



The European regulation

Regulation (EC) No 2073/2005

BIO-RAD



The European regulation targets

- A high level of protection of public health is one of the fundamental objectives of food law
- Foodstuffs should not contain micro-organisms or their toxins or metabolites in quantities that present an unacceptable risk for human health.





National regulations

After the implementation of 2073/2005:

- ◆ Member States will no longer be able to create new microbiological criteria;
- ◆ **National criteria** may continue to be applied if they were drawn up in accordance with the procedure in directive 93/43 and if they do not hamper trade;
- ◆ **Specific case of guidelines:** the Member States may draft new guidelines if they do not hamper trade.



Food testing criteria

- ◆ Meeting the **criteria alone cannot guarantee the safety** of the food tested
- ◆ Safety is ensured by applying good hygiene practices and via the **HACCP plan**.
- ◆ **Criteria are references / targets** for business operators and authorities to control safety
- ◆ Most of the **criteria are described** in the regulation



The regulation criteria

Public health criteria :

- *Listeria monocytogenes*
- *Salmonella*
- Staphylococcal enterotoxin
- The emerging pathogens have to be tested if there is a risk for human health

Process acceptability criteria

- Aerobic colony count
- *E.coli*
- *Enterobacteriaceae*
- Coagulase-positive *staphylococci*



Methods

- ◆ **ISO standards** specified in the Annex 1 of the regulation
- ◆ **Alternative methods** when the methods are validated against the reference method in Annex I and if a proprietary method, certified by a third party in accordance with the protocol set out in **EN/ISO standard 16140** or other internationally accepted similar protocols
- ◆ Any other analytical methods the methods shall be validated according to internationally accepted protocols and their use authorised by the competent authority.