

6 Risk management

- ▶ ethics and risk management
- ▶ assessing risk
- ▶ writing a press statement

6.6 Case study Périgord Gourmet

Foie gras, or fattened goose liver, is a traditional French delicacy which is exported all over the world. However, it is a subject of controversy, since geese are force-fed in the last two weeks of their lives. Animal rights campaigners claim this is cruel to the birds, and the production of foie gras (though not its sale) is banned in countries like the UK, Germany, the Czech Republic, Finland, Luxembourg, Norway, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland, Denmark and Israel.



Discussion

1 In small groups, discuss how you would feel about working for the companies below.

- a pharmaceuticals laboratory that conducts animal tests
- a kangaroo-leather sports shoe manufacturer
- a circus with performing animals
- an egg farm with battery hens
- a pet shop
- a 'foie gras' distributor



Reading

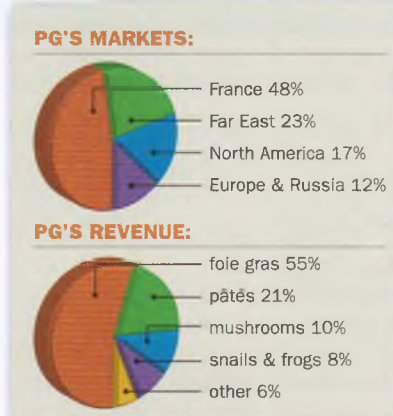
INTERNET

Périgord GOURMET

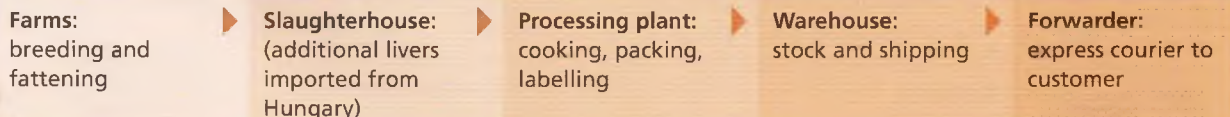
Order your favourite treats direct from south-west France
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All our products are sourced from free-range organic farms and cooked to traditional Périgord recipes.

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... no longer tolerate this deliberate and unashamed cruelty to geese and ducks! Unless you withdraw all foie gras products immediately, we will not hesitate to take direct action against you, your suppliers, contractors or customers in order to protect these defenceless animals.



2 Work with a partner. You work for Périgord Gourmet's (PG) new Risk Management Department. Read the documents about PG's operations, and a message received from an anonymous animal rights group. Discuss whether the statements are *T* (true), *F* (false) or *N* (neither).

- 1 PG produce foie gras by force-feeding geese.
- 2 Customers in the UK and Germany cannot buy PG's foie gras.
- 3 Most of PG's customers are in Europe.
- 4 The extremist animal rights group is threatening to sabotage production of foie gras.
- 5 The most vulnerable link in the production chain is the processing plant.
- 6 Withdrawing foie gras completely would mean making half of PG's staff redundant.