

Explanation of the Labelling of Fruit, Vegetables, Potatoes as QS products



Stand: 01.01.2026

Example Company

Example Company | Any Street 1 | 12345 Any City

Any Customer
Any Street 123
12345 Any Town

Delivery-ID.: 1234
Customer-ID.: 5678
Order-No.: 01010
Date: 01/01/2015

Delivery Note

We thank you for the excellent cooperation and deliver as agreed following goods:

Pos.	Art-No.	Description	Amount	Unit	Price/Unit (€)
	1234-567	Cocktail Tomato (QS)	1,00	Kg	0
	76-543	Cucumber	1,00	Kg	
	56-789	Radicchio	1,00	Kg	
		Shipping and packaging			

Cocktailstrauchtomaten
Klasse: I Mindestgewicht: 300 g

Ursprungsland Niederlande 130-01 4366-4

Los-Nr. 4366-4

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EAC: Vorzeichen, Vorzeichen Nachfolger

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1 Scope

This supporting document serves QS scheme participants as well as auditors in the implementation/checking of requirements regarding the labelling of QS produce on the following stages:

- Stage Production Fruit, Vegetables, Potatoes
(Note: also relevant for producers participating in the QS scheme via a recognized certificate (e.g., GLOBALG.A.P., AMAG.A.P., Vegaplan))
- Stage Wholesale Fruit, Vegetables, Potatoes
- Stage Preparation/Processing Fruit, Vegetables, Potatoes
- Stage Food Retail Fruit, Vegetables, Potatoes

1.1 Definition of QS produce

QS produce is defined as produce that is produced resp. marketed/handled in accordance with the requirements of the QS scheme only by companies with QS eligibility of delivery. QS produce is clearly labelled as QS produce in the delivery documents (e.g. delivery notes, delivery, weighing slips, invoices, credit notes).

Information about the QS status of the goods must be available at the time of physical receipt of the goods or during the outgoing goods inspection. In the case of marketing through an agency, it must be possible to trace the information on the QS status of the physically delivered goods at the agency.

The eligibility of delivery for the QS scheme can be checked, inter alia, via the public scheme participant search:

<https://www.q-s.de/softwareplattform/en/?lang=gb>

2 Labelling of QS produce

In the QS scheme the following issues are differentiated:

- QS labelling in the delivery documents
 The QS labelling in the delivery documents serves the identification of the goods and to ensure traceability. The labelling may take place
 - by use of the addition "QS" (→ chapter 3.1) or
 - by use of general regulations (→ chapter 3.2)

The labelling obligation applies to all QS goods, regardless of whether the QS certification mark is used on the label or the outer packaging or not

- Labelling on the product label/packaging
 By using the QS certification mark, QS produce can be marked as such.

At all times a clear assignment between QS produce and the respective delivery documents must be possible.

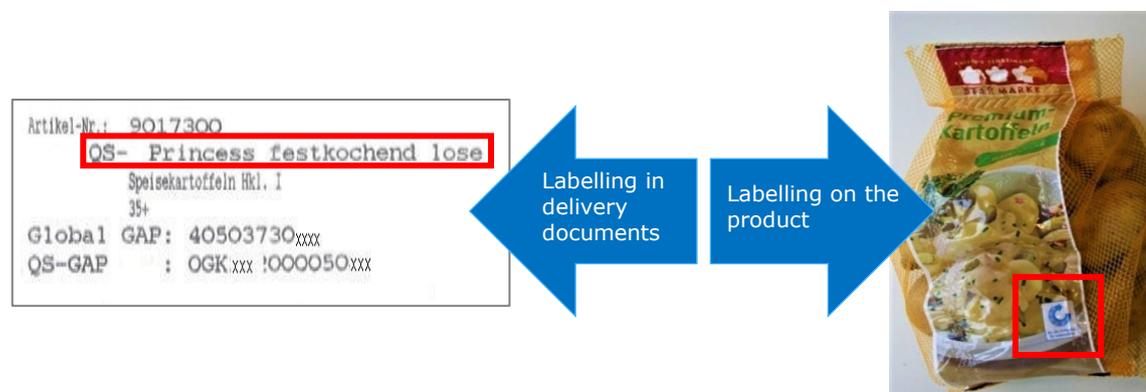


Figure 1: Example for the QS labelling on a delivery document and the product label/packaging



The QS certification mark may only be used according to the QS style guide (appendix 5.3 of the Guideline General Regulations).



Besides the illustration on the packaging, the QS certification mark can also be used for advertising purposes on the letterhead, on promotional material and websites. You can find more information about this in the style guide for the QS certification mark.

2.1 Labelling of QS produce at the stage production

Producers participating in the QS scheme can market their produce as QS produce. Prerequisite is that the respective producer is eligible to deliver for the relevant crop respectively production scope. This also applies to eligible producers participating in the QS scheme via a recognized certificate.

There are following marketing alternatives:

- Marketing alternative 1: Marketing as QS produce **with** use of the QS certification mark on the product label/packaging
 - The produce must be labelled as "QS" in the delivery documents (chapter 3.1).
Alternatively, general regulations may be used under certain conditions (chapter 3.2).
 - The produce may only be marketed/delivered to QS scheme participants.
- Marketing alternative 2: Marketing as QS produce **without** use of the QS certification mark on the product label/packaging
 - The produce must be labelled as "QS" in the delivery documents (chapter 3.1).
 - The produce may be marketed/delivered to both QS scheme participants and non-QS scheme participants.
If the produce is marketed/delivered to non-QS scheme participants, the labelling in the delivery documents becomes meaningless.
- Marketing alternative 3: Marketing as non-QS produce
 - The produce must neither be marked as QS produce in the delivery documents, nor may the QS certification mark be used on the label/packaging.
 - The produce may be marketed/delivered to both QS scheme participants and non-QS scheme participants.

Important for producers purchasing goods from third parties! Produce that is purchased as non-QS produce may not be marketed as QS produce under any circumstances (→ no labelling in the delivery documents, no use of the QS certification mark)!

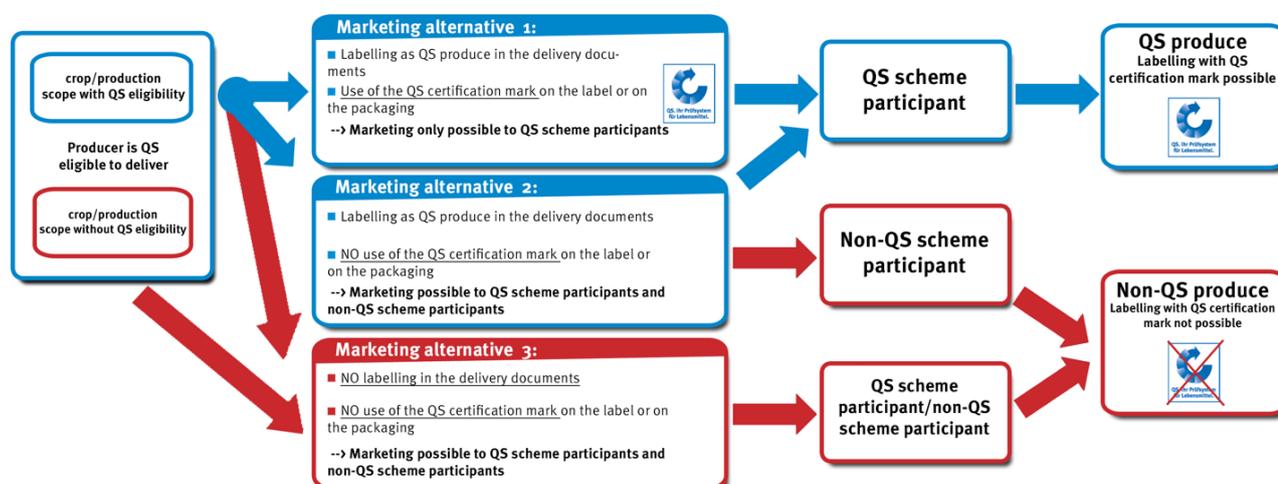


Figure 2: Marketing alternatives at the stage production

Note: enlarged figure on page 9

2.2 Labelling of QS produce at the stages wholesale and preparation/processing

Wholesalers and preparation/processing companies that are eligible to deliver into the QS scheme have the possibility to market purchased QS produce as QS produce to their recipients/resellers.

There are following marketing alternatives:

- Marketing alternative 1: Marketing as QS produce **with** use of the QS certification mark on the product label/packaging
 - The produce must be labelled as "QS" in the delivery documents (chapter 3.1).
 - The produce may only be marketed/delivered to QS scheme participants with eligibility of delivery.
- Marketing alternative 2: Marketing as QS produce **without** use of the QS certification mark on the product label/packaging
 - The produce must be labelled as "QS" in the delivery documents (chapter 3.1).
 - The produce may be marketed/delivered to both QS scheme participants and non-QS scheme participants.
If the produce is marketed/delivered to non-QS scheme participants, the labelling in the delivery documents becomes meaningless.
- Marketing alternative 3: Marketing as non-QS produce
 - The produce must neither be marked as QS produce in the delivery documents, nor may the QS certification mark be used on the label/packaging.
 - The produce may be marketed/delivered to both QS scheme participants and non-QS scheme participants.

Important! Produce that is purchased as non-QS produce may not be marketed as QS produce under any circumstances (→ no labelling in the delivery documents, no use of the QS certification mark)!

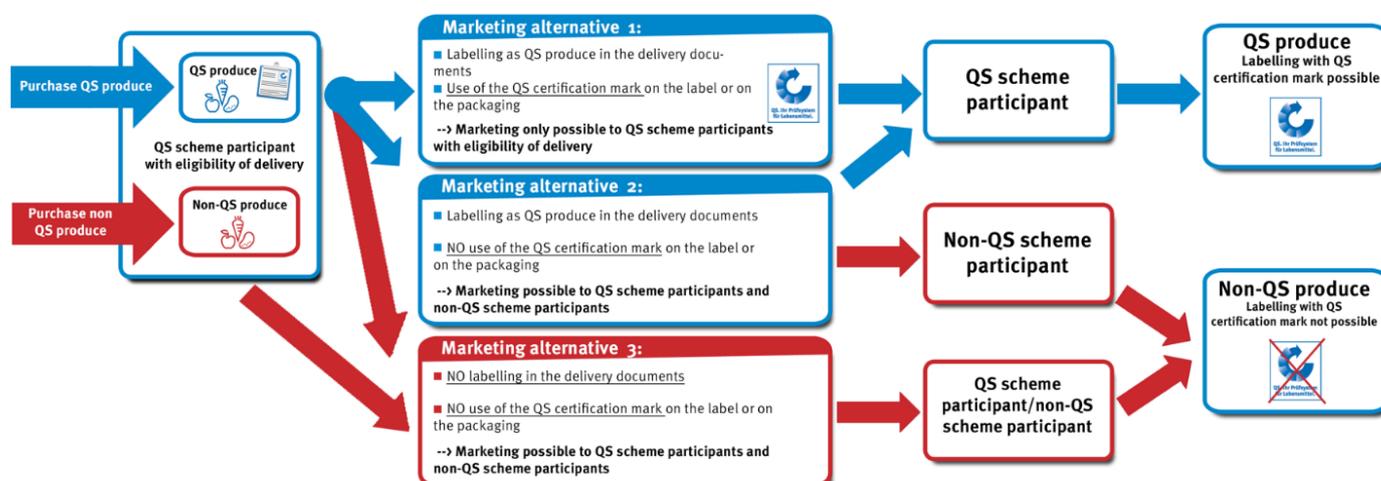


Figure 3: Marketing alternatives for wholesalers and preparation/processing companies

Note: enlarged figure on page 10

3 Labelling options for QS produce in the delivery documents

3.1 Addition "QS"/explanatory note

QS goods are usually labelled with the addition "QS" in the delivery documents (e.g., delivery, weighing slips, invoices, credit notes) either on the article/article item (e.g.: Apples (QS), QS Apples) or with an explanatory note/synonym (e.g. "all goods are QS goods", "all apples are QS goods", "DE = QS goods").

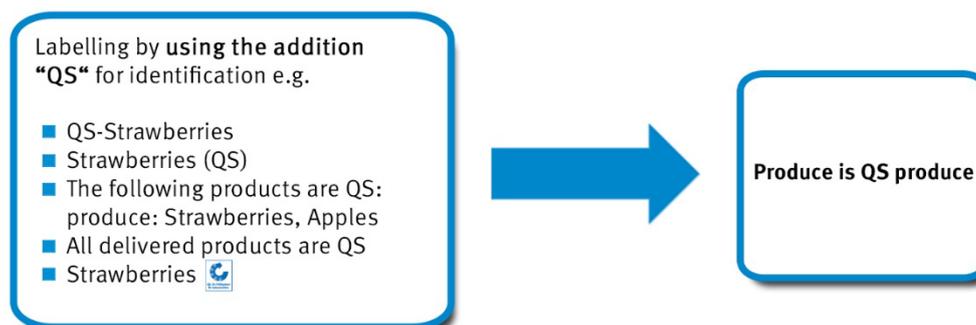


Figure 4: Examples of labelling options of QS produce in the delivery documents

Negative examples

The following labelling options are **NOT SUFFICIENT** to mark QS produce as such in the delivery documents:

- QS certification mark in the header or footer
- QS-ID or QS-location number of the producer/wholesaler in the header/footer of the delivery documents or on the article description
- Mentioning a GGN/GLN of the producer/wholesaler
- Referencing that the goods are GLOBALG.A.P. goods
- Referencing to certification status:
 - "All items originate from QS-/QS-GAP certified farms"
 - "All items originate from farms certified to the GLOBALG.A.P. standard or a standard recognised by GLOBALG.A.P."
 - "Our farm is QS certified."

Digital delivery documents

Digital solutions can also be used as an alternative to the usual physical delivery documents. If the supplier and recipient of the QS goods use corresponding merchandise management systems, the QS goods can also be labelled digitally (e.g., via EDI).

The prerequisite is that all QS requirements are met, for example:

- QS produce must be clearly marked as such.
- It must be possible at all times to clearly assign QS produce to the corresponding delivery documents.
- QS produce can be clearly identified as such - also in the incoming/outgoing goods inspection.
- The procedure for QS labelling must be known to the responsible employees who work with the products.
- The labelling and registration system must ensure clear identification of the goods and traceability and plausibility of the flow of goods at all times.
- The digital goods delivery documents must be retrievable at any time and comprehensible to third parties.

3.2 General Regulations

As an alternative to labelling QS goods in the (digital) delivery documents, producers,

- who are members of a producer organisation with a contractual delivery obligation, or
- who are closely associated with the buyer of the goods in terms of organisation and company law (e.g., producer also operates a wholesale company; same ownership structure)

may agree general terms with the buyer, provided that

- the QS crops entitled to be delivered are marketed to the customer as QS goods without exception, and
- the procedure is documented by the producer and the customer, is known to the employees concerned and can be traced in the audit.

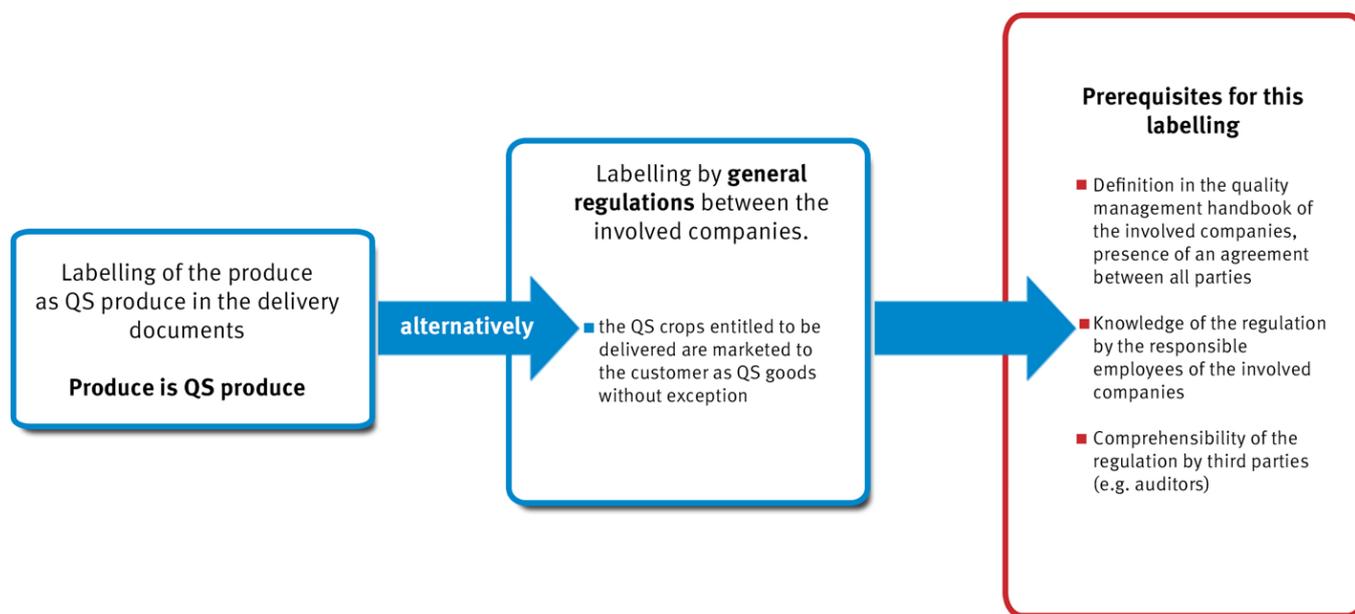


Figure 5: Alternative labelling options of QS produce due to general regulations/use of synonyms.

Note: The use of general regulations is not permitted for the marketing of QS goods between scheme participants at the stages Wholesale and/or Preparation/Processing.

4 Other QS specific requirements for the labelling of QS produce

All self-placed information indicated on the label must be correct.

In addition, the following aspects must be considered:

- Labelling of QS produce with an identification number (→ chapter 4.1)
- Use of the QS certification mark on goods from producers with GLOBALG.A.P. Option 2/Option 1 with QMS certificate (→ chapter 4.2)
- Use of the QS certification mark in food retail stores (→ chapter 4.3)

4.1 Labelling of QS produce with an identification number

QS produce must be labelled with the OGK-number or another in the QS database deposited identification number of the producer (e.g. GGN, GLN) in the delivery documents or on the label of the goods (or box label).

In the case of batches which may contain goods from several producers due to mixing as a result of bulk goods storage or technical packaging or treatment processes (e.g., sorting system) and in the case of packed goods which contain goods from several producers, the QS-ID, the GH-/BV-number or another in the QS database deposited identification number (e.g. the GGN, GLN) of the packing location can be used alternatively.

Note:

- Labelling producers: If not the OGK-number or QS-ID but another identification number (e.g. GGN or GLN) is used, it must be ensured that this number is deposited in the QS database as an identification number for the corresponding producer location.
- Labelling packing locations: If another identification number (e.g. GGN or GLN) is used instead of the GH-/BV-number or QS-ID, it must be ensured that this number is deposited in the QS database as an identification number for the corresponding packing location.

4.2 Use of the QS Certification Mark on Goods from producers with GLOBALG.A.P. Option 2/Option 1 with QMS certificate

Goods from producers with GLOBALG.A.P. Option 2 certificate or GLOBALG.A.P. Option 1 multisite with QMS certificate may only be labelled with the QS certification mark if producers are entitled to do so. Producers that are not entitled to use the QS certification mark are clearly indicated in the QS scheme participant search:

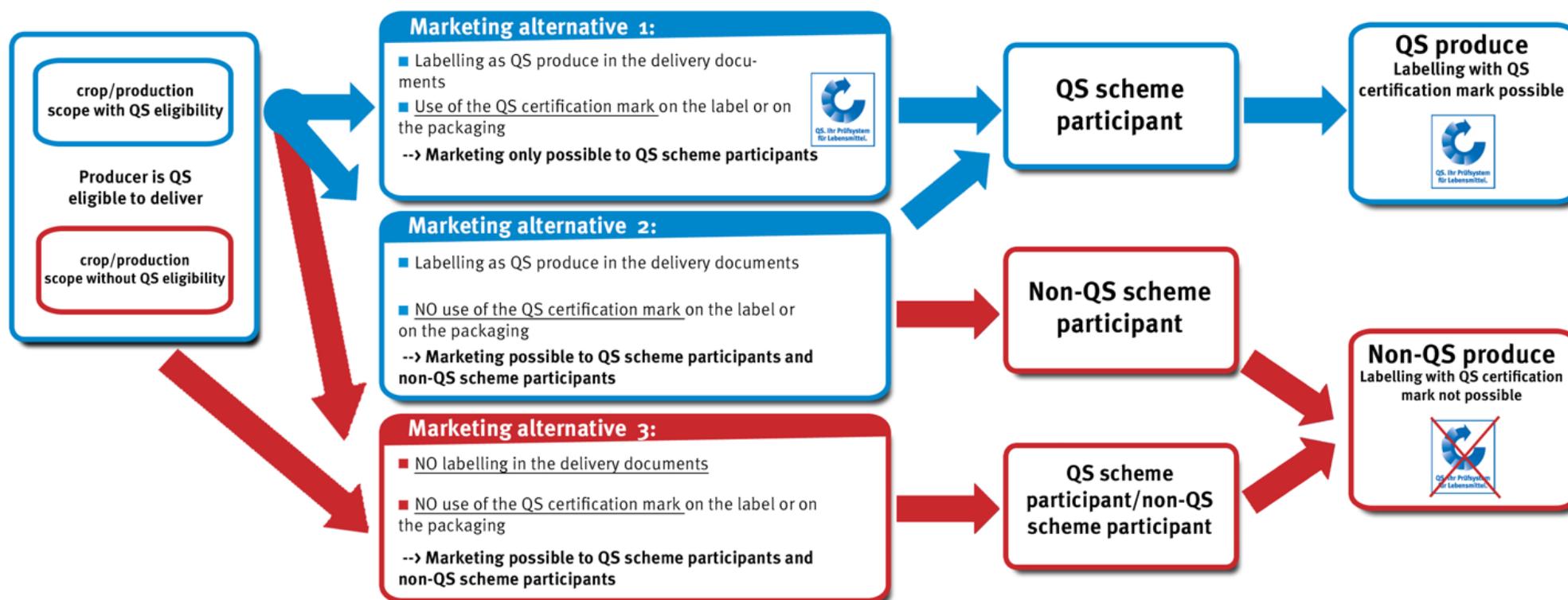
Location number	Approved production scope	product(s)	QS-ID	Scheme participant	Certification scheme	Identification number
██████████	fruit production (outdoor) + vegetable production (outdoor) + vegetable production (covered) (4013)	watmelon scarole (radiccio, endivie, ...) chard spinach white cabbage savoy cabbage mizuna (leaves and sprouts of brassica spp)	██████████	██████████	GLOBALG.A.P. Option 2 No use of the QS certification mark	██████████

Figure 6: Indication of producers in the QS database that are not entitled to use the QS certification mark

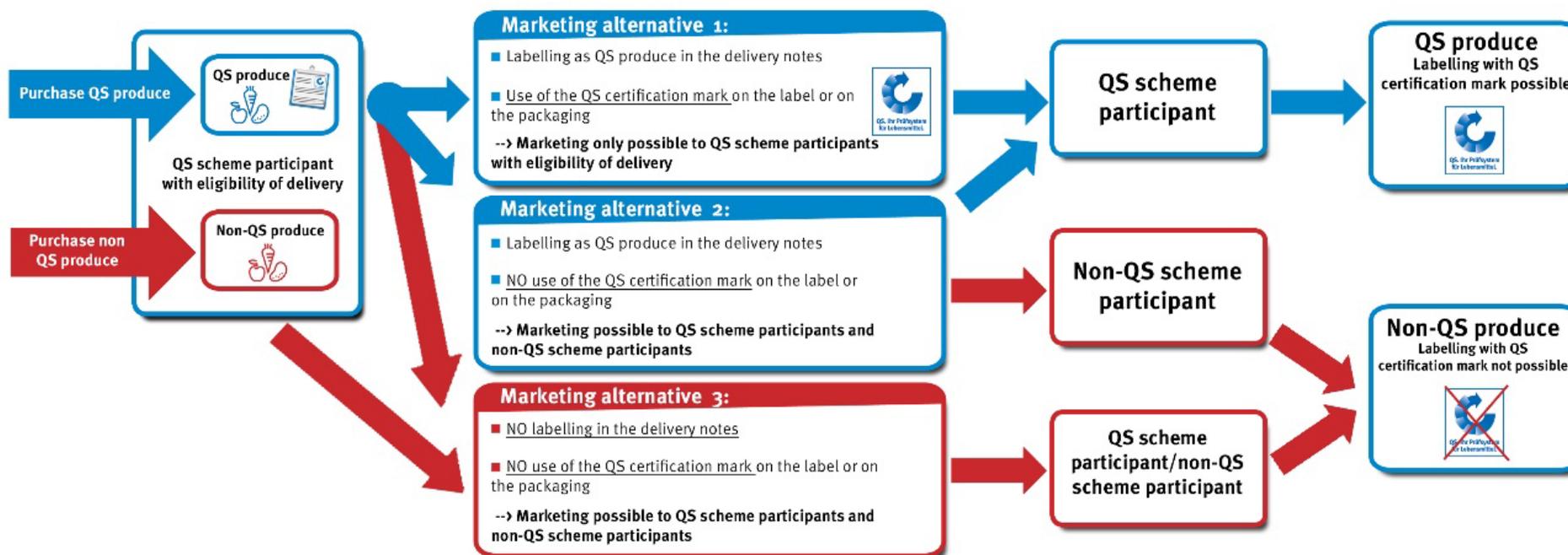
4.3 Use of the QS certification mark in food retail stores

The QS certification mark can be displayed with reference to the goods on the price tag, on posters and brochures, at the service counter or directly on the goods. If the QS certification mark is displayed on the price tag, on posters and brochures or on the service counter etc., it must also be placed directly on the goods or on the box label/packaging.

Marketing alternatives at the stage production



Marketing alternatives at stages the wholesale and preparation/processing



Explanation of the Labelling of Fruit, Vegetables, Potatoes as QS products

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