

**Question for written answer E-002002/2016  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Alberto Cirio (PPE)**

Subject: Rules governing services provided to large-scale retailers

For years, many supermarkets have farmed out management of their butcher counters to specialist companies. At these counters, customers order and collect products in person, and are given a non-tax receipt, which is then settled at the supermarket's general till. The company is fully responsible for managing the butcher counter and its staff, buying stock, labelling/consumer information and, in general, implementing health and hygiene rules, which includes taking care of any health alerts, professional training, hazard analysis and critical control point, etc. It has its own trading licence for each counter it manages in each supermarket.

In this context, can the Commission clarify:

for the purposes of health and hygiene rules, if a butcher company operating independently within the supermarket of another company should be treated as a retailer (applying Regulation (EC) No 852/2004) or as a wholesaler supplying a large-scale retailer (applying Regulation (EC) No 853/2004)?