Debate on a European harmonization of marketing regulations for fertilizers, soils improvers and growing media

Austria

9th September 2009, Paris
Products manufactured in Austria; mostly used in agriculture

- Mineral Fertilizer: **appr. 1.3 M t**
- Organic and organic-mineral fertilizer: **appr. 5 kt, mostly traded**
- Growing media: **mostly traded; appr. 250 kt**
- Soil improvers (e.g. rock meal): **appr. 30 kt, mostly traded**
- Plant adjuvants (e.g. plant extracts): **appr. 3 kt**
- Digestate from biogas plants: **appr. 400 kt, 250 kt traded**
- Manure: **appr. 28 M m³, mostly not traded**
- Compost: **traded amount appr. 400 kt, no imports**
Legislation in Austria

- **Fertilizer Law 1994**
  - Base legislation, covers fertilizer, growing media, soil improvers and plant adjuvants

- **Fertilizer Ordinance 2004**
  - Special Requirements for „the placing on the market“ of national fertiliser

- **EC Directive 2003/2003 for EC Fertilizer**
- **EC Directive 1774/2002 Animal By Products**

carried out by BAES – Federal Office for Food Safety
Further Regulations in Austria

• Compost Ordinance
  - Delineates quality criteria for production
• Province legislation
• Guidelines published by the national advisory board for soil fertility and soil protection
  - e.g. guidelines for appropriate fertilization (different crops), proper use of compost, biogas slurry etc.
• National and EU standards
  - e.g. covering soil, compost, growing media, soil improvers
Potential Risks

- Excess of nutrients (especially N) – codes of good practice
- Heavy metals, residues of organic pollutants, hazardous microbes – no actual problem, sufficient national regulations in AT
- Pharmaceutical residues
- Growing media: suitability for special plants, guidelines for use
- Prove of effectiveness for soil improvers and plant adjuvants
- Imprecise declaration of raw materials
- Dilution of harmful raw materials and substances
- Complexity of analysing efforts
## Fertiliser Ordinance
### Limit Values for Heavy Metals in mg/kg d.m.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Fertiliser, soil conditioner</th>
<th>Mineral Fertiliser &gt;5 % P$_2$O$_5$</th>
<th>Growing media</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lead</td>
<td>mg/kg dm</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cadmium</td>
<td>mg/kg dm</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>75 mg/kg P$_2$O$_5$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chromium</td>
<td>mg/kg dm</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>2500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nickel</td>
<td>mg/kg dm</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mercury</td>
<td>mg/kg dm</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vanadium</td>
<td>mg/kg dm</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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## Limit Values for Organic Pollutants and Salmonella

and Salmonella in fertilisers, growing media and soil improvers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH)</td>
<td>mg kg(^{-1}) dm</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pesticides (Σ of ten compounds) e.g. DDT, DDE, δ- HCH</td>
<td>mg kg(^{-1}) fm</td>
<td>0,5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polychlorinated biphenyls PCB</td>
<td>mg kg(^{-1}) dm</td>
<td>0,2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dioxins (2-,3-7-,8-TCCD)</td>
<td>ng TE kg(^{-1})</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caesium-134 and Caesium-137</td>
<td>Bq g(^{-1}) product</td>
<td>0,5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salmonella in 50 g F.M.</td>
<td>CFU/g</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Fertiliser Ordinance
Labelling requirements

- Name and address of the responsible manufacturer
- Labelling of the Type (one of 12 types)
- Declaration of the nutrition content (growing media in ranges: e.g. 100-400 mg/l nitrogen)
- Grain size, grinding fineness, ...
- Used raw material in organic fertiliser, growing media, soil conditioner and plant aids
- Information about application scope and rate, storage and safety instructions
Benefits of EU - legislation

- Increase of harmonization of „Fertilizers“
- Decrease of efforts for Regulation EC 764/2008
- Harmonized declaration
- Facilitation of trade
- Framework for appropriate application
Means to support harmonization

- Variety of national regulations (legislation, standards, guidelines, voluntary agreements)
- Lots of advantages and disadvantages
- Expert group to integrate, based on existing regulations and recent developments, the needs of consumers, farmers and the industry (WG Fertilizer, TC/CEN, ...)