

“Providing Consumers Country of Origin Information at the Point of Sale”



April 2017

Country of Origin Labeling

Fiscal Year 2016 Retail

Compliance Data

Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) is a law that requires retailers to provide origin, method of production, and production step information regarding the source of certain foods. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2016, the COOL Division conducted 3,087 retail surveillance reviews in all 50 states including the District of Columbia. Of the total, 1,929 were follow up and 1,158 were initial retail surveillance reviews. Follow up surveillance reviews were conducted at retail store locations where compliance deficiencies or critical weaknesses were identified in the previous FY 2015. Twenty-nine (29%) percent of all retail stores reviewed had no findings or adequate compliance rating. Retailers that are rated

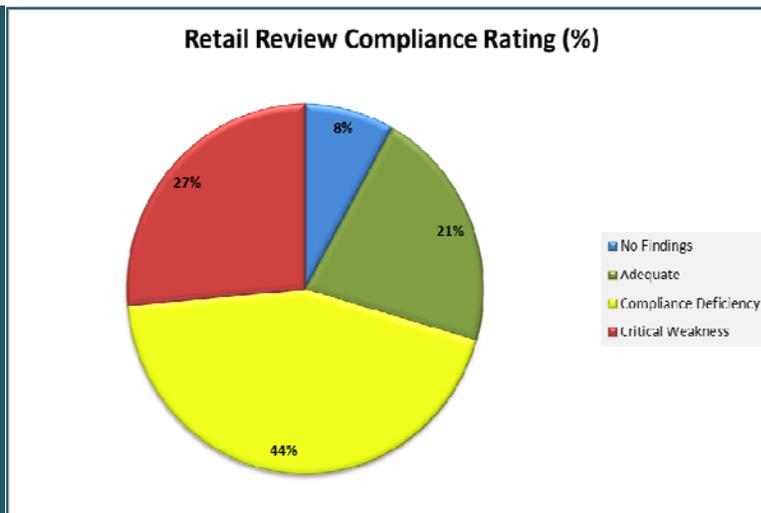
compliance deficiency or critical weakness are required to submit written corrective actions to USDA. The following graphs illustrate COOL retail compliance data collected during FY 2016 for lamb, chicken, goat meat, wild and farm raised fish and shellfish, perishable agricultural commodities, peanuts, pecans, macadamia nuts, and ginseng covered commodities.

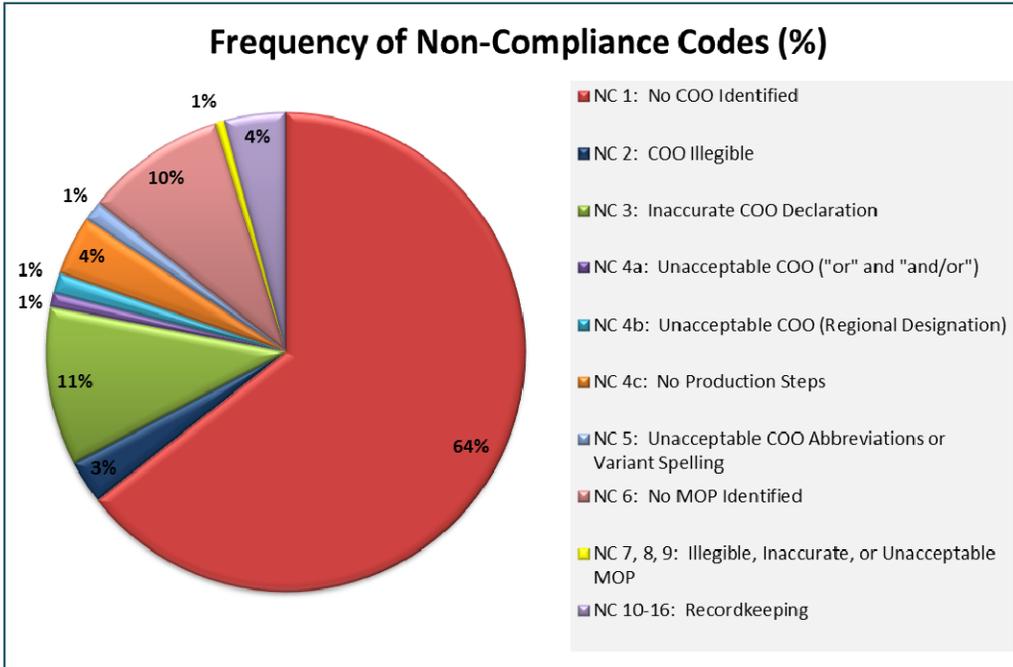


DID YOU KNOW?

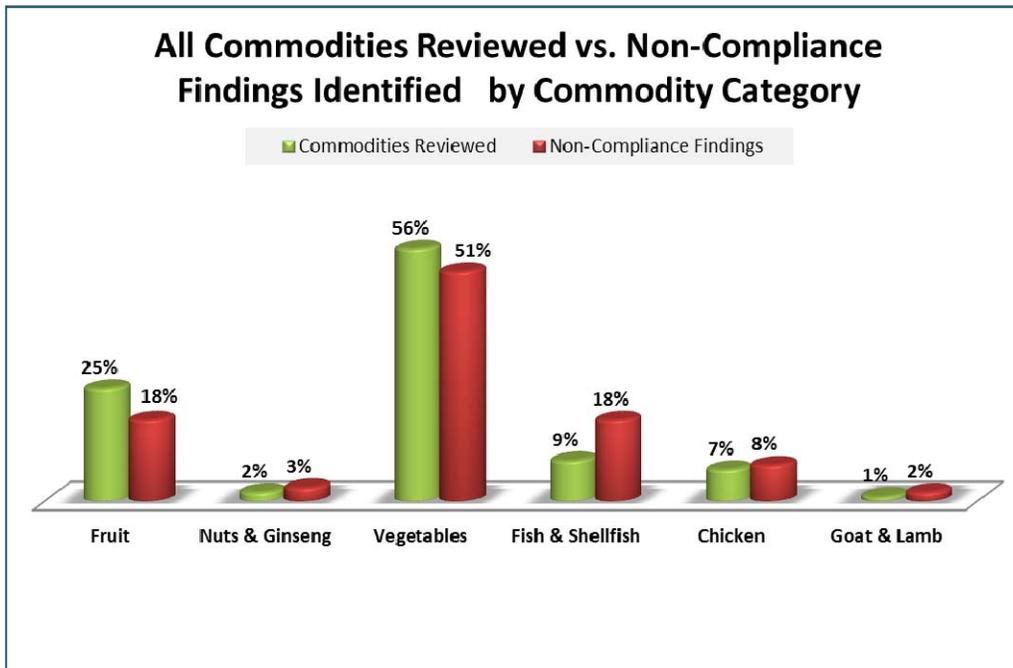
Lamb, chicken, and goat meat covered commodities harvested in the USA must contain country of origin and production steps (i.e., born/hatched, raised, harvested) information.

Graph 1: Percent of retailers by compliance rating. No Findings = 0 non-compliance (NC) codes; Adequate = NC<4 and NC as % of commodity count <5%; Compliance Deficiency = NC≥4 or NC as % of commodity count ≥5%; Critical Weakness = NC>14 and NC as % of commodity count ≥ 5%.





Graph 2: Total number of non-compliance (NC) codes cited during FY 2016. The most frequent NC code was for absence of country of origin (COO; 64%) followed by inaccurate COO (11%) and absence of method of production (MOP; 10%)



Graph 3: The measure of non-compliance findings (red bars) in comparison to the percentage of each category present for the total commodities sold (green bars) at retail.



DID YOU KNOW?

Imported and domestic fish & shellfish covered commodities must be labeled with the country of origin and method of production. Farm-raised, farmed, wild, or wild caught are acceptable method of production declarations.