

Differences in food safety regulations across important importers of the EU: Empirical evidence from a new data base

Language: English (or German)

Contact: Dr.Christine Wieck, email: christine.wieck@ilr.uni-bonn.de, Tel. 0228 - 732322

The EU research project "NTM-IMPACT" has developed a new data base on food safety import regulations that are imposed on EU exports of food and agricultural products into the US, Russia, Canada, Japan, China, India, Brazil, Argentina, Australia and New Zealand. The data base covers in a consistent way regulations on four themes: animal health, plant health, labeling and traceability & conformity assessment. Specifically according to the MAST classification (MAST 2008), the following regulations are collected: sanitary and phytosanitary measures and their conformity assessment (A200, A300); technical barriers to trade and their conformity assessment (B200, B300); and pre-shipment inspection and other formalities (C000). The data base contains numerical, but also qualitative information. Initial analysis of the data base exists as the responsible data base team of the research project has calculated "heterogeneity indices" of regulations (see Burnquist et al., 2011; Gervais et al., 2011).

The objective of this work is to make use of this data base by analyzing in a consistent way across countries specific thematic themes in the area of food safety.

According to the interest of the student, the theme may be chosen, e.g. focus on animal disease regulations, the institutional setting of food safety in the various countries, or the treatment of process requirement across importers, or specific focus on one bilateral trade relation.

Similarly with respect to the methodological approach, a descriptive analysis together with qualitative description of the most important findings is proposed, where the analysis may be enriched by using the already calculated heterogeneity indices. If a more methodological focus is interesting, the use and/or improvement of the existing heterogeneity indices may be considered.

The theoretic basis of this thesis lies in the area of the impact of non-tariff measures on trade and welfare and impacts of differences of these measures across countries.

References:

MAST. (2008). First Progress Report to the Group of Eminent Persons on Non-tariff Barriers. Mimeo. Geneva.

Burnquist et al. (2011). Heterogeneity Index of Trade and Actual Heterogeneity Index – the case of maximum residue levels (MRLs) for pesticides. Available at: <http://ageconsearch.umn.edu/handle/103742>

Gervais et al. (2011). New Data and Analysis on Non-tariff Measures in Agri-food Trade.
Available at: <http://ageconsearch.umn.edu/handle/103730>

In addition, various project reports on the data base are available (not yet downloadable).