ESCWA – G.A.P
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Food Safety Law
The law is expected to improve coordination between ministries over food safety as it is an issue that spans over several departments. The law establishes the Food Safety Lebanese Commission (FSLC) that will oversee all related matters.
• The commission will be administered by a seven-member board of food safety experts from a variety of backgrounds. The law explicitly states that they should not own any institution that will be impacted by it.

• Beyond issuing the rules of this law, the commission will police all stages of a “food safety chain,” from farming, importing, exporting, packaging, storing and selling among others. This includes sampling food products and sending inspectors to institutions.
THE FSLC

Duties of Farmers
• farmers must monitor the pesticides, animal feed, compost and medicine they give to animals and crops to ensure that it does not contaminate produce. They must keep a record of all these things which the Agriculture Ministry or any of their customers can ask to see at any time.
• Farmers must also notify the ministry if they believe that any of their products may be contaminated and outline the steps that he or she has taken to remedy this.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES
• Article six of the law addresses this when it states that any food, “partially made by animals that have been slaughtered in places where the minimum requirements are not met,” is considered “not safe or health damaging.”

ANIMALS AND THE ENVIRONMENT
• Article four, for instance, states that all food on the market has to meet the requirements “that it is safe and fit to be consumed by humans ... and no damage is caused to nature or animals.”
• Transportation of animals is addressed in a separate article but it only discusses the contamination of food.

PACKAGING
• The law states that the process that goes into packaging products must be sanitary and the nutritional facts on the products must be accurate. Animal feed, pesticides, compost and medicine must also be packaged according to these standards.

WATER
• The law starts with outlining that all the following applies to food, drink and water, among other things, but there is no article specifying regulations for water.
• Article 34 does give the FSLC special powers over issues related to the contamination of “water [used] in agricultural activity,” among several other things.
Consumer Protection Law
Article 1

The purpose of this law is to:

• Outline the general rules concerning the protection of consumers and the safety and quality of goods and services.

• Assert consumer rights and guarantee the transparency of economic transactions in which the consumer may engage.

• Protect consumers from fraud and misleading advertisements and prevent their exploitation.

The provisions of this Law shall not apply to relations that connect suppliers.
Article 61

The “National Consumer Protection Council” shall propose suggestions aimed at realizing the following goals:

• To promote the role of the consumer in the national economy.
• **To safeguard** the **consumer safety and health and protect his rights.**
• **To ensure the safety of goods and services and improve their quality.**
• To inform and educate the consumer and to encourage him to adopt permanent consumption methods and to use environment friendly products.
• To suggest the definition of the procedures of implementation of the provisions of this Law.
The SME Strategy
Vision

SMEs as Key Economic Engine for Growth and Job Creation

**Mission:**
Foster the Creation of Vibrant and Globally Competitive SMEs that Contribute to Employment Opportunities and High Value-Added Economy

**Main Objectives:**

The strategy’s main objectives are four-fold:

- **Small to Large:** Grow SMEs through their next stages of development;
- **Sustainable:** Ensure the long-term sustainability of businesses;
- **Innovative:** Develop innovative and creative SMEs to transition to a high-value economy;
- **Competitive:** Transform SMEs into more productive, competitive and global players.

Achieving these objectives rests upon six strategic thrusts, which are essentially families of initiatives (around 40) that constitute the pillars upon which rests Lebanon’s National SME strategy.
SME Support:
In the past few years, Lebanon has seen the advent of several public and private sector stakeholders offering new initiatives.
QUALEB OVERALL OBJECTIVES

• Further develop and improve the functioning of the Lebanese quality infrastructure
• Promote Quality culture
• Contribution to the wider objectives of increasing the competitiveness of Lebanese products in international markets through better conformance to international rules and regulations and to a higher level of protection of the health & safety of Lebanese consumers
THREE COMPONENTS

• POLICY (quality legal framework, national quality policy, food safety authority)
• INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT (inspection & certification, proficiency testing and inter-laboratory comparisons, support to LIBNOR & COLIBAC)
• ENTERPRISE (awareness among private / public sectors, ISO Certification & Lebanese Excellence Award award)
More than 30 Training modules on Basic, Advanced, & Internal Audit ISO 9001; Basic, Advanced & Internal Audit ISO 22000 (Food Safety Management System); In house training modules on basic hygiene for workers and supervisors; Series of training modules on ‘Think Strategically’, ‘Train the Trainer’, ‘Human Resources’, ‘Packaging & Labeling’
TRAINING MODULES DELIVERED TO 16 LABORATORIES
(>80 TRAINEES)

28 Training Modules on Basic, Advanced & Internal Audit, ISO 17025 (General requirements for the competence of testing & calibration laboratories), Basic & Advanced Validation Methods, Training sessions for laboratory managers, & A series of training sessions on: ‘Basic Method Specifications’, ‘Practical Uncertainty & Validation’, ‘Uncertainty Budgeting’, ‘Change Management’, ‘COLIBAC Assessors and Lead Assessors’
DElivered
Seminars & Training Modules
(over 1000 Trainees)

  - Seminar for enterprises on QUALEB ISO Implementation Project – 80 participants
  - Seminar on Standardization – in collaboration with LIBNOR – 100 participants
  - Seminar for the Lebanese Media representatives on QUALEB various activities
  - Seminar on the ‘Metrology Day’, in collaboration with the Industrial Research Institute – 100 participants
- 13 in-house awareness Seminars on Quality in various educational institutions (5 Vocational Institutions, 3 Universities & 5 Schools)
- 8 Training modules on ISO 9001 & ISO 22000, delivered to 160 participants in 4 various Lebanese regions – in collaboration with the Chambers of Commerce, Industry & Agriculture and the Association of Lebanese Industrialists
- ISO Awards Ceremony – celebrating the certification of 15 Lebanese companies according to ISO 9001 & ISO 22000 – Grand Serail – December 2007 – 100 participants
- Lebanese Food Industry Awareness Day – June 08 – 100 Participants
- ISO 9001, ISO 22000 & ISO 17025 Exchange Groups Sessions
Additional Issues
• Sustainable Development Goals
• International agreements
• Market Access
• Capacity building and Transfer of Know how
• Promotion, Branding, Trade Marks, Franchising and Geographical Indications
• Strengthening Cooperatives and Municipalities