



Ministry of Economic Affairs,
Agriculture and Innovation

food safety, a risk based
approach

in the Netherlands

**Measuring Food Safety and
Comparing self checking systems**
Brussels, 17th November 2010

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Content

- VWA, a new risk based policy on food safety
- Two examples of Public-Private Partnership:
 - Food safety database RiskPlaza
 - Project: "How to rely on private certification ?"

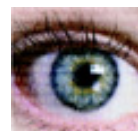
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New policy of the VWA, started in 2007

Regulation (EC) 882/2004:
the competent authority will take into account the
reliability of own checks

- ✓ food business operators (FBO's) are responsible for food safety
- ✓ risk based approach in surveillance
- ✓ incentive/penalty principle
- ✓ relying more on private systems



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Risk pyramid VWA

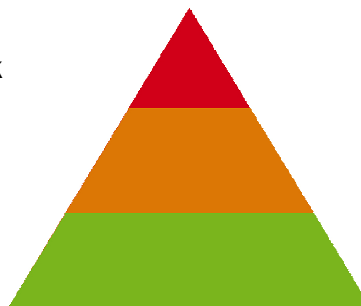
Food businesses are categorized, if possible

risk is defined as non compliance

Permanent risk


Some risk

Negligible risk



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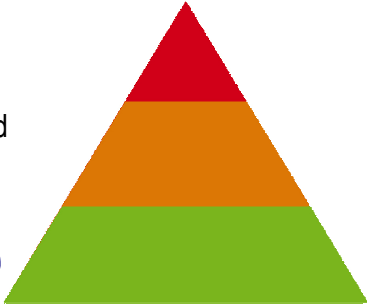

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Consequences for FBO's, The incentive/penalty principle


The hard line:
improve or stop

Traditional audits and
inspections

Monitoring, relying on
privat systems



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Privat systems

a system can be defined on two levels:

- the system of the FBO, e.g. the HACCP system
- the meta-system covering more FBO's, e.g. parts of the supply chain or certification:
 - Privat initiative, no governmental interference
 - Voluntary participation
 - Independant auditing

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RiskPlaza (1)

- EU-regulation 852/2004 >> HACCP
- Identify hazards and take control measures, raw materials
- Communication and verification in the supply chain
- Enforcement
- Result: administrative burden in the supply chain
- Cereals and bakery trade organization took the initiative
- They developed a smart meta-system
- Commitment of VWA

www.riskplaza.nl



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RiskPlaza (2)

Objectives:

- Transparency in hazards (common database)
- to prevent duplication of checks of the raw materials in the food supply chain, "once checked, accepted in the whole supply chain"
- System accepted by the authorities



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RiskPlaza (3)

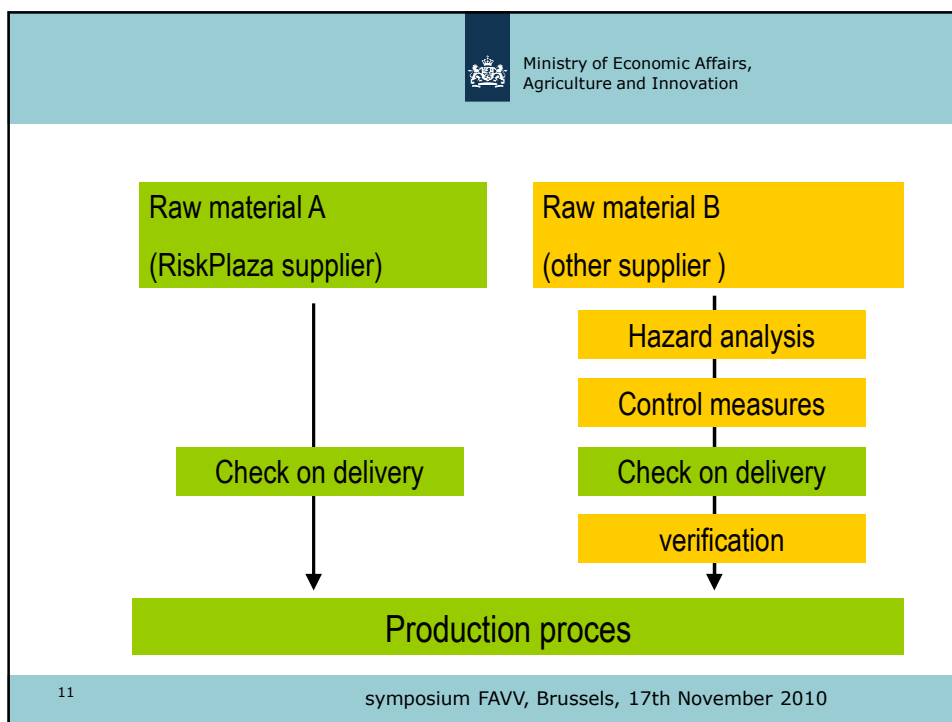
- Comprises a risk database and an audit system for suppliers and an early warning system for participants
- The system was build in 1 - 2 years and launched May 2009
- Expanded to meat products, snacks, vegetables
- Translated into English, interest of international suppliers



RiskPlaza, the role of the VWA

- Independent audit by VWA of RiskPlaza
- VWA has given input for the database (risks) and participates in board of experts
- Input in the early warning system, quick response
- Accepted the system, food inspectors use the same database (no more discussion during the audits!)
- Publishes the accepted private systems on the website
- Promotion of the meta-system as a smart system






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RiskPlaza, a success

- About 40 suppliers are accepted (increasing)
- About 300 participants (increasing)
- Better mutual understanding concerning risks
- Less administrative burden in supply chain
- Less auditing in supply chain
- Build on existing certification schemes (GFSI)
- Less discussion between food inspector and FBO
- Better compliance


RISK PLAZA

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Casus 2: Private certification and VWA supervision

- Up till now no specific role in the VWA surveillance policy, lack of confidence
- HACCP certified businesses are not significant better
- the FBO pay for the service and there is a certain commercial dependency
- VWA and CB's audit more or less in the same way (duplication)
- Initiative of VWA to open the discussion (2005) with CB's and the industry (large manufacturers)

➤ Objective: how to prevent unnecessary duplication ?

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Project Dutch HACCP certificate Industry – CB's - VWA

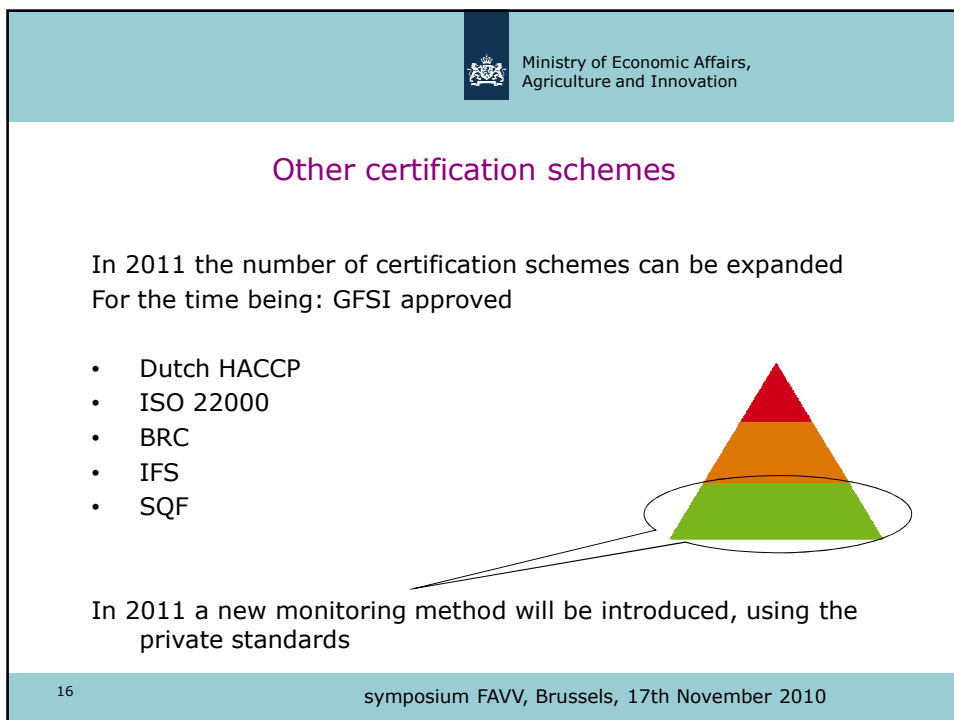
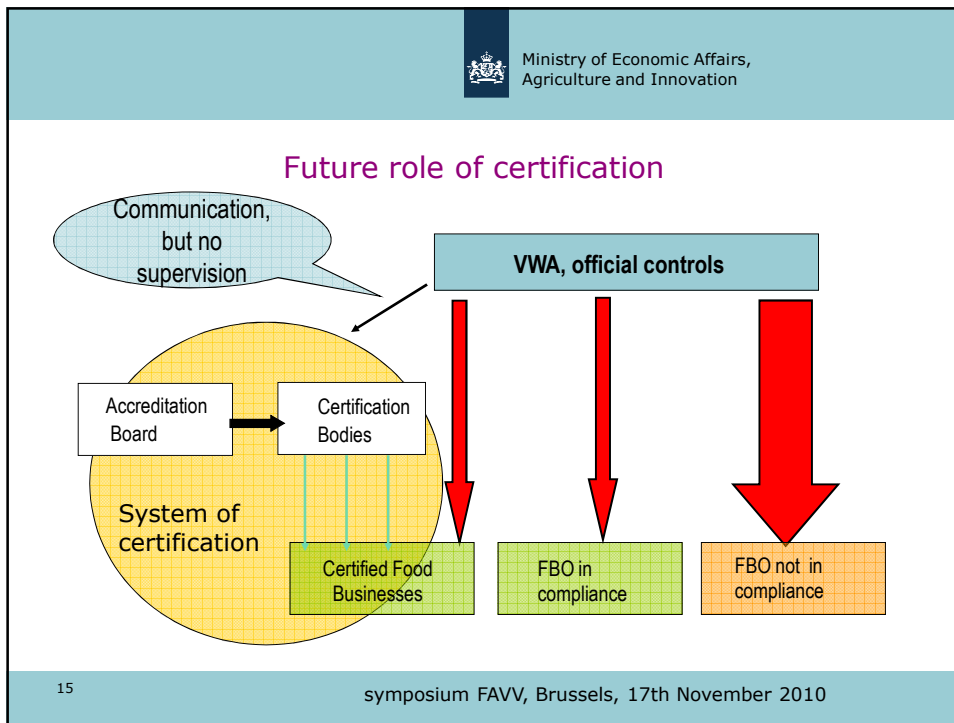
How to achieve confidence from VWA?

- Agreed qualification requirements for auditors
- Register with certified FBO's
- Audit information available for VWA
- Harmonisation minimal content of audit
- Harmonisation minimal content of report
- Sharing knowledge about hazards and risks per sector
- Sharing results of audits CB's and VWA
- Possible sanctions for not performing FBO's
- Possible sanctions for not performing CB's



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Summary

- Policy VWA: risk based and using private initiatives industry
- Unique cooperation Food Authority & CB's & Industry
- Harmonised and high quality food safety audits
- Transparency in the market
- Sharing food safety knowledge (e.g. RiskPlaza database)
- Reduction of audits
- Improvement of food safety in the food supply chain



Thank you for your attention.....



....have confidence