

For further questions please contact:

Tel.: +49 (0)30-9029 18407, Fax: +49 (0)30-9029 18428, [Email: vetleb@charlottenburg-wilmersdorf.de](mailto:vetleb@charlottenburg-wilmersdorf.de)

Information sheet for food exhibitors at Grüne Woche Berlin

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1.

General hygienic and structural requirements:

- The premises must be located, designed, constructed, kept clean and maintained in such a way as to avoid the risk of contamination, in particular by animals and pests.
- Suitable facilities (including facilities for hygienic hand washing and drying and hygienic sanitary facilities and changing rooms) must be available to ensure adequate personal hygiene.
- Surfaces that come into contact with food must be kept in spotless condition and must be easy to clean and, if necessary, disinfect. Accordingly, they must be made of nonporous, abrasion and corrosion-resistant non-toxic materials.
- Suitable facilities must be available for cleaning and, if necessary, disinfecting tools and equipment.
- If food must be cleaned as part of the food business activities, care must be taken to ensure that all work processes are carried out under hygienic conditions.
- A sufficient supply of hot and/or cold drinking water must be provided.
- Adequate facilities and/or equipment must be available for the hygienic storage and disposal of substances and waste (liquid and solid) that are health hazards and/or unfit for human consumption.
- Appropriate equipment and/or facilities must be available to maintain and monitor suitable temperature conditions for all foodstuffs.
- Food must be stored in such a way that the risk of contamination is avoided to the greatest extent possible.

2a.

General requirements for the labeling of pre-packaged foodstuffs that are provided to trade fair visitors:

- Foods must be labeled in accordance with the Food Information Regulation (EU) No. 1169/2011 on the provision of food information to consumers.
- A list of the information that must be provided on the label (i.e. mandatory information) is provided in Art. 9 and, where applicable, in Art. 10 of the Food Information Regulation.
- The food business operator under whose name or company the food is marketed must be shown on the label. If this food business operator is not established in the EU, the importer who imports the food into the EU must be indicated here instead (see Art. 8 of the Food Information Regulation).
- The language of the information on the label depends on the country of marketing and must be easy to understand. As only German is easily understandable in Germany, the labeling of foodstuffs sold to consumers at trade fairs must be in German. Foreign words are only permitted if they are commonly used in the German language (e.g. "Chili con carne").

2b.

General requirements for the labeling of non-prepacked (unpackaged) foodstuffs provided to trade fair visitors:

- Foods must be labeled in accordance with the Food Information Regulation (EU) No. 1169/2011 on the provision of food information to consumers and the Food Information Implementation Regulation.
- Substances or products that contain allergens or may trigger intolerances must be shown in a clearly visible and legible manner in relation to the respective food. This can be done, for example, in the form of a sign on the food or near the food or by means of a notice on the sales stand, etc. For further information, see §4 of the Food Information Regulation.
- Here too, the language of the required information depends on the country of marketing. The information must be easy to understand. As only German is easily understandable in Germany, the labeling of foodstuffs sold to consumers at trade fairs must be in German. Foreign words are only permitted if they are commonly used in the German language (e.g. "Chili con carne").

The following also applies:

3.

Requirements for the transportation of foodstuffs of animal origin from other federal states and from EU member states for distribution to trade fair visitors:

- Under current European law, food businesses that handle products of animal origin are, with a few exceptions, subject to authorization in accordance with Regulation (EC) No. 852/2004 in conjunction with Regulation (EC) No. 853/2004. Exempt from this are incidental activities of limited scope on a local level.
- Foodstuffs of animal origin that do not comply with the above exception may only be brought to the exhibition site and placed on the market there if the respective manufacturing company has a corresponding EU approval for these products. EU approval is indicated by the identification mark and the identification number.
- For general food labeling requirements, see sections 2a and 2b.

4.

Requirements for the import of foodstuffs of animal origin from third countries for distribution to trade fair visitors:

- Food of animal origin may only be brought to the exhibition by food businesses if the respective third country of origin is listed for the export of this food.
- Third country establishments approved for export to the EU are listed on the EU database under the following link: https://food.ec.europa.eu/safety/biological-safety/food-hygiene/non-eu-countries-authorised-establishments_en.
- Only food of animal origin from food businesses that are on such a third country list and have EU approval for this category may be exported for exhibition. EU approval is indicated by the identification number for import into the EU.
- A TRACES certificate must be issued in the country of origin for all foodstuffs of animal origin exported from third countries to Messe Berlin for distribution to trade fair visitors.
- For general food labeling requirements, see sections 2a and 2b.
- Goods are cleared at the first border checkpoint when entering the EU from a third country. Messe Berlin and the State of Berlin do not have a border control point. The border control point nearest to the exhibition grounds is the State Office for Occupational Safety, Consumer Protection and Health (LAGV), Department V3 - Border Veterinary Service, Import Inspection, Georg-Wulf-Str. 1, 12529 Schönefeld, e-mail: gvd.ber@lavg.brandenburg.de.

Exceptions:

- If food of animal origin is to be imported to Grüne Woche by third-country food businesses that are not approved for export to the EU and are not on the list of third countries, **a special permit must be applied for to import these products as ABPs (animal by-products). Import as animal foodstuffs is not possible, even with a special permit.**
- If these products are imported as ABPs, they may not be provided to visitors at the trade fair. Exhibitors may only show the products to visitors in closed display cases and must ensure that these products are disposed of properly at their own expense at the end of the fair.
- These exemptions must be applied for from the following authority:
Senate Department for Justice and Consumer Protection,
Consumer Protection Division, Consumer Health Protection Unit,
Veterinary Affairs, Dr. Leo, Officer for Animal Health and Veterinary Matters in Import,
[email: tierseuchen-einfuhr@senjustv.berlin.de](mailto:tierseuchen-einfuhr@senjustv.berlin.de)

Notes:

- a. In case of questions/uncertainties regarding the correct labeling of food, we recommend that you consult an expert. A list of experts is provided, for example, on the Berlin Chamber of Industry and Commerce website: <http://svv.ihk.de/content/home/home.ihk>
- b. In case of questions/uncertainties regarding the licensing obligation of companies, we recommend contacting the locally authorized veterinary office or, in the case of cross-border trade, the highest veterinary authority of the country and/or the respective commercial agency.

Please note:

This information sheet is intended solely as a basic guideline and does not claim to be exhaustive. It does not release you from the obligation to seek information about the current status of relevant legal regulations and to apply them accordingly.