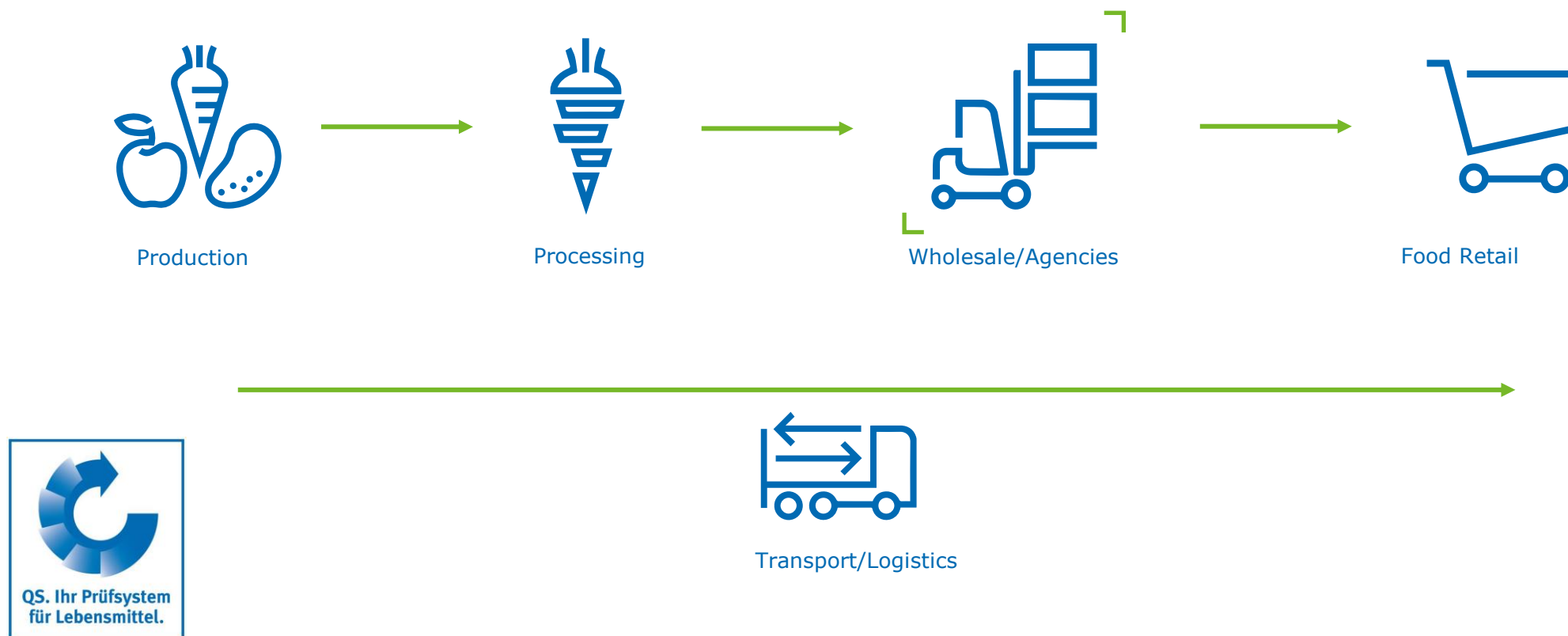




Welcome to the QS Scheme

An overview of the most important criteria

In the QS scheme the **whole** supply chain is certified, from the producer to the food retailer. Every participant of the chain supplies **reliable quality**.



Wholesalers in the QS Scheme



Wholesale/Agencies
Fresh produce

- **Wholesaler** with physical contact to goods
 - First-line merchant (direct supply from producer)
 - Trading partner (partner between first-line merchant and food retailer)
- **Agency**
 - Trading and marketing activities without physical contact to goods (possible as a first-line merchant or trading partner)
 - Owner of purchased goods, purchase for further commercialisation
- **Service Provider**
 - Storing, sorting and packaging
 - Not owner of goods
- **Logistics**
 - Transport, storage/handling, consignment, sorting/grading
 - Not owner of goods

Die wichtigsten QS-Themen für Sie im Überblick



Wholesale/Agencies
Fresh produce



Guidelines

- The QS guidelines describe all the **rules** and **requirements** for scheme participants, certification bodies and laboratories.
- Guidelines and checklists are usually reviewed and **updated once a year**.



Please pay attention to all revisions in relevant guidelines.



For alle Scheme
Participants

Especially for
Wholesalers (incl.
agencies)

Checklists



Guidelines For alle Scheme Participants



- The guideline **General Regulations** explains basic rules for the QS certification and the steps to become a scheme participant
- The guideline **Certification** summarizes the rules for the independent controls, e.g. forms of audits and their frequency.
- If all supply chain actors are QS certified, the products can be labelled with the QS certification mark. The **Style Guide for the QS Certification Mark** describes the mandatory requirements for the usage of the certification mark.

You can find the documents here:



[Documents for all scheme participants](#)



Guidelines Especially for Wholesalers (incl. agencies)



- The guideline **Wholesale** defines all relevant requirements for the QS certification.

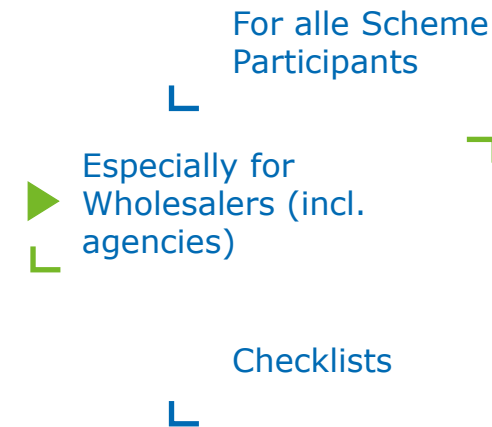


[Guideline Wholesale Fruit, Vegetables, Potatoes](#)

- For all fresh produce the information about the **Residue Monitoring** is relevant.




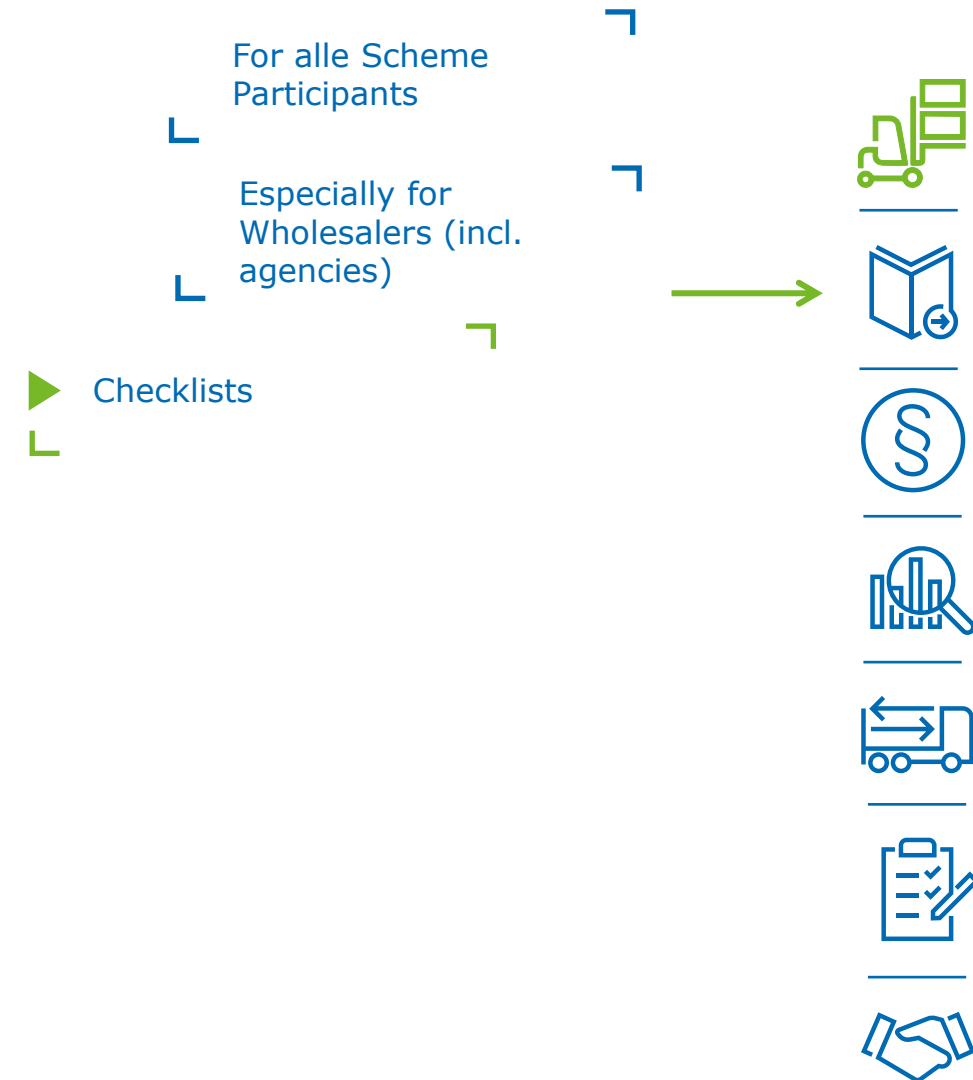
[Guideline Residue Monitoring](#)



Guidelines Checklists

- The implementation of the QS requirements is inspected on the basis of the checklist **Wholesale Fruit, Vegetables, Potatoes**.
- The checklist **Agencies Fruit, Vegetables, Potatoes** helps with the implementation of QS requirements for **agencies**.
- QS requirements for **Wholesale Meat/Meat Products and Fruits, Vegetables, Potatoes** can be checked with a combined checklist. It applies when a wholesaler works with fresh produce as well as QS certified meat/meat products.

You can find the documents here :  [Checklists](#)



QS Requirements beyond legal requirements



- The requirements in the QS scheme can **exceed legal requirements**.

This especially applies for requirements that have a **critical impact** on

- the **reliability** and **safety** of foodstuffs or
 - the **health** and **safety** of animals.
- The mandatory requirements for the products and processes are binding for all QS scheme participants, i.e. in Germany and all other countries.

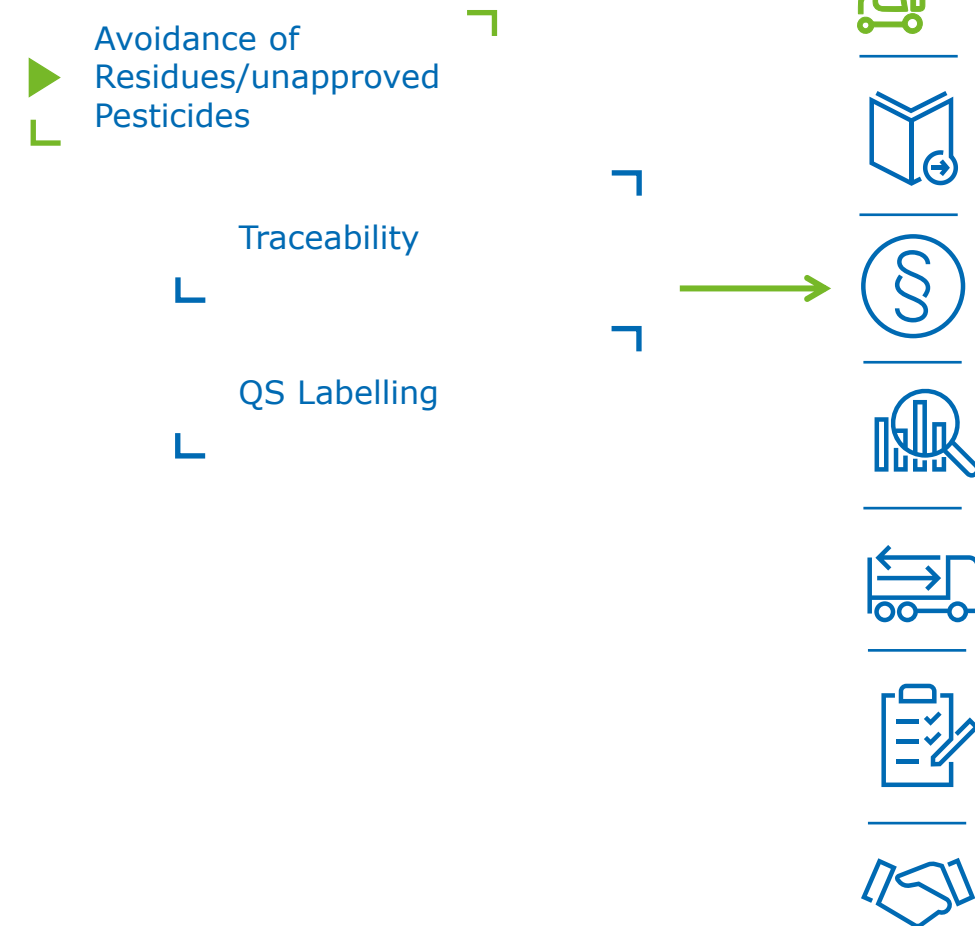


QS Requirements beyond legal requirements

Avoidance of Residues/unapproved Pesticides



- Producers, wholesalers, processors and retailers are obliged to participate in the **Residue Monitoring**.
- Based on a risk-oriented control plan all products are analysed for the **maximum residue levels** of
 - Active substances of plant protection products
 - post-harvest treatments and their relevant metabolites
 - Pollutants
 - Heavy metals
 - Nitrateas well as the **authorisation of detected active substances**.
- Wholesalers have to document **post-harvest treatments**.
- Exceedances of maximum residue levels and detections of unauthorised active substances are **evaluated** and **objected**.

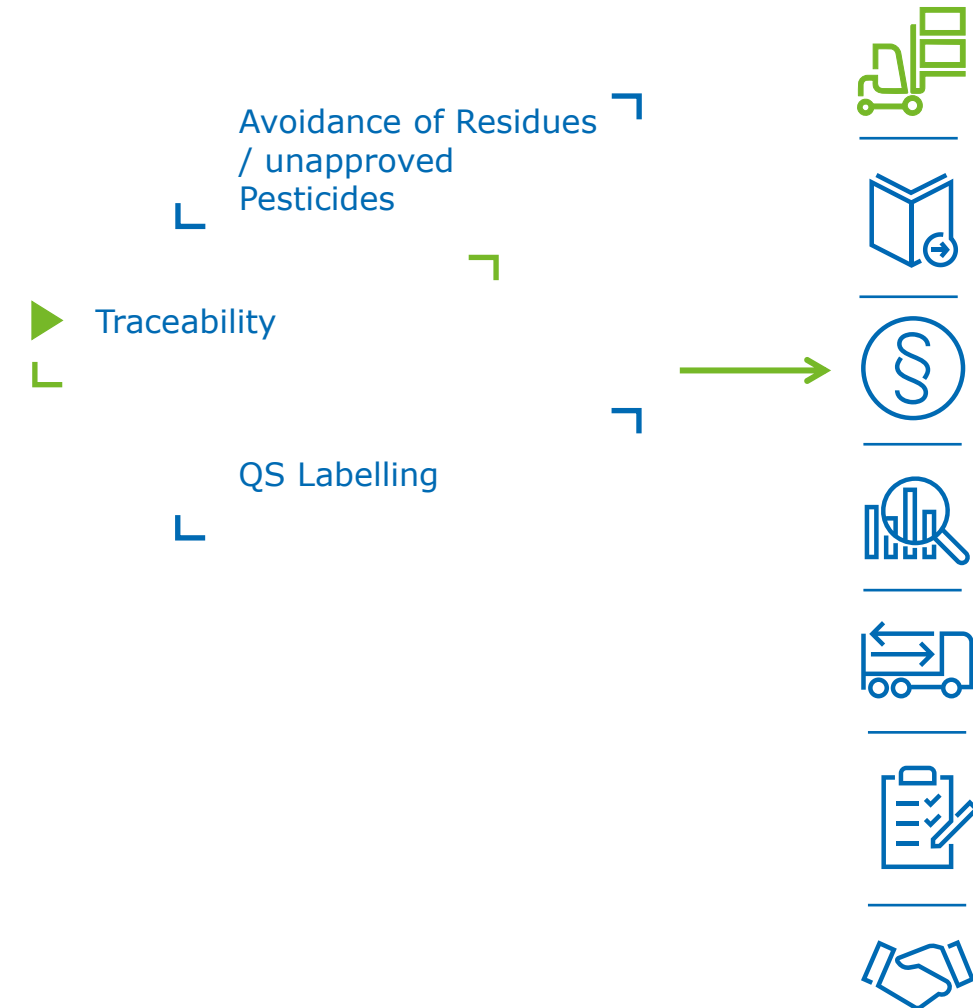


QS Requirements beyond legal requirements

Traceability



- The **identification number of the producer** or alternatively the **packing station** needs to be displayed on the label of the delivery note to secure the traceability of the product.



QS Requirements beyond legal requirements

QS Labelling

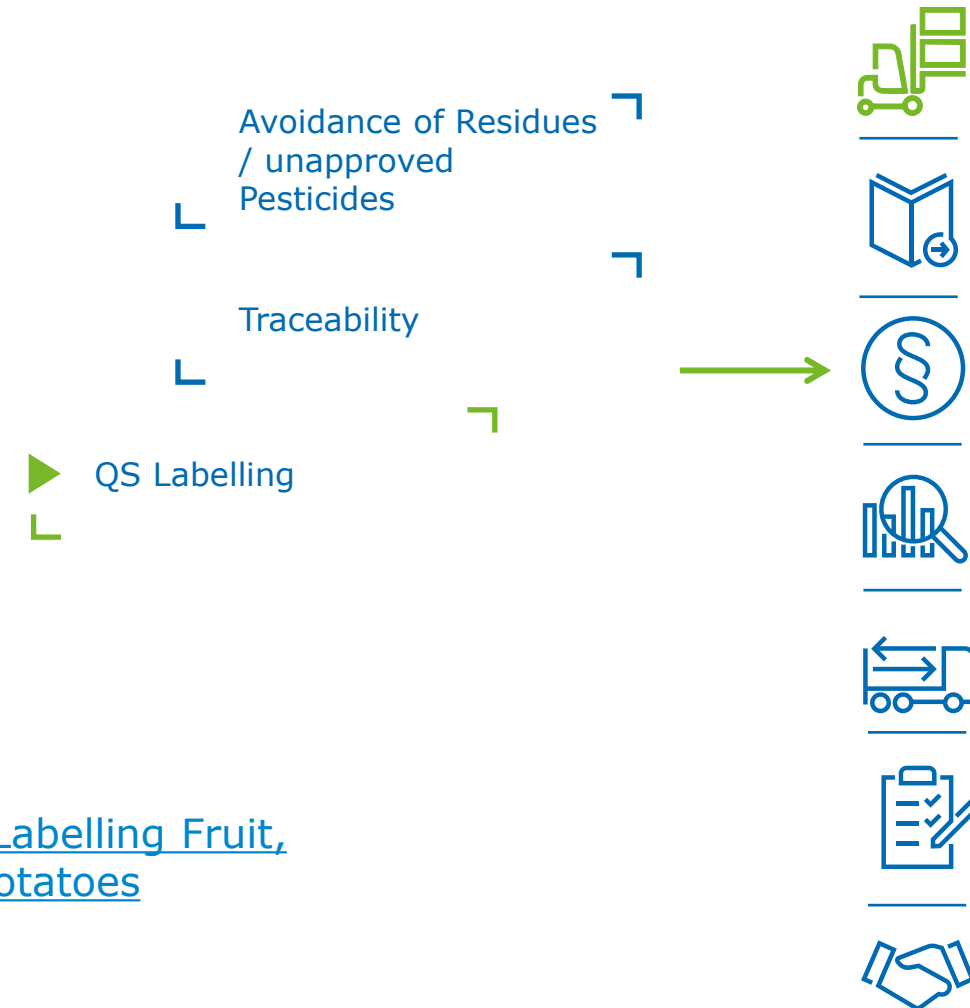


Definition of QS goods

- QS goods are goods that have been produced or marketed/handled in companies authorized to supply QS in accordance with the requirements of the QS scheme and **are clearly identified as QS goods in the accompanying document.**
- It must be possible at all times to make a clear assignment between the QS goods and the corresponding accompanying document.
- Detailed information can be found in the **Explanation Labelling Fruit, Vegetables, Potatoes**



[Explanation: Labelling Fruit, Vegetables, Potatoes](#)



QS Requirements beyond legal requirements

QS Labelling



The QS scheme distinguishes between the following situations:

- QS labelling in the accompanying document
 - Serves to identify the goods and to ensure traceability.
 - Can be done by the **addition „QS“** or by **general regulations/the use of synonyms.**
- QS labelling on the label or on the outer packaging of the product
 - By using the QS certification mark, QS goods can be identified as such



Monitoring Program

Residue Monitoring



- Producers, wholesalers, processors and retailers are obliged to participate in the **Residue Monitoring** (exceptions stated in the guideline).
- The Residue Monitoring in the QS scheme controls, whether effective **maximum residue levels** for plant protection products are met and whether **active substances are authorized**.
- Objective of the monitoring is that only **flawless products** find their way to the consumer.
- Root causes of objections are analysed so that adequate measurements can be taken and recurrence can be prevented.
- Samplings at wholesaler level are spreaded throughout the year, corresponding to a **control plan**. QS approved laboratories are assigned to analyse the samples.



[Guideline Residue Monitoring](#)



Customers and Suppliers

Check of supplier eligibility



- **Delivering companies:** All companies delivering QS produce must be clearly identified in the **QS database** as a location with eligibility of delivery for the corresponding production scope and at the stage production additionally for the corresponding crop at the time of handing over the goods. This also applies to agencies and to companies that handle products but do not own the goods.
- **Receiving companies:** If the goods are labelled with the QS certification mark on the label or outer packaging, the location of the consignee/recipient of the goods must be identified in the QS database for the corresponding production scope eligible to deliver.

 [Database/Software Platform](#)



Create your own list with favorites in the QS database. This way you get notified if the status of a relevant partner has changed.

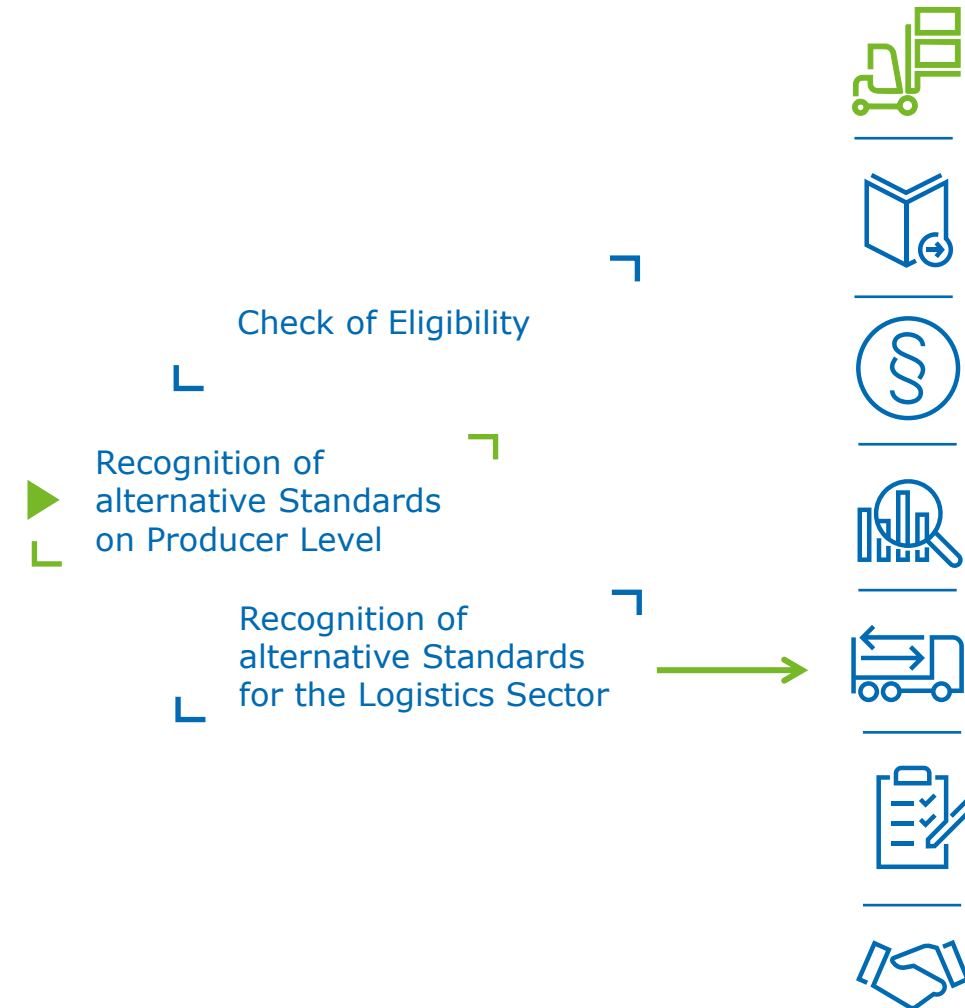


Customers and Suppliers

Recognition of other Standards on Producer Level



- Wholesalers can purchase goods from producers that are certified against an **alternative, recognized standard**.
- QS has an agreement of recognition with the following schemes:
 - Vegaplan (BE)
 - AMAG.A.P. (AT)
 - GLOBALG.A.P.
- Producers that are certified against a recognized standard also have to be registered in the QS database. The check of their **eligibility** also has to be done **up-to-date**.



Customers and Suppliers

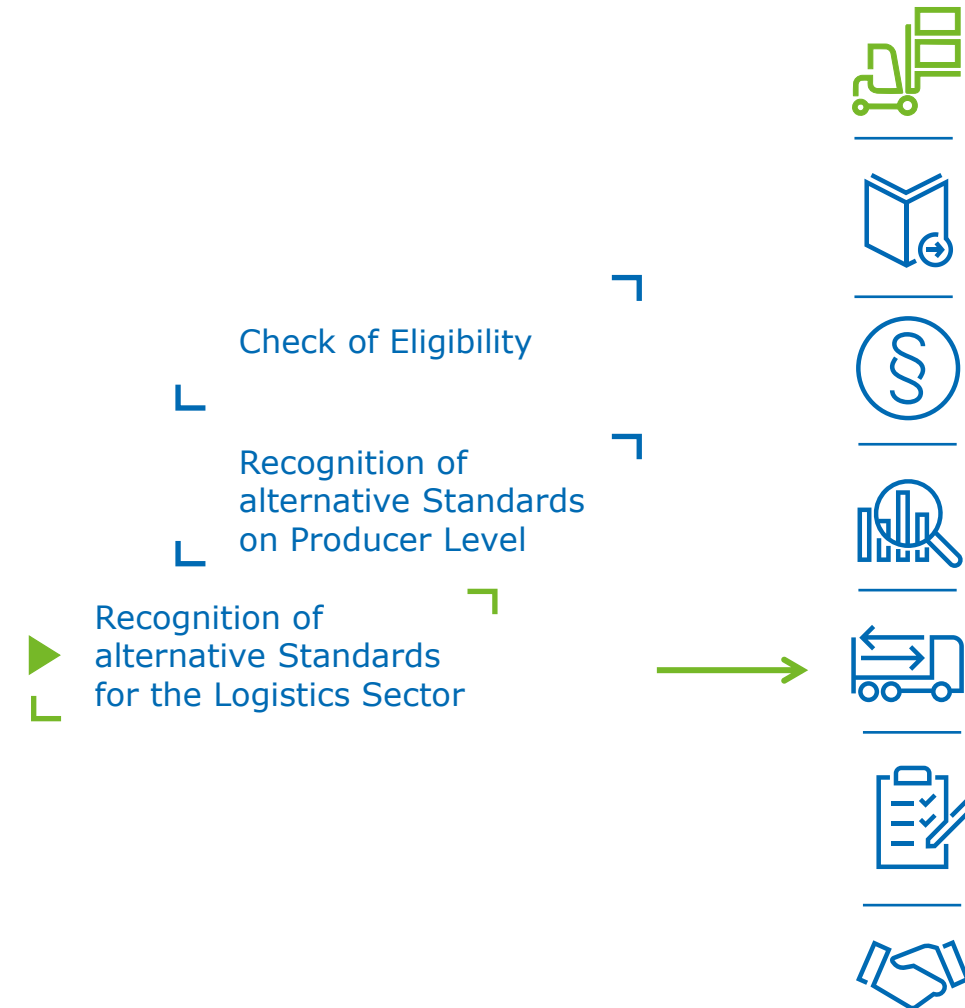
Recognition of other Standards for the logistics sector



- QS actively promotes **cooperation with other standard owners** across borders so that each can rely on the other. The following standards **are recognized for the logistics sector (84)**:
 - IFS Logistics
 - IFS C&C/Wholesale
 - BRC Storage & Distribution
- BRC Food Safety
- GMP+ (only for loose potatoes & onions)
- Logisticians who are certified according to a recognized standard are also **registered in the QS database**. The registration of the recognized certificate is done by the responsible certification body.



[Steps for becoming a Scheme Participant Logistics](#)



- In the QS scheme audits are conducted on a **risk-oriented frequency** based on the QS status:
 - QS-Status I: every 2 years
 - QS-Status II: every year
 - QS-Status III: every 6 month
- QS reserves its right to conduct, additionally to regular audits, random sampling audits or **audits of special purpose**.
- All audits are conducted by **independent auditors**.



To avoid double auditing, requirements of other schemes can be checked during a QS audit.

These so called **combined audits** can e.g. be performed for the IFS Food or IFS Cash&Carry/Wholesale certification.



Contact



Juliane Weinmann

T. +49 228 35068-176

E. Juliane.Weinmann@q-s.de



Nora Rottitsch

T. +49 228 35068-171

E. Nora.Rottitsch@q-s.de

q-s.de

Our common goal:

The production and marketing of safe and fresh food with all **our partners**.

