

MAKING TRADE IN FRUIT AND VEGETABLES FASTER AND SAFER



Global trade in fruit and vegetables records a constant increase. CEFTA Parties adopted the Decision on Facilitating Trade in Fruit and Vegetables in 2020 with an aim to accelerate movement of these agricultural products (principally perishable), while improving plant health and food safety standards in trade in CEFTA and increasing trade with the EU.

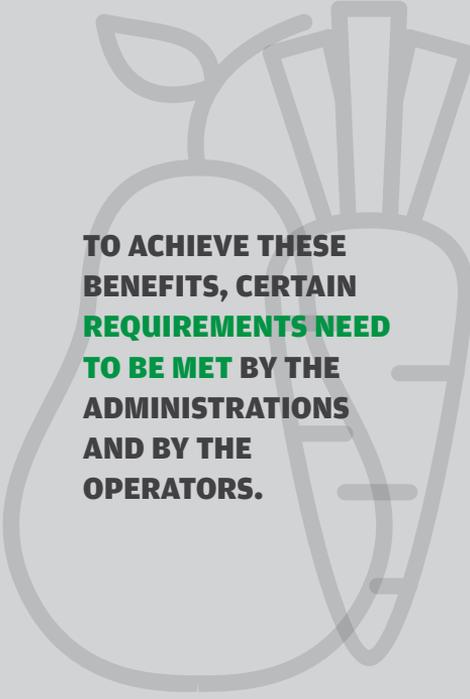
WHAT BENEFITS DOES THIS DECISION BRING:

1 Less inspection and simplified procedures based on risk assessments

2 Reduced controls for trust-worthy companies

3 Support to digitalisation and paperless trade through electronic data exchange and notifications system

4 Strengthening of food and plant safety and building the trust among administrations through implementation of control programmes set in accordance with the common CEFTA guidelines.



TO ACHIEVE THESE BENEFITS, CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS NEED TO BE MET BY THE ADMINISTRATIONS AND BY THE OPERATORS.

THE PARTIES have to:

- set up a reliable system of official controls - including establishing the relevant bodies, laboratories and development of operational control procedures
- design Multi-Annual Control Plans to ensure that the controls are efficient, effective and risk-based across the entire agri-food chain. It covers, among others, controls of pesticide residues, plant health, contaminants and control of quality
- draw up contingency plans, aiming to ensure rapid and effective response to an outbreak of pest which are of potential risk for introduction and spreading.
- establish a Register of Professional Operators involved in trade in fruit and vegetables
- establish electronic data exchange and notifications system.

THE OPERATORS (EXPORTERS) have to:

- get registered in the Register of Professional Operators
- keep the record of their producers/farmers/suppliers to ensure traceability
- develop a Food Safety and Pest Management Plans to be applied by their suppliers/farmers
- participate in the process of assessment of production and handling of fruit and vegetables, especially as regards observation of plant health and food safety standards



BENEFITS FOR PRODUCERS of fruit and vegetables:

- assistance by the exporters as regards production practices and observation of food quality and plant health standards
- potential to get higher yields and of a better quality, thus much lower risk of elimination of their production
- more guarantees that their products will be collected by contracted exporters



BY IMPLEMENTING THE AGREED MEASURES, ALL THE PLAYERS IN THE PROCESS WILL GAIN LARGELY. MOREOVER, APPLICATION OF THE LISTED REQUIREMENTS WILL LEAD TO RAISING THE STANDARDS OF FOOD SAFETY AND QUALITY OF PRODUCTION, THEREBY BOOSTING TRADE IN CEFTA AND WITH THE EU.

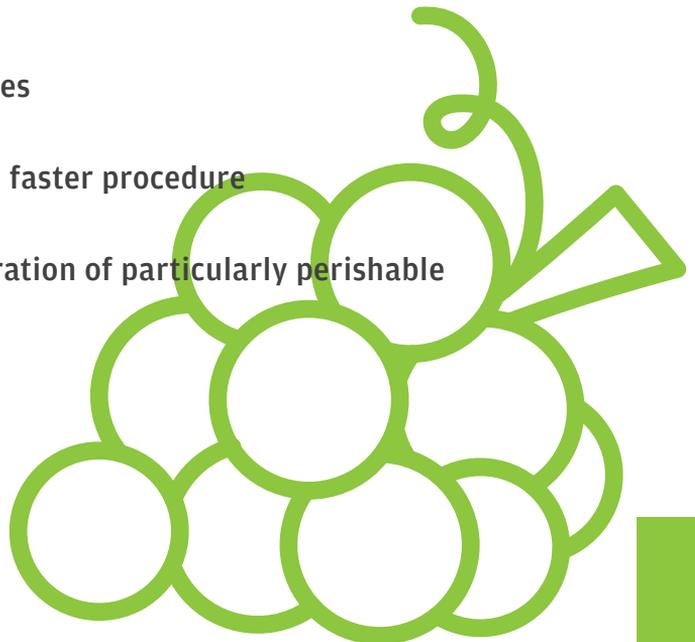


BENEFITS FOR EXPORTERS:

- shorter and cheaper official controls and attestations procedures
- simplified phytosanitary certification procedure
- no or very little risk of deterioration of particularly perishable produces (e.g. strawberries, raspberries, etc.)
- better guarantee of high-quality fruit and vegetables
- possible cooperation only with those producers who follow the requested production practices
- impact on production practices, thus also on quality, plant health and food safety aspects

BENEFITS FOR IMPORTERS:

- quicker and simplified import control formalities with risk-based physical controls
- lower costs of control formalities
- less administrative burden and faster procedure
- no or very little risk of deterioration of particularly perishable produces





BENEFITS FOR AGENCIES involved in the certification and clearance of goods:

- responsibility about plant health, food safety and quality of production is shared with registered operators
- risk-based and potentially lower involvement in the process of plant health and food safety physical controls
- simplified procedures for issuance of phytosanitary certificates.

BENEFITS FOR CONSUMERS:

- consumers get cheaper products, of higher quality, safer and fresher



BENEFITS OF DIGITALIZATION AND USAGE OF E-CERTIFICATES INCLUDE:

- faster, simplified, more efficient and transparent process of certification
- e-phytosanitary certificate just one click away from all stakeholders 24/7
- rapid exchange of information on non-compliant consignments



DIGITALIZATION OF THE PROCEDURES WILL BE DONE THROUGH THE SYSTEM OF ELECTRONIC EXCHANGE OF DATA (SEED+).

MISSION

CEFTA contributes to economic development of the Parties, creates an attractive environment for investment, provides benefits to its citizens and businesses and supports the Parties integration into the EU.

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