

HOP'S TRASABILITY

Muste Sevastița

After the '90, the structural changes from agriculture lead to the private property, culture technologies and even agricultural commerce atomisation. Thus, the agri-food chains hard to monitories (regarding the product trasability) were formed. The poor quality and quantity of the crops have as effect minimum maintenance costs, major exposure to different factors (climate conditions), poor productivity, low incomes, and incapacity of replaying the agricultural cycle. In this context the elements regarding the food safety management are impossible to implement. On the other hand, the easiest solution, the association, is regarded with reticence, reminding of old agricultural cooperatives. The credit founds for agriculture do not present much interest for the banker system plus, the investors in this field are not used to work with banks. So, to monitories and control the hop – storage – beer chain is rather difficult, because this chain is not a continuous one and because of the relationships between producer and processors. The Supervision and control Program in food products safety field, 2007, approved by Ord. Nr. 299 / 21.12.2006, only assess the possibilities of hazard appearance, and not the prevention.

The processors have to develop his own chain for the trasability of raw material to final product. The law 672/2002 stipulates the demands regarding the beer trasability from raw material to beer. Thus the aim of the production and commercialisation of products with high lupulin content, hop cones, hop powder or hop extract, is the trasability of raw materials from producer to processor. Also, the law establish the terms for each hop category:

- hop – dry inflorescences, known as cones, from *Humulus lupulus* plant, ovoid shape;
- hop powder – the product obtained by grinding hop, containing all natural elements of hop;
- hop powder with high lupulin content – product obtained by grinding the hop after mechanical remove of leaves, roots, bractee, and stick;
- hop extract – concentrated products obtained by a solvent action on hop;
- mix hop products – mix of two or more hop products

First and most important trasability link is the hop producer, who has the obligation to improve hop quality by applying modern cultivation, harvest technologies, and replanting the field with hop varieties that the market demands.

Hop cultivars have to annually declare the cultivated area and hop varieties. These declarations are registered at General Agriculture and Food Industries Directions and than are transmitted to the Agriculture, Food and Forest Ministry. Annually, until 31 July, the Hop Bureau from Agriculture, Food and Forest Ministry sends to the consultative council the situation. Base on these data, the Consultative Council for hop, reports annually the situation of hop in Romania.

This report will include production, quality, and internal price for hop, European and world price for hop, existent stocks.

The contracts for hop cones which cover one or more crops, signed before 1 August of the year of first crop are considered as advance closed contracts. The contracts between hop cultivars and buyers are registered by category by the responsible organisation.

In order to have an evaluation of the market the deliveries are registered. The delivery is a quantity of products that has the same characteristics and it is sent by an expeditor in the same time to an only client.

The certificate for products with designated origin can be emitted only for the recognised production areas or for products made from hop varieties that are on the Romanian official hop variety list. The procedures for the certification, the list with accredited laboratories to perform physico-chemical analyses are established by Agriculture, Food and Forest Ministry order.

The products intended to be sold on the UE market have to have at least the minimum quality requirements with those harvested in the UE. The equivalence between products is proved as follows:

- for the products listed in the chapter 12.06 from the Tariful vamal comunitar, by the equivalence certificate, released by the authority of the origin country. The certificate for equivalence is recognised in the UE as the certificate for products with designated origin. The National Authority which certifies the equivalence is recognised by the EU;

- control certificate, released by the responsible authority of each country. This certificate is released for every delivery, after the conformity requirements were verified;

- equivalence certificate for other products, excepting hop cones, hop powder and hop extracts, is listed in chapter 12.06, subchapter 13.03.A VI from Tariful vamal comunitar.

Regarding the designated origin by the Agriculture, Food and Forest Ministry, culture areas are delimited, specifying the city name for the hop obtained from that area. Minimal surface of a culture area is 60ha. The other culture area, outside the delimited zone conform with article 14 alin. 2, are not recognised as designated origin area, cannot be certified and don't receive state support.

The Bureau for the technical hop and hop products inspection is under the jurisdiction of Agriculture, Food and Forest Ministry, controls the eligibility of associations of hop cultivars and the conditions for hop commercialisation. According to the present law, the hop cultivars are physical or juridical persons that grow hop and prepare the hop cones for commercialisation. The cultivars associations have the next purposes: offer concentration, market stabilisation, promoting the scientific research in this field, financial support administration. The cultivars associations are recognised by the Agriculture, Food and Forest Ministry. For the recognition of hop cultivars association there are some conditions that have to be respected: the association has to be formed only by hop cultivars, the minimum number is 7, the minimum cultivated area is 60ha, and to participate at the hop producers initiative. The hop cultivars association can be organised in hop

producers professional organisations, the minimum cultivated area being 500 ha.

When the data from the Consultative hop council indicate problems between the offer and demand for hop, the Agriculture, Food and Forest Ministry offers support to the cultivars. The Agriculture, Food and Forest Ministry takes all the necessary measures for the protection of internal market. The hop consultative council is a technical specialized organism, its member being the presidents of the professional hop organisations and also presidents of most representative beer producers organisations. This council meets monthly to analyze the market, to solve the problems that may appear, etc.

The special measures that are taken for hop culture include: replanting the existing area with different hop varieties which correspond to the market demands.

Bibliografie

Legea nr. 150 din 2004
Ord. Nr. 299 / 21.12.2006,
Legea nr.672/2002