



## NATIONAL AUTHORITY FOR TRADE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

### PRESS RELEASE

#### **Comprehensive NATCP inspection at Lehel Square market - expired food, hygiene problems, 750 kilos of fruit and vegetables inspected**

**The staff of the National Authority for Trade and Consumer Protection (NATCP) carried out a comprehensive inspection at Lehel Hall, where they checked 750 kilos of fruit and vegetable traders, as well as catering establishments and retail outlets. Following the inspection, several cases were prosecuted by the authorities to protect Hungarian families, while our staff also informed traders about good and lawful business conduct. The authority also provided the opportunity to quickly remedy the shortcomings, for example by ordering an unscheduled clean-up and by facilitating the correct display of incorrectly labelled products. Food businesses have submitted an action plan to the Authority, in which they have agreed to rectify the errors within the deadlines set.**

During the comprehensive inspection, the Authority's experts found hygiene, labelling and traceability deficiencies in four of the five units inspected. A total of 7 kg of improperly stored products and 31 kg of foodstuffs of untraceable origin were withdrawn from the market. Other shortcomings included lack of cleanliness in the units and the absence of a valid health book for staff. In one of the catering establishments, the information provided to consumers was inadequate. The inspectors ordered an extraordinary clean-up of the establishments concerned.

In the fruit and vegetable sector, 51 batches of more than 750 kg of products were inspected at eight traders. Although the quality of the goods complied with the relevant standards, 5 traders had incomplete marking of the products, mainly the country of origin and the quality class were not indicated, and in several cases the mandatory Hungarian flag was not displayed on domestic products.

The authorities also inspected three other retail outlets. During the inspections, a total of eight expired food products were found, and 24 products lacked information on the packaging in Hungarian. In addition, in one case, the manufacturer did not indicate the best-before date, which was replaced by an easily removable self-adhesive label. The products concerned have been withdrawn from the market by the authorities. The food businesses have been subject to official proceedings for the shortcomings found and irregularities.

István Pintér, President of the National Authority for Trade and Consumer Protection, said "as a result of the measures and controls taken by , food safety has improved significantly on the market. Stricter controls, hygiene enforcement and the use of traceability systems have contributed to consumers having access to safer and controlled quality products. Compliance with food safety standards not only protects the health of consumers, but also increases confidence in operators."

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National Authority for Trade and Consumer Protection

