5063 2, rue André Pascal 75016 Paris France Tel.: +33 1 45 24 15 40 Email: Jose.brambila-macias@oecd.org
Mrs Marie Russel	Senior programme officer	Tel.: +33 1 45 24 85 09 Email: marie.russel@oecd.org
<b>Directorate General for Competition Policy, Consumer Affairs and Fraud Control (DGCCRF) Sub-directorate for Food products, food and feed markets</b>		
Mr Jean-Louis Gérard	Sub-director	Sous-direction 4 - Bureau 4C 59, boulevard Vincent Auriol - Télédock 223 75013 Paris
Mr Arnauld Maillé	Head of Unit	Tél. : + 33 1 44 97 23 47 <a href="mailto:Jean-louis.GERARD@dgccrf.finances.gouv.fr">Jean-louis.GERARD@dgccrf.finances.gouv.fr</a>
Mrs Annie Ortet	Deputy Head of Unit	Tél. : 01 44 97 30 67
Mrs Emilie Maire	Inspector	<a href="mailto:arnauld.maille@dgccrf.finances.gouv.fr">arnauld.maille@dgccrf.finances.gouv.fr</a> <a href="mailto:annie.ortet@dgccrf.finances.gouv.fr">annie.ortet@dgccrf.finances.gouv.fr</a> <a href="mailto:emilie.maire@dgccrf.finances.gouv.fr">emilie.maire@dgccrf.finances.gouv.fr</a>
Mrs Hélène Gayon	Responsable de pôle Suivi des activités scientifiques. Produits alimentaires.	Unité de Direction du SCL 14, rue Perrée 75003 PARIS Tél. : 01 53 01 50 80 <a href="mailto:Helene.GAYON@scl.finances.gouv.fr">Helene.GAYON@scl.finances.gouv.fr</a>
Mrs Annie-Claude Ladrat	Responsable d'unité technique Produits alimentaires. Biologie	Laboratoire de Bordeaux 3 avenue du Dr Albert Schweitzer CS98080 33600 PESSAC Tél. : 05 56 84 24 37 <a href="mailto:Annie-Claude.LADRAT@scl.finances.gouv.fr">Annie-Claude.LADRAT@scl.finances.gouv.fr</a>
<b>Direction régionale des entreprises, de la concurrence, de la consommation, du travail et de l'emploi (Direccte) d'Île-de-France</b>		
Mr Bruno Cauquil	Regional technical inspector	21, rue Madeleine Vionnet 93300 Aubervilliers Tel. +33 1 70 96 14 65 Email: <a href="mailto:bruno.cauquil@direccte.gouv.fr">bruno.cauquil@direccte.gouv.fr</a>

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Name	Title	Address
<b>Departmental Directorate for the Protection of Populations (DDPP) of Paris</b>		
Mr Marc Veilly	Departmental technical inspector	8, rue Froissart 75153 Paris cedex 03 Tél. : +33 1 40 27 16 00 fax : région +33 1 42 71 09 77 / unité départ. +33 1 42 71 09 14 Email: <a href="mailto:ddpp@paris.gouv.fr">ddpp@paris.gouv.fr</a>
<b>Departmental Directorate for the Protection of Populations (DDPP) of Val de Marne</b>		
Mrs Martine Collin	Head of Unit	Antenne de Rungis 12, rue du séminaire 94516 Rungis Cedex <a href="mailto:ddpp-import-export@val-de-marne.gouv.fr">ddpp-import-export@val-de-marne.gouv.fr</a>
Mr William Rambadelli	Departmental technical inspector	Tel : +33 1 45 60 60 00 Fax : +33 1 45 60 60 20
<b>Departmental Directorate for the Protection of Populations (DDPP) of Val d'Oise</b>		
Colette Dekoninck Justine Gaido	Departmental technical inspector Departmental technical inspector	Immeuble Le MODEM 16 rue Traversière 95035 Cergy-Pontoise Cedex Tél. : +33 1 34 25 45 00 fax : +33 1 30 73 01 04 mél : <a href="mailto:ddpp@val-doise.gouv.fr">ddpp@val-doise.gouv.fr</a>
<b>FeL Partenariat®: Chambre Syndicale des Importateurs Français de fruits et légumes frais (CSIF)</b>		
Mrs Véronique Le Bail	Déléguée générale	3, avenue du Viaduc - Bât. B3 Fruileg - CP 60767 94594 Rungis Cedex Tel.: +33 1 45 60 72 80 Email: <a href="mailto:vlebail@csif.eu">vlebail@csif.eu</a>
<b>Visited companies</b>		
EARL Francis Tremblay	Vegetable farmer	Le Hameau Route de Rhus 95810 EPIAIS - RHUS Tel./Fax: +33 1 34 24 06 50 <a href="mailto:earlfrancistremblay@orange.fr">earlfrancistremblay@orange.fr</a>
Open air market (3 wholesalers)	Wholesale	Boulevard Vincent Auriol 75013 Paris
Carrefour City Paris 13 <sup>ème</sup>	Retail	165, rue Nationale 75013 Paris
Comexa Services Mathieu PASSAQUET David CAHIER	Import/export of fruit and vegetables Quality manager Assistant quality manager	5, Boulevard du Delta Eurozone Delta BP 70103 94658 Rungis cedex Tel. : +33 156 70 65 50 Fax : +33 1 46 86 80 43
UNIVEG KATOPE France Mr Matthieu Gallerne	Import of exotic fruit and vegetables Quality manager	15, boulevard du Delta Zone Euro Delta - DE1 94658 Rungis Cedex Tel.: +33 1 49 78 20 25 Email : <a href="mailto:katopeintl@univeg.fr">katopeintl@univeg.fr</a> Email: <a href="mailto:mgalerne@univeg.fr">mgalerne@univeg.fr</a>
Georges Helfer S.A. France Mr Christian Choupin Mrs Gaelle Guerin	Import of exotic fruit and vegetables CEO Quality manager	Ent 133 1, rue des Tropiques 94538 Rungis Tel.: +33 1 45 12 36 50 Fax: +33 1 48 53 78 85 Email: <a href="mailto:christian.choupin@helferfrance.fr">christian.choupin@helferfrance.fr</a> Email: <a href="mailto:gaelle.guerin@helferfrance.fr">gaelle.guerin@helferfrance.fr</a>

**ANNEX VI. LIST OF REFERENCES**

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Council Regulation (EC) No 1308/2013 of 17 December 2013 establishing a common organisation of agricultural markets and on specific provisions for certain agricultural products (Single CMO Regulation);

EUROPEAN COMMISSION (2011)

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;

OECD (2006)

Council Decision revising the OECD "Scheme" for the Application of International Standards for Fruit and Vegetables [C(2006)95].

# Peer Review of the Fruit and Vegetables Quality Inspection System in France

## 2016

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.

France's Peer Review focuses on the fruit and vegetables export and import quality inspection system. Within the European Union, France is the third largest producer of fruit and vegetables after Spain and Italy. The French production is covered by quality labels: Protected Designation of Origin and Protected Geographical Indication. France has one dedicated inspection service, the Directorate General for Competition Policy, Consumer Affairs and Fraud Control (DGCCRF) that oversees fruit and vegetables at the export, wholesale and retail level, under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Economy. At import level, the Phytosanitary inspections service of the Ministry of Agriculture, DGCCRF and Customs are the main authorities while at producer level it is the Ministry of Agriculture that oversees compliance. France has an advanced laboratory infrastructure dealing with Fresh Fruit and Vegetables and other products in France. The French administration assigns more responsibility to traders, notably via self-regulation conventions signed between DGCCRF and professional organisations. The system applied for approved traders in France is efficient, well-structured and effectively coordinated from a quality management system point of view. The Peer Review also outlines recommendations on possible further improvements in the French quality inspection system such as studying the feasibility of introducing an approval mark for produce that has passed the inspection process and applying a principle of "measurement" to support the harmonisation process between inspectors.