

PAPRIKA SUPPLY DISPUTE

A questionnaire.
A product promise.
A damages claim.



How a supplier form became
critical contract evidence.

€143,400.43

Civil damages upheld by Spain's Supreme Court

IFF / Ramón Sabater

9 JUL 2014 • STS 359/2014

01 / THE TRADE RELATIONSHIP

Keep the geography of the case clear.

ES**Spanish supplier**

Ramón Sabater

↓ Paprika supplied for food production

NL**Dutch buyer**

IFF (Nederland) B.V.

IFF' s US parent was a co-plaintiff.
The supply relationship was Spain–Netherlands.
The ruling came from Spain' s Supreme Court.

This was not a US import judgment. For US buyers, the recordkeeping lessons are the transferable part.

Judgment: pp. 1–2, 5.

02 / THE SPECIFICATION EVIDENCE

No signed full contract. A documented promise.

The signed product questionnaire recorded:

01 Suitable for food use

The intended use was documented.

02 100% natural and pure

The quality promise was recorded.

03 No additives or colourings

The courts used the questionnaire as evidence of the agreed product specifications.

That was the finding on these facts. A questionnaire does not automatically become a contract term in every transaction.

Judgment: pp. 2, 5.

03 / THE SCOPE OF DAMAGES

Five batches. A narrower award.

BATCH	BATCH	BATCH	BATCH	BATCH
1	2	3	4	5
Some losses allowed	Related costs not allowed	Related costs not allowed	Related costs not allowed	Related costs not allowed

The damages upheld concerned proven losses tied to the first batch.

A broader commercial response did not make every associated cost recoverable from the supplier.

This is not a 1/5 damages calculation or a rule limiting food-safety action to one batch.

Judgment: pp. 6, 9.

04 / A RECORDKEEPING CHECKLIST

Connect the promise to the shipment and the claimed loss.

EDITORIAL TAKEAWAYS

01 Agreed specifications

Supplier acceptance, attachments and version dates.

02 Batch evidence

Shipment records, batch IDs, samples and test reports.

03 Notices and responses

When the issue was found, reported and discussed.

04 Loss documentation

Actions, costs and their link to the specific goods.

Use this to review your records. It is not a statement of US law or legal advice on a specific transaction.
