

DO PRIVATE CONTROLS (SUCH AS IFS) HAVE AN INFLUENCE ON THE OFFICIAL CONTROL FREQUENCY IN YOUR COUNTRY?

Questionnaire - Austria



Günter Frühwirth - President EWFC

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In Austria, there is a growing discussion about whether private inspections (eg IFS inspections) should influence official controls. In order to get an overview of how this topic is seen in the member states, a questionnaire on this topic was sent to 8 members of the EWFC, 6 responded.

Summary:

The issue is handled differently in various member states.

In Ireland, Germany, Luxembourg and Austria, private inspections have no impact on official controls. Among other things, Luxembourg considers it imperative that the recognition of private control systems should be regulated by law as, they believe, too many different private systems (with partial overlap, with different control criteria) would not contribute to greater clarity in food safety systems. Germany added that there is some indirect influence, as companies that submit to a private control system usually work better hygienically and therefore the official control frequency is extended.

The situation is different in Belgium and the Netherlands.

In Belgium, such controls carried out by Independent Certified Organisms (OCIs) influence the outcome of food controls. When a restaurant is certified by one of these private companies, they receive a maximum hygiene score.

In the Netherlands, self-monitoring systems are private systems in the area of food safety. Companies can participate voluntarily. The monitoring by the Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority (NVWA) is strongly influenced by the respective system. The NVWA regularly reviews the reliability of systems in companies through audits and inspections. Such systems, therefore, do not replace surveillance, but can influence the frequency of visits, the depth of control, the control time and the setting of measures in the company. If an inspection takes place at BRC, FSSC 22000 or IFS in 2018, the framework conditions will not be assessed.



Table:

Do private controls (such as IFS) have an influence on the official control frequency in your country?

	yes	no	indirect
Ireland		x	
Netherland	x		
Luxemburg		x	
Belgium	x		
Germany		x	x
Austria		x	