

ALBANIAN FOOD LAW REQUIREMENTS REGARDING HACCP AND THE POSSIBLE CURRENT WORLDWIDE FOOD SAFETY MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS (FSMS) TO BE APPLIED FROM THE FOOD BUSINESS OPERATORS IN ALBANIA

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Abstract

Albanian Food Law Nr. 9863 dt. 28.01.2008 defines the requirements for all the food business operators (except primary one) to have in place a self-control system based on HACCP methodology.

In Albania there is not any official regulation yet, which can define clearly and systematically what the Albanian food business operators should document and implement referring to the HACCP model. So to be on the safe side most of the food operators are asking for consultancy and certification against ISO 22000:2005. But those which are certified and more others which plan to do it perceive this model as quite complex for them. This paper reveals other FSMS for the food business operators to apply except ISO 22000:2005, and finds out if those systems are really less complicated and more suitable for them. The methodology used are inquiries, interviews with food business operators, food safety literature, results, inductive and deductive type of results presented in narrative and tabular way.

Conclusions are that also the other FSMS systems except ISO 22000:2005 can be implemented and certified from the Albanian food business operators. But similar to ISO 22000:2005, those FSMS are perceived from them as complex ones as well. In reality all these systems require a certain level of technical and management documentation and technical know-how. So the reasons to choose one or another FSMS rely mostly not on the complexity of those systems (as they all are complex), but on the business objectives of the food business operators and their specific client and partner needs.

Key words: *Albanian Food Law, Food Safety Management Systems, ISO.*