



TestService

Certification Unit
Location: Frankfurt am Main

Test Regulations for Fruits and Vegetables

1st edition

Certification Unit

The Quality Tests for foods are conducted by DLG TestService GmbH, Certification Unit, Frankfurt am Main (hereinafter called “DLG” or “Certification Unit”). DLG e.V. defines the Test Regulations for the Quality Tests by DLG Test Service GmbH. The Certification Unit must comply with these and conduct the Quality Tests in accordance with this standard.

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I. General Regulations

1. Participation

Participants

Manufacturers and trading companies who produce/market the products listed in Section 3 "Admission" can participate in the tests. Trading companies can participate in combination with the affiliated producer establishments.

2. Registration procedures

Registration forms/Contact address

Registration via the registration forms is possible in written or electronic form (via the DLG extranet or by e-mail, also as an Excel spreadsheet). In addition, the document "Participant Data" must be included, which confirms the registration on the basis of the DLG Test Regulations with a legally binding stamp and signature. In the case of registration via the DLG extranet, consent is given via the terms of use.

The registration documents are to be sent to:

DLG TestService GmbH
Certification Unit
Eschborner Landstr. 122
60489 Frankfurt am Main.

The following must be stated on the registration form:

1. The trade name
2. The list of ingredients with any special features, special ingredients or special seasonings
3. The product number for the product to be tested (see product classification with product numbers)
4. For packaged products (from all product categories) a label, a wrapper sleeve, or for cans and carton packaging copies of the clean artwork or folded packaging (soft packaging) for each product with the trade name and the statutory labelling.
5. If appropriate a product description (see specific product section)

(This also applies in the event of electronic data transfer; other conditions apply for wine – see specific product chapter. The conditions of use of the DLG-Extranet in their respective valid wording apply for registrations through DLG-Extranet.)

Trade brands are registered and tested separately like manufacturer's brands. The same product packaged in different types of container (e.g. wrappings, preserves, self-service packaging, glass bottle, PET bottle, carton packaging, can) is considered to be a different product in each case and must therefore always be registered separately. As a matter of principle the award can be transferred to different package sizes. This is not admissible for products for which different technologies are used in production and conservation. This must be coordinated with the Certification Unit from case to case. If a product is produced in more than one business establishment, it is to be registered for each business establishment. This ruling also applies for projects that originate from different countries.

3. Admission

Only those products are approved which

1. Comply with the relevant statutory and national provisions, EU provisions, in particular EU Directive 852/2004 on the hygiene of foodstuffs, Article 5 (self-monitoring systems) as well as the DLG test regulations, and
2. Originate from current production. If this is to be deviated from, this must be expressly agreed in writing with the DLG (Deutsche Landwirtschafts-Gesellschaft - German Agricultural Society).

For organic products:

The basis for admission to the tests is observance of Regulation (E) No. 834/2007 resp. 2018/848.

Product-specific conditions for admission as well as products that are not or only restrictedly admitted:

See the individual product sections for details of the individual products

4. Sending in of the products

The registered products are called up by the Certification Unit and must be dispatched to the address notified by the Certification Unit. The test applicant shall bear the costs of dispatch.

The the Certification Unit bears no liability for lost or damaged products. Products not made available properly or on time cannot be tested.

Extra costs may be charged from case to case for foreign establishments.

The following product quantities are to be sent in for each product registered.

Quantities broken down by product groups

Fruits, vegetables, potatoes
min. 3 packing units or 1 carton, wooden crate, layer crate

5. Product assessment / Test results

Food Law

The DLG Quality Test does not comprise an assessment under Food Law aspects of the products submitted. The same also applies for labelling.

Scope and contents of tests

The DLG Quality Tests are conducted by the Certification Unit.

The Quality Tests are designed on the basis of specific product groups. For all product groups the sensory analysis of the foods (colour, appearance, consistency, odour and taste) is at the core of the tests. Depending on the product group, these tests are supplemented by food preparation tests, inspections of the packaging and labelling, as well as chemical, microbiological and physical analyses in accredited or DLG-audited laboratories. The list of authorised and commissioned institutes/laboratories is obtainable on request from the Certification Unit.

The sensory analysis is conducted in accordance with the DLG 5-point schedule[®], which has been developed specifically for each product by the DLG Expert Committees from the fields of research and practice. The DLG 5-point schedule[®] is to be applied for all Quality Tests. In the tests attributes or defects are allocated to each test feature. These are assessed in accordance with the product-specific 5-point schedule.

Points	Quality description	General description of properties
5	Very good	quality expectations reached in full
4	Good	slight deviations ¹⁾
3	Satisfactory	perceptible deviations
2	Less satisfactory	clear deviations
1	Not satisfactory	strong deviations ²⁾
0	Inadequate	not evaluable

1) Milk and dairy products including ice cream: slight faults

2) Wine: wine faults ascertained

The DLG sensory analysis method is a “descriptive sensory test with integrated assessment” based partly on the DIN standard 10964, “Simple descriptive test”, DIN 10975 “Expert opinions” and DIN 10969 “Descriptive test with subsequent quality assessment”.

The DLG Quality Tests are generally conducted by trained panels of experts in the respective product sector. The Technical Directors of the Quality Tests are recognised scientists from the respective product segments appointed by the DLG Certification Unit as Authorised DLG Test Officers. All the products are presented to the testers in “neutralised” form, i.e. the names of the manufacturers are not disclosed.

The objective of the sensory analysis conducted through product-specific test schedules by trained experts is to achieve an objective assessment of the technical freedom from faults of a food on the basis of the technological options, the existing generally accepted standards and good manufacturing practice (careful selection of raw materials, optimal processing and preparation of the food).

Calculating the quality number

Each test feature result is multiplied by its weighting factor. The sum of all the weighted assessments of all the test features is divided by the sum of all the weighting factors. The result is the quality number.

Test results

Each participant is notified of the results of the assessments in a test report, irrespective of whether or not an award is achieved.

Additional analyses

a) in the event of doubts

In justified cases further analyses can be carried out. The decision taken on the basis of these analyses is binding.

b) risk-based

In the run-up to the Quality Tests, the respective expert bodies (e.g. Commissions, Test Officers) carry out product-specific risk analyses with regard to food fraud.

Here, analyses that are listed in the respective product-specific parts of these Test Regulations are conducted where necessary on a risk basis using random samples.

In the event of negative assessment of the inspection results, the costs are to be borne by the participant.

6. Fees

A test fee plus statutory VAT that varies depending on the product group must be paid by the participants for the quality tests.

If you wish to forego publication, you can also register a product as a “test sample”. The test results do not contain any award classification – only the quality number. You refrain from obtaining a certificate, publication of the results, counting of the results towards business awards and any promotional use.

Cancellation fees

The following action is taken if the Certification Body receives information about cancellation of registered products:

- no cancellation charge will apply up to the time the call for samples is sent
- from the time of notification of the call for samples, the cancellation charge is EUR 70.00
- from the time of testing, the full amount of the test fee will be charged

7. Data Protection

The personal and product-specific data collected on registration of the product are passed on to third parties (especially to testing laboratories) to carry out the Quality Test.

8. Issue of the DLG Awards

Certificate

The participants receive test results for each product. A positive report on test results indicating that an award has been won counts as a certificate.

Publication

The names of the award winners (participant/owner of brand/trademark) and the award-winning products are published by the Certification Unit. If trading partners wish this, the results for the trade names registered are entered in the list of award winners under the name of the trading partner.

The awards are issued subject to reservations:

- The Certification Unit reserves the right to impose a condition on the manufacturer. Promotional activities with DLG awards are only allowed after correction.
- Should contraventions of the test regulations subsequently become known, or in the event that a follow-up test produces negative results, the DLG can revoke the award, require that it be returned and exclude the company from taking part in further tests.

Surveillance of award-winning products

For the purpose of follow-up testing, the Certification Unit is entitled to draw or demand samples of award-winning products from the participating companies free of charge and without warning, or to purchase such samples from the trade. The follow-up test can consist of a sensory, chemical or labelling-specific test. If the follow-up test reveals contravention of the test conditions or a negative evaluation of the result, the entitlement to use the award label expires.

Objection procedure

An appeal against the decision of the certification body may be lodged in writing within 6 weeks of receipt of the audit report, stating the technical grounds for the appeal.

For this purpose, the appeals will be sent to the e-mail address: einspruch@dlg.org. These will be forwarded to the relevant offices and processed. The certification body shall notify the objector of the final decision in writing.

Complaints Procedure

A complaint is a critical remark regarding the services offered by the Certification Unit. A complaint can be filed in written form. The procedure corresponds to that of the above objections procedure.

Complaints addressed to Award Winners

Certification holders are obliged to document complaints by third parties regarding the conformity of award-winning products with the criteria of the respective DLG Certification. These records are to be made available to the Certification Unit on request.

9. Advertising with DLG Awards obtained

1.1 Advertising is admissible with

- the test results, the award certificate,
- the DLG award symbol for fruit, vegetables and potatoes: see product-specific award and award conditions for fruit, vegetables and potatoes.
- textual references to the award (e.g. in press releases or advertisements) in as far as these describe the scope of the award objectively and correctly.

1.2. Admissible ways of using the symbols

The award symbols and certificates may be pictured in any size, although the relationship between width and height must remain the same. The medal reproductions may be pictured in the respective colour or in b/w. Any exceptions for technical reasons must be agreed with the DLG in advance. Alterations, especially to the text or the colour, are not permitted.

2. The following provisions apply for the advertising:

2.1 Clarity

- Advertising with the award symbols and textual references to the DLG award are only allowed in direct spatial connection with the name of the award-winning product(s).
- The year of the award must be stated.
- The product being promoted must correspond in type, composition and quality with the award-winning sample.
- The product advertised must as a matter of principle be offered for sale for the duration of the advertising campaign.
- The most recent award is always the valid award.
- The advertising period allowed by the previous award then expires automatically.

2.2 Exclusivity

Advertising may only be for a product whose condition features are completely identical with the product for which the award was issued. This also applies for the type of packaging (bottle, can, carton package, etc.).

2.3 Duration of promotion

The DLG award won may be used in production for a period of 12 months from the date of the test findings.

3. Producer awards

3.1 DLG award for constant product quality

The “DLG award for constant product quality“ is an award for long-standing, tested product quality determined in DLG quality tests and is granted annually to producers by the DLG.

The granting of this award requires that the products have been submitted for testing for 5 consecutive years and that at least 3 awards have been granted per year. The previous participations in the DLG Quality Tests of DLG e.V. count towards this. If this is the case, the company is awarded the “DLG award for constant product quality“ for the first time as of the 5th year of successful test participation. If the conditions for the awarding continue to be fulfilled, the company receives the award continuously for the 2nd, 3rd time, etc. If a manufacturer does not participate or if the required number of awards is not reached, he is no longer entitled to this producer award (example: no award in 2015 – loss of the label as of 1.1.2016). In the coming years, the manufacturer can acquire a new expectancy. However, earlier awards do not count. Companies with more than one business plant: In principle, every business plant is granted the award if it meets the requirements. Upon request, an award can also be granted to a group if all business plants are entitled to it.

3.2 Advertising with the “DLG award for constant product quality“

Advertising by the award-winning company is possible via

- Reproduction of the corresponding logo (Medal with the additional award slogan) and/or
- Reproduction of the certificate and/or
- General references

Advertising is permitted for one year reckoned from the date of the award. Periods of grace for using up stocks of promotional material beyond this period will not be granted. Modifications of the original reproductions are not permitted.

The use of this producer award for advertising is only permitted for the group/s of products of the company for which the award was granted and/or in close connection with the products for which the award was granted.

4. Miscellaneous

All advertising and publicity measures extending beyond these provisions must be coordinated with the Certification Unit.

Legal successors of award-winning companies have no claim to further commercial use of such awards as the legal predecessor has won. However, from case to case and on application the Certification Unit can agree to further advertising use if the actual prerequisites for this are satisfied.

5. Ban on misleading advertising

Care must be taken to ensure that the advertising does not contain anything which can give rise to misconceptions among the addressees. All data must comply with the law governing competition. The responsibility for this is borne solely by participants. In particular advertisers may not reproduce DLG awards in their own words.

Mixing DLG awards or textual references to these awards with the advertiser’s own statements should be avoided as far as possible. Use of a symbol or reference to an award may not under any circumstances arouse the impression that the award relates to other products too that have not gained such an award. The development of advertisers’ own award symbols by analogy with the DLG symbol or with reference to DLG awards is not permissible.

10. Penalty

Any infringement of the above regulations entitles DLG TestService GmbH to impose an appropriate penalty (contractual fine) on the sample submitter, the amount of which will be fixed in accordance with the circumstances from case to case and can be reviewed by the responsible court on application by the sample submitter. The amount of the penalty depends on the severity of the specific breach of contract and the degree of fault of the submitter. DLG TestService GmbH assumes that in consideration of possible damage to the reputation of DLG TestService GmbH that may occur in conjunction with an infringement by the submitter, the penalty will be at least € 10,000.

II. Product-specific Regulations

1. Fruits, vegetables, potatoes (raw, unprocessed)

1. Product classification of the approved products

These test specifications are valid for the following products:

Category	Product Designation	Product No.	
Gemüse, Kartoffeln			
Cabbage	Cauliflower	1110	
	Broccoli	1115	
	Chinese cabbage	1120	
	Kale	1125	
	Palm kale	1130	
	Pok Choi/Bok Choy	1135	
	Romanesco	1140	
	Brussels sprouts	1145	
	Pointed cabbage	1150	
	White cabbage	1155	
	Savoy cabbage	1160	
	Ornamental kale	1165	
	Leek vegetables	Field garlic	1210
		Leeks	1220
Leaf lettuces	Chicory	1310	
	Chinese cabbage	1315	
	Acorn lettuce/Oak leaf lettuce	1320	
	Iceberg lettuce	1325	
	Endive	1330	
	Lamb's lettuce/Rapunzel	1335	
	Garden lettuce	1340	
	Lettuce	1345	
	Lollos	1350	
	Picking lettuce	1355	
	Radicchio	1360	
	Romana	1365	
	Rocket/Arugula	1370	
	Salanova	1375	
	Lettuce hearts	1380	
	Leaf lettuce	1385	
Mixed lettuce	1390		
Wild salads (also wild vegetables, wild herbs)	Wild garlic	1410	
	Borage	1415	
	Stinging nettle	1420	
	Watercress	1425	
	Garden amphora	1430	
	Goutweed	1435	
	Gundermann hop shoots	1440	
	Garden cress	1445	
	Nasturtium	1450	
	Dandelion	1455	
	Vegetable purslane	1460	
	Plantain species	1465	
	Meadow clover/Red clover	1470	
	Spinach vegetables	Leaf spinach	1510
Strawberry spinach		1520	
Garden orache		1530	
Swiss chard		1540	
Flowering vegetables	Artichoke	1610	
	Cauliflower	1620	
	Broccoli	1630	
	Capers/giant capers (exotic vegetables)	1640	
	Romanesco (Italian variety)	1650	
	Zucchini	1660	
Fruit vegetables	Avocado	1710	
	Aubergine	1715	
	Chili	1720	
	Pickle (gherkin)	1725	
	Salad cucumber (snake cucumber), mini cucumber, pickling cucumber	1730	
	Calabash	1735	
	Garden pumpkin	1740	
	Giant pumpkin	1745	
	Melons	1750	
	Okra (exotic vegetable)	1755	
	Peppers (sweet peppers, pointed peppers, mini [sweet] peppers, etc.)	1760	
	Hot peppers/chillies	1765	
	Cucumber	1770	
	Sponge pumpkin	1775	
	Tomato (all varieties)	1780	
	Zucchini	1785	
Legumes	Beans (runner beans, fine beans)	1810	
	Peas (snow peas, mangetout peas, sugar snap peas)	1820	
	Lentils	1830	

Category	Product Designation	Product No.
Sprouting vegetables	Legume sprouts (e.g. beans, peas, lentils)	1910
	Sprouts from cereals (e.g. spelt, barley, oats, millet, maize, rice, rye, wheat)	1920
	Other sprouts (e.g. buckwheat, cress [garden cress, watercress, nasturtium], radish, mustard, sunflower)	1930
Stem vegetables	Swiss chard	2010
	Rhubarb	2020
	Stalk celery	2030
	Asparagus (all varieties)	2040
Root vegetables	Fennel	2110
	Celeriac	2120
	Swede	2130
	Parsnip	2140
	Parsley root	2150
	Black salsify	2160
Tuber vegetables	Field garlic	2210
	Autumn turnip	2215
	Ginger (exotic vegetable)	2220
	Potatoes (all varieties)	
	- mealy	2225
	- predominantly waxy	2226
	- waxy	2227
	Celeriac	2230
	Kohlrabi	2235
	Horseradish	2240
	Carrot (all colours)	2245
	Parsnip	2250
	Parsley root	2255
	Radish	2260
	Radish/garden radish (horseradish, ball turnips and turnips)	2265
	Beetroot/Beets	2270
	Black radish	2275
Black salsify	2280	
Turnip	2285	
Sweet potato	2290	
Jerusalem artichoke	2295	
Onions	Kitchen onion	2310
	Pearl onion	2320
	Shallot	2330
	Silver onion	2340
	Winter onion	2350
Other onion plants	Wild garlic	2410
	Garlic	2420
	Giant leek	2430
	Ball-headed leek	2440
Cut herbs	Basil	2610
	Dill	2615
	Tarragon	2620
	Chervil	2625
	Coriander	2630
	Parsley	2635
	Rosemary	2640
	Sage	2645
	Chives	2650
	Thyme	2655
Potted herbs	Basil	2710
	Dill	2715
	Tarragon	2720
	Chervil	2725
	Coriander	2730
	Parsley	2735
	Rosemary	2740
	Sage	2745
Chives	2750	
Thyme	2755	
Soup vegetables		2810
Chestnuts, sweet chestnuts		2850
Mushrooms	Oyster mushroom	2910
	Mushroom (white and brown)	2920
	Herb mushroom	2930
	Chanterelle	2940
	Shiitake	2950
	Porcini mushroom	2960
Fruit		
Berry fruit	Blueberries	3010
	Blackberries	3020
	Raspberries	3030
	Currants	3040
	Gooseberries	3050
	Table grapes	3060
Pome fruit	Apples	3110
	Pears	3120
	Medlars	3130
	Quinces	3140

Category	Product Designation	Product No.
Gathering nut fruits	Strawberries	3150
Stone fruit	Apricots	3210
	Cherries, sweet and sour	3220
	Nectarines	3230
	Peaches	3240
	Plums (Reineclaude, mirabelle, plum)	3250
Tropical fruits	Pineapple	3310
	Avocado	3315
	Bananas	3320
	Figs	3325
	Pomegranate	3330
	Persimmon	3335
	Kiwi	3340
	Lychee	3345
	Mango	3350
	Papaya	3355
Citrus fruits	Grapefruit	3610
	Lime	3620
	Tangerine or clementine	3630
	Orange	3640
	Lemon	3650

Special provisions for fruit, vegetables and potatoes

Evaluation of the samples

A sensory test is carried out over a period of one year, if possible at the optimum time of harvest. If the examination is not passed successfully, there is the possibility of a re-examination within the season.

5. Product-specific award and award conditions

Award requirements: For an award, each test characteristic must be assessed with at least 3.0 points (unweighted). The minimum requirement for the award is a quality score of 4.0. A uniform award mark is awarded for fruit, vegetables and potatoes. There is only one award level: Annually DLG award-winning

2. Product-specific registration and approval regulations

The products are to be presented for the test in their original packaging. The country of origin and the year of harvest must be indicated on the declaration.

Only products that are produced according to a quality programme or process control system or standard (e.g. Global G.A.P., QA, etc.) are permitted. This also serves as proof of pesticide screening.

The following are to be considered as different products:

- different varieties and colours
- different commercial classes
- different types of packaging (bag/net, FlowPack, Foodtainer, cardboard/wooden crate, layer crate, plastic tray, pot, etc.)

3. Product-specific sampling and call-off provisions

The products are either sampled by a testing institute commissioned by the DLG in central warehouses or sent by producers, producer groups or bundlers to a corresponding testing institute upon request. Care must be taken to ensure that the product is transported correctly and, depending on the product, at the correct temperature.

4. Evaluation of the samples

Sensory testing is carried out using the DLG 5-point guideline. Laboratory analyses (chemical, physical, microbiological) are usually carried out to validate the sensory properties and/or to check the truth of the declaration. The examinations are carried out in accordance with the regulations of the Official Collection of Examination Procedures (ASU) according to Sec. 64 of the German Food and Feed Code (LFGB) in the currently valid version.

Risk-based analyses

Analyses can be carried out on a risk-based and random basis as required.

III. Concluding Provisions

The Certification Unit can dispose of the use of (the residues of) the samples submitted. There is no claim to return or refund of the value of the samples and the packing.

By signing the "Participant-Data" form, participants acknowledge the binding nature of the Test Regulations.

Incorrect data (e.g. regarding the analysis results of official examinations) will exclude the relevant product from awards. In the case of deliberate submission of incorrect data or if the conditions of the provisions are not satisfied, all the products of the participant shall be excluded from winning awards.

These Test Regulations apply until a new edition is published.

The place of fulfilment and the place of jurisdiction – especially for proceedings in connection with payment of invoices- is Frankfurt am Main as far as this is legally permissible.

Claims for damages are excluded in as far as they are based on minor negligence. For the rest they can only be filed up to the amount of the commercial value of the samples.

DLG waives all liability for any elements constituting liability unless DLG, its legal representatives or agents act with intent or gross negligence.

Furthermore, this limitation of liability does not apply in the case of injury to life, limb or health as a result of minor negligence. Nor does it apply to breach of duties – fulfilment of which enables proper performance of the quality test in the first place – as a result of minor negligence, where infringement jeopardises achievement of the purpose of the test and in fulfilment of which participants regularly trust (cardinal obligations).



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