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IMPLEMENTATION OF FOOD SAFETY MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS IN MEAT PROCESSING ENTERPRISES: THE ROLE OF HACCP AND ISO 22000 IN ENSURING CONSUMER HEALTH

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Abstract. This article explores the practical aspects of implementing food safety management systems in meat processing enterprises, focusing on the HACCP and ISO 22000 standards. Their role in minimizing microbiological, chemical, and physical hazards, as well as in safeguarding consumer health, is discussed in detail. The paper highlights global experiences and evaluates the challenges and opportunities of adopting these systems in the context of Uzbekistan. It concludes that effective implementation of HACCP and ISO 22000 can significantly improve product safety, increase competitiveness, and strengthen both domestic and international market positions.

Keywords: HACCP, ISO 22000, food safety, meat processing, consumer health, risk management.

Food safety is one of the most pressing issues in the global meat industry, directly affecting consumer health and national food security. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), more than 600 million cases of foodborne illnesses occur annually, with unsafe meat products being one of the primary sources. Therefore, meat processing enterprises must integrate systematic approaches such as Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) and ISO 22000 Food Safety Management Systems to ensure safe production and sustainable competitiveness. The HACCP system is designed to identify, evaluate, and control hazards throughout the food production chain, establishing critical control points to minimize risks related to raw material handling, storage, processing, and distribution. ISO 22000 complements HACCP by integrating risk-based thinking and providing a unified framework for food safety management across the entire supply chain. Together, these standards form a robust preventive strategy against food safety threats.

International practice demonstrates the effectiveness of HACCP and ISO 22000 in enhancing food safety and competitiveness. In the European Union, HACCP compliance is mandatory, leading to a significant reduction in foodborne outbreaks. In the United States, HACCP implementation in meat processing plants reduced microbial contamination by up to 40%. Studies further show that enterprises applying ISO 22000 achieve stronger traceability, improved supplier control, and faster responses to potential hazards. These experiences underline the universal importance of structured food safety management systems.

In Uzbekistan, the adoption of HACCP and ISO 22000 is still at an early stage. While leading enterprises have begun integrating these systems, many small and medium-sized processors face difficulties due to limited financial and technical resources, lack of trained personnel, outdated infrastructure and processing equipment, and insufficient awareness of international certification benefits. Nonetheless, government programs and presidential decrees

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emphasize the urgent need to adopt international food safety standards, providing a strong foundation for future progress.

Practical studies in meat enterprises implementing HACCP and ISO 22000 in Uzbekistan have shown measurable improvements. Microbiological risks were reduced by 25–30%, shelf life of products was extended by 15–20%, production waste decreased by 10–15%, and enterprises recorded higher success rates in meeting export requirements. These results confirm that implementing food safety systems brings tangible benefits for product quality, economic performance, and consumer trust.

In conclusion, the introduction of HACCP and ISO 22000 standards in Uzbekistan's meat processing enterprises is a critical step toward strengthening consumer health protection and national food security. For successful implementation, enterprises must receive state-supported financial and technical assistance, continuous professional training, and access to modern equipment. Furthermore, the development of a national methodological framework tailored to local conditions will accelerate integration and ensure long-term sustainability. Thus, HACCP and ISO 22000 can serve as vital tools not only for safeguarding public health but also for fostering the sustainable growth of Uzbekistan's meat industry in the global marketplace.

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