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European foreword

This document (EN 17972:2024) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 460 “Food authenticity”, the secretariat of which is held by DIN.

This European Standard shall be given the status of a national standard, either by publication of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by May 2025, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by May 2025.

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Introduction

The general dictionary definition of “authenticity” is “the quality of being authentic”, and the relevant dictionary definitions of “authentic” include “not false or copied; genuine; real” and “having an origin supported by unquestionable evidence; authenticated; verified”. This document defines various terms and concepts in relation to authenticity and fraud related to feed and food products, including what various terms mean and what they entail. The aim of this document is to provide an internally consistent set of definitions that to a large degree is also in line with other definitions and with common word usage.

The terms and concepts defined here are largely based on the relationship between food product characteristics and food product claims. Food products have characteristics of various types; these characteristics are the real and actual properties that the food product in question has. Examples can include various characteristics related to the origin of the food product, the processes undergone in making it, the composition of the food product, the presence of additives, the eco-label status, etc. Some of these characteristics, such as composition, are physically inherent in the food product, whereas some other characteristics, such as eco-label status or exact origin, are not. Food products also come with some explicit claims attached, at least if they are sold commercially, when a certain amount of product information is mandatory. Claims are statements made about the food product; either explicitly (“this is extra virgin olive oil, and the label says so”) or implicitly (“this food is safe”). Authenticity when it comes to food products is when there is a match between the actual characteristic of the food product and the claim made about it. Lack of authenticity can be deliberate, as when someone intentionally makes a false claim about a food product; then we refer to it as food fraud, and there are various types of food fraud identified in this document. Lack of authenticity can also be accidental, for instance when an error in the production process or in the documentation / labelling process has led to a mismatch between the product characteristic and the claim. Note that the term “claim” in this document refers to any explicit or implicit statement which implies that a food product has a certain characteristic, whether the provision of this information is legally required or not.

This document intends to provide a common ground upon which future work regarding the authenticity and fraud of food products can be based.

1 Scope

This document provides technical definitions of terms relating to authenticity and fraud when referring to food products. All terms and definitions are in the context of food supply chains, but most of them can also be applied when referring to feed products and the feed supply chain.

2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminology databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp/>
- IEC Electropedia: available at <https://www.electropedia.org/>

The terms and concepts defined in this section have a hierarchical relationship to each other which can be illustrated as follows in Figure 1:

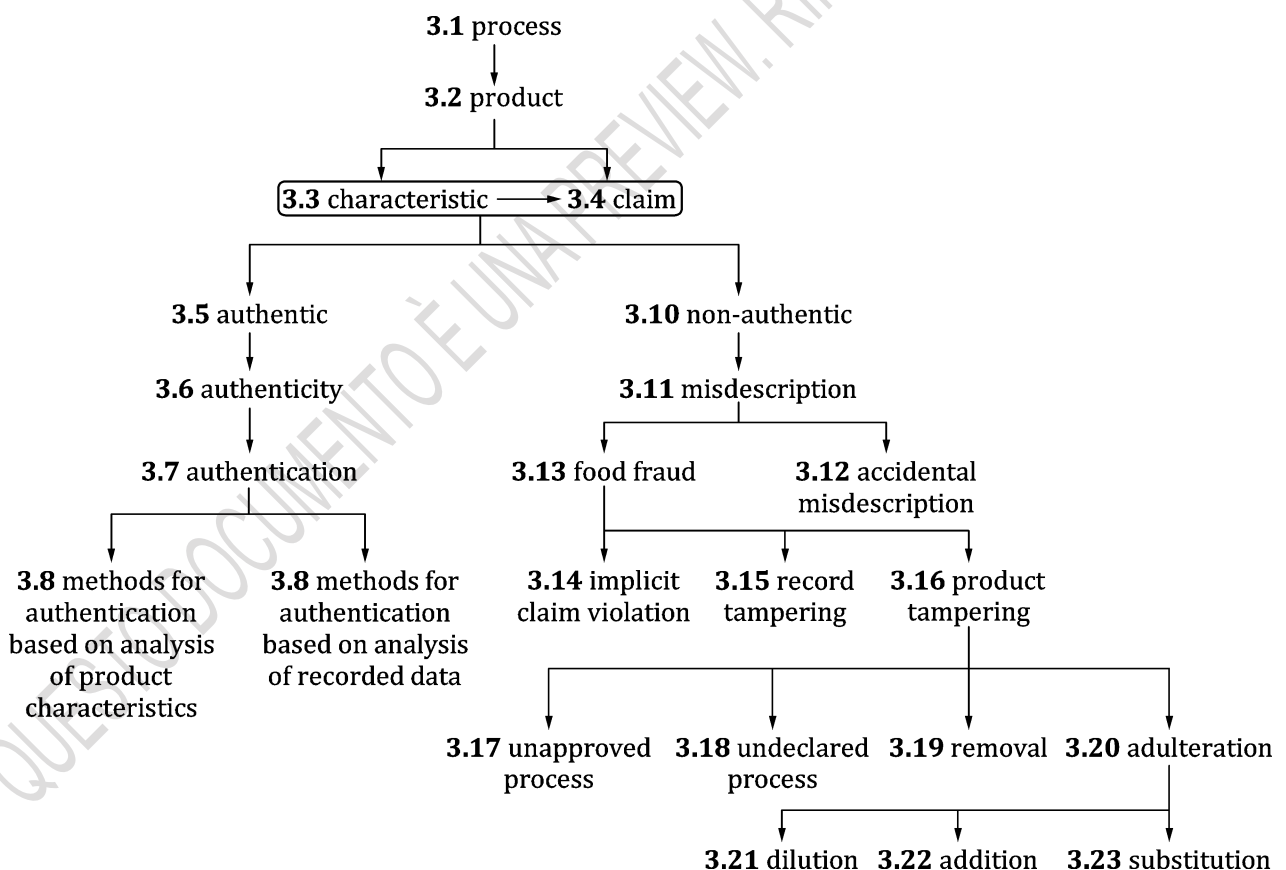


Figure 1 — Hierarchy of terms and concepts

In Figure 1, an arrow from a term to a term means that the first term is used when defining the second term. The terms on the same level in Figure 1 are not necessarily mutually exclusive. This hierarchy is