



**Junta de
Castilla y León**

Consejería de Agricultura y Ganadería
Dirección General de Industrias Agrarias
y Modernización de Explotaciones

Commercial quality control in the trade of pine cones and pine nuts

by

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Pine cones and pine nuts

A view of this sector in Castilla y León (1)

Traditional sector of regional economic activity with several operators.

Pine forest

Some pine forests belong to public administration and others to private owners.

Public pine forest owners

They sell their pine cone's harvest to expert companies.

Pine forests are very important for some communities because they can earn a lot of money with them.

So that, they protect their pine forests.

Pine cones and pine nuts

A view of this sector in Castilla y León (2)

Private pine forest owners

Pine forest ownership is sometimes very fractional.

Pine forest owners do not harvest usually their pine cones.

They sell their pine cones when they are still in the tree.

In most cases, this is a marginal activity for owners.

Sometimes private owners do not protect their trees.

Pine cones and pine nuts

A view of this sector in Castilla y León (3)

Piñeros

They are expert companies in harvesting and processing of pine cones.

In most cases, they do not own the pine forest.

They harvest, dry and process pine cones from all over Spain and Portugal.

They have a great know-how.

These companies are concentrated in a particular area of the region (Pedrajas de San Estebán).

Pine cones and pine nuts

A view of this sector in Castilla y León (4)

Unfair trade

We detected irregular operators in this sector.

They develop unfair trade practices.

They remove corporate competitiveness.

This is the main reason why governments must act.

Regional government actions

Department of Environment

It drafted regulations on the pine cones harvest in Castilla y León.

Department of Agriculture

It took actions in respect of commercial quality control.

Commercial quality control of foodstuff in Castilla y León

The commercial quality control is responsibility of the regional government.

The Department of Agriculture is in charge of the control of the food produced in the region (*commercial quality of foodstuff - not food safety*).

This control must comply with the provisions made by both **Spanish** and **European regulations**.

Control of pine cones and pine nuts

There was not a specific regulation on the control of the commercial quality of pine cones and pine nuts.

There are pine forests of pine nuts in several Spanish regions, but **it is only in Castilla y León where there is a great number of companies working on pine cones harvest and pine nuts production.**

That is why, in some places of Castilla y León, like Pedrajas de San Esteban, pine cones and pine nuts mean **a very important economic activity for us.**

Besides, this sector can create an important number of **jobs in rural areas.**

For these reasons, **we decided to draft a regional regulation for this activity.**

Control of pine cones and pine nuts

When drafting our regulation we considered two European regulations:

Regulation (EC) N° 178/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council, of 28 January 2002, laying down the general principles and requirements of food law, establishing the European Food Safety Authority and laying down procedures in matters of food safety

Regulation (EC) N° 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council, of 29 April 2004, on official controls performed to ensure the verification of compliance with feed and food law, animal health and animal welfare rules.

Regulation (EC) N° 178/2002

GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF FOOD LAW

Article 5 General objectives

1. Food law shall pursue one or more of the general objectives of a high level of protection of human life and health and the protection of consumers' interests, **including fair practices in food trade**, taking account of, where appropriate, the protection of animal health and welfare, plant health and the environment.

Article 2 Definition of 'food'

For the purposes of this Regulation, **'food' (or 'foodstuff') means any substance or product, whether processed, partially processed or unprocessed, intended to be, or reasonably expected to be ingested by humans.**

Regulation (EC) N° 178/2002

Traceability

Article 3.15. ‘**traceability**’ means the ability to trace and follow a food, feed, food-producing animal or substance intended to be, or expected to be incorporated into a food or feed, **through all stages of production, processing and distribution**;

Article 3.16. ‘stages of production, processing and distribution’ means any stage, including import, from and including the primary production of a food, up to and including its storage, transport, sale or supply to the final consumer and, where relevant, the importation, production, manufacture, storage, transport, distribution, sale and supply of feed;

Article 18: Traceability

1. The traceability of food, feed, food-producing animals, and any other substance intended to be, or expected to be, incorporated into a food or feed shall be established at all stages of production, processing and distribution

Regulation (EC) N° 882/2004

Article 1 Subject matter and scope

1. This Regulation lays down general rules for the performance of official controls to verify compliance with rules aiming, in particular, at:
 - (a) ...
 - (b) **guaranteeing fair practices in feed and food trade** and protecting consumer interests, including feed and food labelling and other forms of consumer information.

Regulation of Castilla y León on commercial quality control of pine cones and pine nuts

So, the first regulation was drafted in 2008 and it has been updated in 2011.

Its name is *Orden AYG/1066/2011, de 25 de agosto, por la que se regula el procedimiento de acreditación de la trazabilidad en la producción, transformación y distribución de piñas y piñones en Castilla y León*, and you can find it in <http://www.jcyl.es> or in <http://bocyl.jcyl.es>

Main aspects of the regional regulation (1)

All the companies that want to work in this activity (harvest, trade or processing) **must report about it to our department** (just once).

Every storage and trade **operation** of pine cones and pine nuts **should be documented**.

These documents (bills, licenses, ...) must be **filed for five years**.

All companies must keep a **register book** and record every day:

- their **inputs** of pine cones and pine nuts.
- their **outputs** of pine cones and pine nuts.

In addition, they must record the products of other owners who are into their company.

Main aspects of the regional regulation

(2)

The information filed by the company **should allow the identification of the origin and destination** of all products which have passed through his company.

The compliance with this regulation is **checked by inspectors from our department.**

We have an **annual control program**. In this program we included **randomly selected** companies and other **selected by risk criteria**.

Moreover, in certain cases, **we can carry out other unscheduled controls.**

The detected failures can imply an **economic sanction.**