

How to Tackle Food Fraud in Official Food Control Authorities in Germany

Aline Wisniewski¹, Dr. Anja Buschulte¹

¹German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment
Max-Dohrn-Straße 8-10
10589 Berlin, Germany



Aline Wisniewski

Aline.wisniewski@bfr.bund.de

Journal fuer Verbraucherschutz und Lebensmittelsicherheit
Journal of Consumer Protection and Food Safety

Annex A

The questions of the survey and the respective answer options

In which federal state is the authority you work in located?

- Baden-Wuerttemberg
- Bavaria
- Berlin
- Brandenburg
- Bremen
- Hamburg
- Hesse
- Mecklenburg Western Pomerania
- Lower Saxony
- Northrhine-Westphalia
- Rhineland Palatinate
- Saarland
- Saxony
- Saxony-Anhalt
- Schleswig-Holstein
- Thuringia

What type of authority is involved?

- Border inspection post
- Supreme state authority
- Veterinary department
- Others: free text

In which function do you work in the authority?

- Veterinarian
- Food inspector
- Others: free text

How long have you been working in your current professional field?

- < 1/2 year
- 1/2 - 1 year
- >1 - 5 years
- > 5 - 10 years
- > 10 years

How many food companies were inspected by your authority last year?

- < 50
- 51 - 100
- 1 - 250
- 251 - 500
- 5 - 750
- 751 - 1000
- > 1000

How many food samples were taken for testing by your authority last year?

- < 100
- 1 - 500
- 5 - 1000
- 10 - 1500
- 15 - 2000
- > 2000
- None

Which facts are classified as food fraud according to your authority?

- Substitution of substances/liquids
- Omission of substances/liquids
- Concealment of inferior quality of a product
- Sale of stolen goods
- Imitation of foodstuff
- Misdeclaration
- Mislabeling
- Illegally imported goods
- Others: free text

In your opinion, which product categories are most frequently affected by food fraud incidents in your work area (e.g. district, port, airport)?

- Non-alcoholic beverages
- Alcoholic beverages
- Coffee/ tea
- Meat/ meat products (except poultry)
- Poultry/ poultry products
- Fish/ seafood
- Crayfish/ shellfish

- Milk/ dairy products
- Eggs/ egg products
- Honey
- Oils/ fats
- Grains/ bakery products
- Nuts/ seeds
- Fruit/ vegetables
- Spices/ herbs
- Confectionaries
- Soups/ sauces
- Infant food
- Food preparations
- Food additives
- Dietary food
- Contact material
- Feedstuff

Does your authority also check food for possible food fraud incidents during controls?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

In the context of complaints your authority is confronted with, approximately what percentage of them constitutes food fraud incidents?

- 0%
- 1 - 10%
- 11 - 30%
- 31 - 50%
- 51 - 70%
- > 70%

What proportion of food fraud incidents are caused by mislabelling?

- 0%
- 10%
- 11 - 30%
- 31 - 50%
- 51 - 70%
- > 70%

How often do you think food fraud is discovered by chance?

- 0%
- 1 - 10%
- 11 - 30%
- 31 - 50%
- 51 - 70%

- > 70%

Which methods are used at your authority to check food for food fraud?

- Analytical laboratory methods (targeted and non-target)
- Analytical methods apart from laboratories (bookkeeping, incoming & outgoing good controls, paper checks, risk checklist, risk matrix, etc.)
- Others: free text

What analytical techniques are used in your authority to test food for food fraud incidents?

- Microscopy
- Spectroscopy
- Chromatography
- Electrophoresis
- Others: free text
- None

Are the samples to be analysed chosen risk-based with regard to food fraud?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

Which criteria are used for risk estimation and which sources of information are used for it?

- Criteria for risk assessment: free text
- Sources of information: free text

Are food companies themselves subject to controls by your authority in the context of food fraud?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

Which criteria are used to control food companies concerning food fraud?

- Accounting audit
- Verification of document
- Checking and comparing of incoming and outgoing good inventories
- Risk checklist
- Others: free text

Is it checked whether food companies have a control plan addressing the risk of food fraud?

- Yes

- No
- I don't know

In your opinion, which fields of action should such a plan cover?

- Free text

Does the quality assurance concept address the problem of food fraud?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

To what extent is the issue of food fraud addressed?

- Free text

Would you like to have a tool which helps you to identify food currently more affected by food fraud?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

In your opinion which methods should be further developed in order to solve food fraud cases more effectively?

- Analytical laboratory methods (targeted and non-target)
- Methods apart from laboratories (early warning systems etc.)
- The existing methods are sufficient

Which of the following instruments, which are used in addition to laboratory methods, do you consider useful to detect food fraud?

- Checking and comparing of incoming and outgoing good inventories
- Accounting audit
- Risk checklist
- Risk matrix
- Others: free text

Do you think it is important for authorities to deal more intensively with the problem or prevention of food fraud?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

Do you think it is important for food companies to deal more intensively with the problem or prevention of food fraud?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

Do you see a health risk for to consumers from food fraud?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

How do you estimate the health risk for the consumer?

- Low risk
- Medium risk
- High risk

In your opinion, which factors jeopardize the consumers' health in food fraud cases?

- Allergens
- Chemical additives
- Unknown additives
- Microbiological contaminations
- Others: free text

Do you see other risks for the consumers in the context of food fraud?

- Loss of trust in food safety
- Loss of trust in official food controls
- Loss of trust in certain brands of food
- Others: free text

Do you think the legal guidelines aiming at combating food fraud in Germany are sufficient?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

In what ways should the legislator regulate the fight against food fraud more effectively?

- Free text

Finally, do you have any remarks or suggestions concerning food fraud or rather the fight against food fraud in Germany?