



Food Legislation Approach in Turkey

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Food Legislation is an important tool to ensure;

- Food safety
- Consumer health protection
- Providing correct information to consumer

Food Legislation should;

- Based on scientific data
- Covered all stakeholders approaches in the legislative process



In Turkey, the food legislation evolved through several phases

- 1930-1995 Public Health Law

- 1995-2004

 - Turkish Food Codex

 - By-Law On The Production, Consumption And Inspection of Food (560)

- 2004 and Beyond Law on Adoption of the Amended Decree By-Law on The Production, Consumption and Inspection of Food (5179)

Law on Veterinary Services, Plant Health, Food and Feed (5996) was adopted on 13 June 2010 and will enter into force on 13 December 2010.

1930-1995

- Several Ministries and Official Bodies in charge of legislative and enforcement
 - Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs
 - Ministry of Health
 - Municipalities
 - Ministry of Industry and Trade
 - Undersecretariat for Foreign Trade
 - Turkish Standards Institution

1930-1995

- Deficiency on the setting Maximum Levels (Food additives and flavourings...) and Maximum Residue Limits (Pesticides, Veterinary Drugs...)
- Alignment with International rules and standards was not a priority, even not in the agenda
- Legislative procedure was very cumbersome
- Some voluntary standards were changed as mandatory standards

1995-2004

- Turkey issued more specific, and risk based food legislation compared to the previous years.
- Conflicts and overlaps of competence between related authorities were partly eliminated.
 - Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs
 - Ministry of Health (Natural Mineral Waters, Drinking Water, special medical purpose dietary food, medical purpose baby's food)

1995-2004

- In 1995, the Customs Union Decision was adopted.
- International Harmonisation became a necessity (EU and CAC)
- Turkey began to participate to the Codex Alimentarius Commission's sessions.
- "Horizontal Legislation" concept was included in the system
- Points of Entry and Exit of foodstuffs were designated by Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs.

1995-2004

- Authorised Food Control Laboratories, including the private ones, launched the procedures for national accreditation.
- All foodstuffs and contact materials were subjected to registration process before they are introduced into the market.
- Although the philosophy of legislation and control system was impressively changed, there still was a need for some changes to get harmonised with the EU and international standards

2004 and Beyond

EU Harmonisation Period

- The main objective is to fully harmonise the Food Safety and control system with that of the EU.
- The Law No 5179 on Adoption of the Amended By-Law on The Production, Consumption and Inspection of Foodstuffs was published in 2004.
- MARA is designated as the competent authority in the area of Food Safety.
- It bring new terms like “Traceability”, “Risk Analyses”, “Crises management”
- The rules on the registration, import-export controls etc. were almost same as the previous ones.

2004 and Beyond


- Need for further alignment and amendment due to full harmonization with the EU hygiene package, overlapping and contradicting national legislation and unclear division of competence
- Law No.5996 on Veterinary Services, Plant Health, Food and Feed was adopted on 13 June 2010 and will enter into force on 13 December 2010.
- Chapter 12 was opened to the negotiations in June 2010. It means; The Law No 5996 is principally harmonised with EU Legislation.

2004 and Beyond

- The secondary legislation will be published based on Law No 5996.
- Effective implementation and enforcement will be the key issue for the upcoming period.
- It shall be given a great importance to assess and take into account the national needs and requirements, and the requirements for the alignment with the EU.

Conclusions

- Food sector is a challenging sector for each country
- Turkey has its own problems ;
 - the high number of establishments,
 - traceability due to the big geographical area of the country,
 - efficiency and effectiveness of the official controls,
 - Human resources (public and private sector)... etc.
- Despite the recent favourable developments, Turkey still has to address a number of issues in this sector in the upcoming period.



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
ATTENTION!**

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