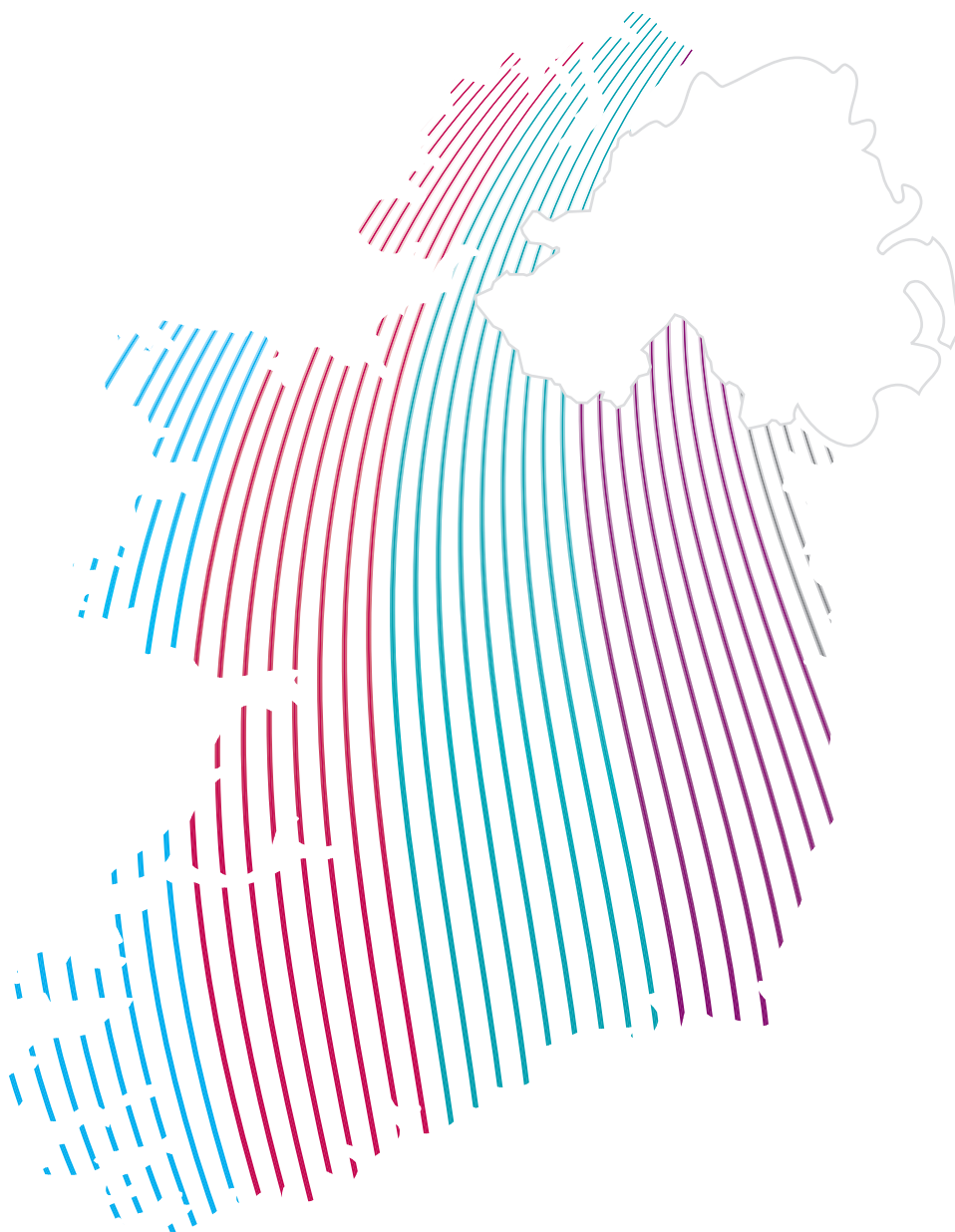
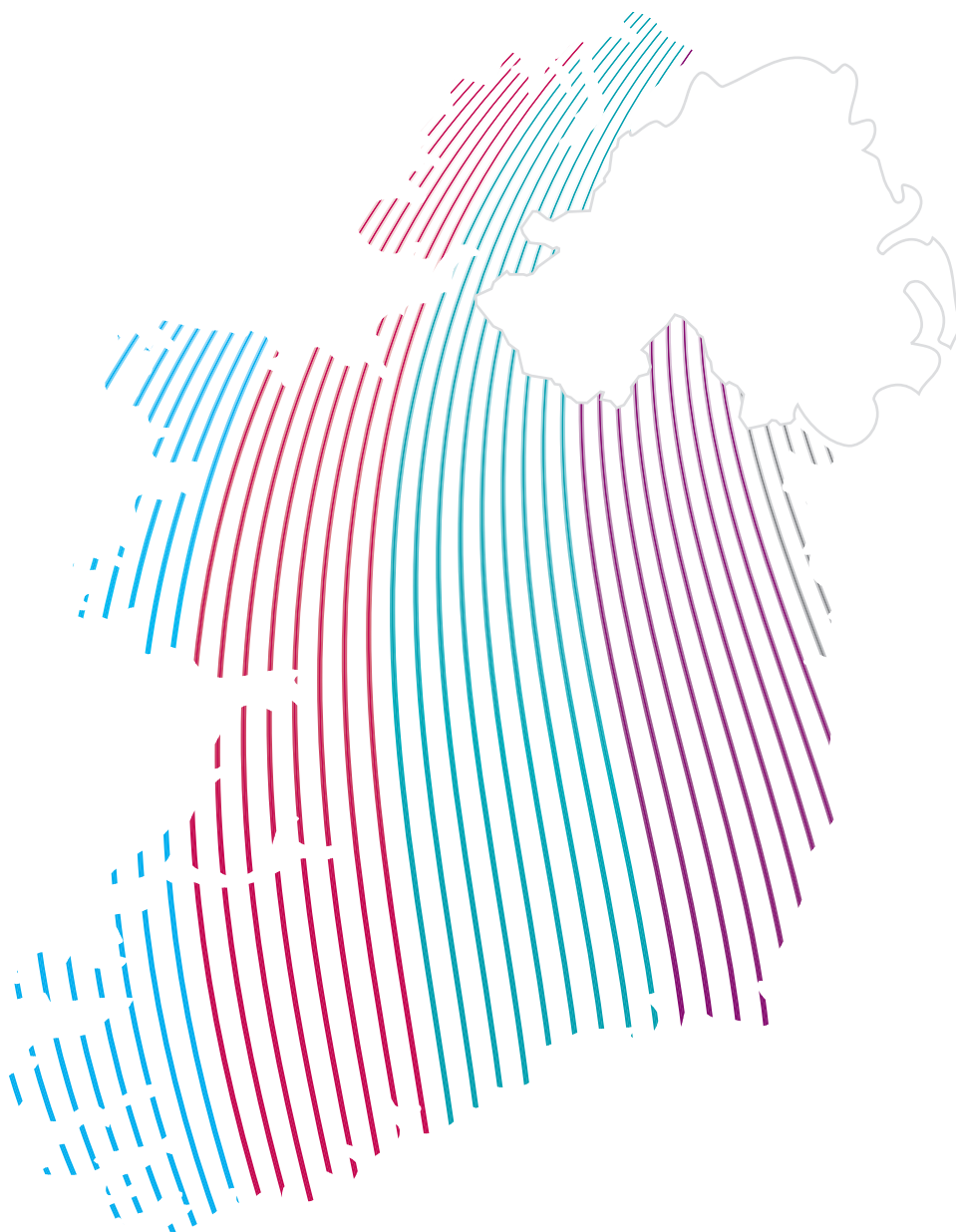

THE NATIONAL CONTROL PLAN FOR IRELAND

for the period from 1st January 2007 to 31st December, 2011





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GLOSSARY

BIM	Bord Iascaigh Mhara	MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
BIP	Border Inspection Post	MRL	Maximum Residue Level
BSE	Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy	NCA	National Consumer Agency
CA	Competent authority	NCP	National Control Plan
CEO	Chief Executive Officer	NEPNA	National Emergency Plan for Nuclear Accidents
CN	Customs tariff number	NHO	National Hospitals Office
COP	Code of Practice	NRCP	National Residue Control Programme
CRL	Community Reference Laboratory	NRL	National Reference Laboratory
CVE	Continuing Veterinary Education	NSAI	National Standards Authority of Ireland
CVO	Chief Veterinary Officer	ODCA	Office of the Director of Consumer Affairs
DAFF	Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food	OFML	Official Food Microbiology Laboratory
DCMNR	Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources	PAHs	Polyaromatic Hydrocarbons
DoHC	Department of Health and Children	PAL	Public Analysts' Laboratory
DCVO	Deputy Chief Veterinary Officer	PCB	Polychlorinated Biphenyl
EC	European Communities	PPCC	Primary, Community and Continuing Care
EHO	Environmental Health Officer	PEHO	Principal Environmental Health Officer
EHS	Environmental Health Service	PH	Population Health
ERCC	Emergency Response Co-ordination Committee	PHMS	Public Health Medical Service
EU	European Union	PMDS	Performance Management Development System
FSAI	Food Safety Authority of Ireland	POAO	Products of Animal Origin
FSLs	Food Safety Laboratory Service	PONAO	Products of Non-Animal Origin
FVO	Food and Veterinary Office	QMS	Quality Management System
GMOs	Genetically modified organisms	RPII	Radiological Protection Institute of Ireland
HSE	Health Service Executive	SFO	Sea Fishery Officer
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency	SFPA	Sea-Fisheries Protection Authority
INAB	Irish National Accreditation Board	S.I.	Statutory Instrument
IOFGA	Irish Organic Farmers and Growers Association	SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
ISO	International Standards Organisation	SRM	Specified Risk Material
IT	Information Technology	SSVI	Senior Superintending Veterinary Inspector
LA	Local Authority	SVI	Superintending Veterinary Inspector
LAVI	Local Authority Veterinary Inspectorate	TSE	Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy
LAVS	Local Authority Veterinary Service	TVI	Temporary Veterinary Inspector
LOD	Limit of Detection	UK	United Kingdom
LOQ	Limit of Quantification	VI	Veterinary Inspector
MANCP	Multi-Annual National Control Plan	VPHIS	Veterinary Public Health Inspection Service
MEFS	Marine Environment and Food Safety Services	VPN	Veterinary Practice Note
MI	Marine Institute	VTEC	Verotoxigenic <i>Escherichia coli</i>

CHAPTER 1: THE NATIONAL CONTROL PLAN FOR IRELAND

1.1 INTRODUCTION

The single integrated multi-annual national control plan, hereafter referred to as the National Control Plan (NCP), presented by Ireland for the period from 1st January 2007 to 31st December, 2011.

A period of five years was selected to coincide with the strategic planning cycles of the various competent authorities.

The NCP for Ireland has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004. The NCP contains general information on the structure and organisation of the systems of controls for food, feed, animal health and animal welfare in Ireland. In addition, the NCP extends to plant health controls in respect of the rules included in Council Directive 2000/29/EC.

The NCP has been prepared jointly by the Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI) and the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food (DAFF).

During the lifetime of the plan, delivery of the objectives will be monitored and the plan kept under review and updated as appropriate (see Section 4.1). Annual progress reports on implementation, as is required by Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004, will be provided to the European Commission.

1.2 CONTACT POINT IN IRELAND FOR COMMUNICATION REGARDING THE NATIONAL CONTROL PLAN

All enquiries regarding the National Control Plan (NCP) for Ireland should be directed to:

Contact point: Food Safety Authority of Ireland
Address: Abbey Court, Lower Abbey Street, Dublin 1.
Email address: fvo@fsai.ie
Telephone: +353-1-8171300
Fax: +353-1-8171301

Enquires will then be forwarded to the appropriate Government departments and competent authorities.

1.3 NATIONAL STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the National Control Plan for Ireland are in line with those established in Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004. The primary objectives are to ensure feed and food is safe and wholesome and to protect consumers' interests, this is achieved through:

1. Ensuring that food and feed business operators' fulfill their primary legal responsibility to ensure food and feed safety
2. The enforcement of food and feed law, animal health and animal welfare rules and plant health rules
3. The organisation of official controls to monitor and verify that the relevant legislative requirements are fulfilled by food and feed business operators at all stages of production, processing and distribution.
4. The co-ordination of official controls, to ensure:
 - effective and efficient implementation at national, regional and local level
 - official controls are carried out regularly, on a risk basis and with appropriate frequency
 - impartiality, quality and consistency of official controls
 - activities are carried out to a high level of transparency.

The approach taken in Ireland is to foster a culture of compliance through the use of risk based controls which protect public, animal and plant health, and consumer interests without imposing unnecessary burdens on the authorities that are responsible for undertaking official controls or on the food and feed business operators that are subject to these controls.

1.4 COMPETENT AUTHORITIES INVOLVED IN THE NATIONAL CONTROL PLAN FOR IRELAND

There are three Government Departments responsible for developing policy and legislation in relation to the NCP. They are the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food (DAFF), the Department of Health and Children (DoHC) and the Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources (DCMNR).

The organisation and execution of official controls are undertaken by a number of competent authorities (see Table 1).

TABLE 1: COMPETENT AUTHORITIES INVOLVED IN THE NATIONAL CONTROL PLAN

Sector	Government department(s) responsible for policy and legislation	Competent authorities responsible for official controls
Food	DoHC	FSAI
	DAFF	DAFF
	DCMNR	HSE
		LAs
		SFPA ^a
		MI
		ODCA
		NSAI ^b
Feed	DAFF	DAFF
		SFPA ^a
Plant Health	DAFF	DAFF
Animal Health	DAFF	DAFF
	DCMNR	SFPA ^a
		LAs
Animal Welfare	DAFF	DAFF
	DCMNR	SFPA ^a
		LAs

a On the 1st January 2007 the control activities of DCMNR were transferred to a new statutory body, the Sea-Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA).

b NSAI is the responsible authority for certain official controls in relation to the recognition and exploitation of natural mineral water. It has not been designated as a competent authority.

CHAPTER 2: THE NATIONAL FOOD CONTROL SYSTEM

2.1 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES FOR FOOD

The specific objectives for Ireland in relation to food are to:

1. achieve compliance with food legislation and standards
2. ensure the co-ordinated and consistent enforcement of food legislation
3. ensure delivery of an effective and efficient food safety control system
4. contribute to EU harmonisation of food safety rules.

These objectives are in line with the FSAI corporate goals and are implemented through the FSAI Annual Service Plan and service contracts with relevant competent authorities (official agencies). Liaison meetings between FSAI and the competent authorities provide a forum for channelling national objectives into the service plans of the relevant competent authorities.

2.2 COMPETENT AUTHORITIES FOR FOOD

The following Government departments are responsible for developing food policy and legislation:

1. Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food
2. Department of Health and Children
3. Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources.

The FSAI provides support to the Government departments in their role of formulation of food policy and legislation.

Competent authorities are designated by Irish Government departments in national legislation or through administrative procedures.

The FSAI is the competent authority with overall responsibility for the enforcement of food legislation in Ireland.

The responsibility for enforcement of food legislation is managed through contractual arrangements (service contracts) between the FSAI and the competent authorities (official agencies) involved in the enforcement of food legislation (official agencies are listed in the second schedule of the FSAI Act, 1998), i.e.

4. Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food
5. Health Service Executive
6. Local authorities (27 County Councils and four City Councils)
7. Sea-Fisheries Protection Authority*
8. Marine Institute
9. Office of the Director of Consumer Affairs
10. National Standards Authority of Ireland.

* From the 1st January 2007, the control activities of DCMNR were transferred to a new statutory body, the Sea-Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA). This independent body has been legally charged with the enforcement of food safety law relating to fish and fishery products. Responsibilities regarding the service contract between the FSAI and DCMNR have been transferred to the SFPA.

Where appropriate, the official agencies have been confirmed as competent authorities in Clause 2 of their service contracts. The contracts, which are available on the service contracts section of the FSAI website, specify the legislation to be enforced (Schedule 1), the tasks to be carried out (Schedule 2), the staffing resources (Schedule 3), reporting arrangements (Schedule 4) and means by which the authority proposes to carry out audits of the competent authorities (Schedule 5).

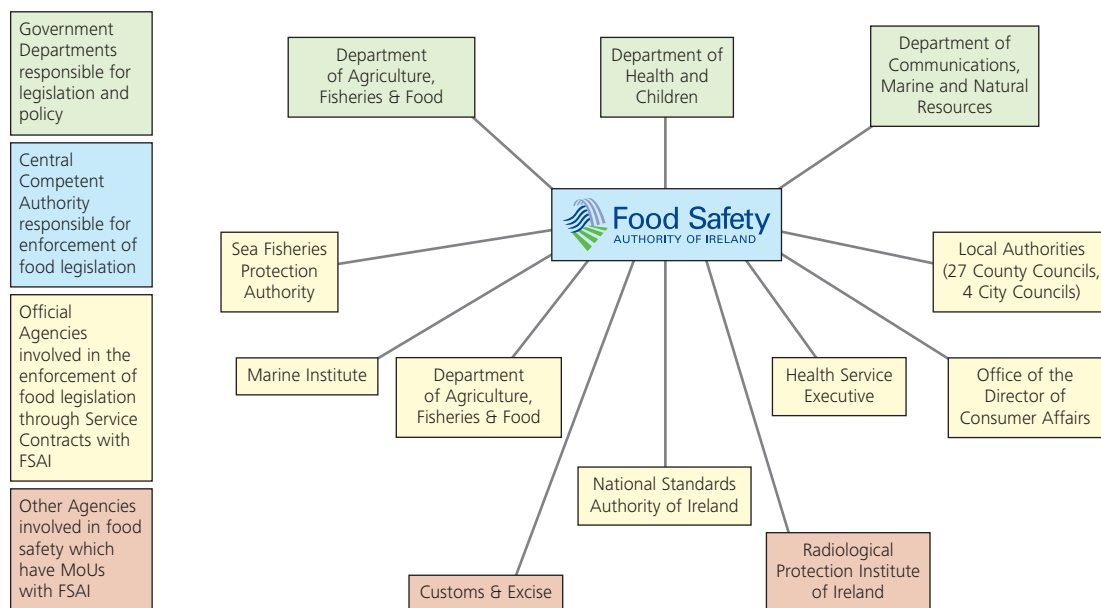
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In addition, there are a number of bodies, which have a role in food safety controls but are not specifically involved in the enforcement of food legislation. FSAI has a Memorandum of Understanding with each of these bodies, i.e.:

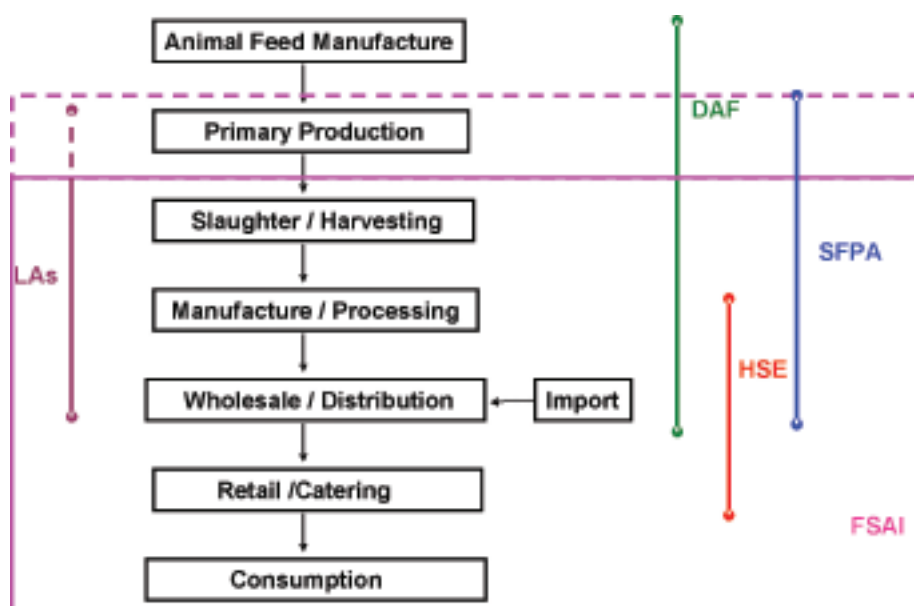
11. Radiological Protection Institute of Ireland
12. Customs and Excise Service of the Revenue Commissioners.

FIGURE 1: GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, COMPETENT AUTHORITIES AND OTHER AGENCIES INVOLVED IN OFFICIAL CONTROL OF FOOD



Each of these agencies is responsible for certain stages in the food chain, specific categories of establishments and for particular types of food. Figure 2 broadly represents the stages in the food chain that the main competent authorities (official agencies) have responsibility for.

FIGURE 2: STAGES IN THE FOOD CHAIN AND THE COMPETENT AUTHORITIES INVOLVED IN OFFICIAL CONTROLS



The remit of the FSAI excludes primary production, except in the case of fish.

The FSAI is responsible for establishing interagency supervisory arrangements to ensure that there are no gaps and to minimise overlaps. In light of the Hygiene Package, supervisory arrangements are being considered by an inter-agency working group (see Section 2.5.1.1.1). For the most part, the following supervisory arrangements apply:

1. Products of Animal Origin

DAFF is responsible for official controls on certain products of animal origin (e.g. meat, milk, eggs) from primary production, through slaughter, processing, wholesale and distribution. DAFF is also responsible for official controls on imports from third countries of products of animal origin at Border Inspection Posts (BIPs).

As regards official controls in slaughterhouses and meat processing, wholesale and distribution establishments; DAFF is responsible for controls in establishments with a high throughput and local authorities (LAs) are responsible for controls in establishments with a low throughput.

LAs perform official controls during primary production at dairy production holdings supplying raw milk for liquid milk processing.

The SFPA is responsible for official controls on fish and shellfish from primary production, through harvesting, processing, wholesale and distribution. The SFPA is jointly responsible with DAFF for official controls on imports from third countries of fish and shellfish.

HSE is responsible for official controls on products of animal origin at retail level.

2. Products of Non-animal Origin

DAFF is responsible for official controls during primary production and harvesting of foods of plant origin.

The HSE is responsible for official controls on food products of non-animal origin at import, manufacturing, processing, wholesale, distribution and retail level. However, control of pesticide residues on imported foods of plant origin is a function of DAFF.

3. Composite Products

Establishments manufacturing composite products are currently supervised by a number of competent authorities, i.e. DAFF, HSE, LAs and SFPA.

An up-to-date list of the legislation pertaining to food safety which the FSAI is responsible for enforcing is in the First Schedule of the FSAI Act, 1998 (most recent amending Order). Enforcement is assigned to each of the competent authorities (official agencies) by the FSAI through Schedule 1 of the official agency's service contracts. Appendix 1 shows the categories of legislation in each of the service contracts. Schedule 1 is updated, as required, to take account of legislative changes.

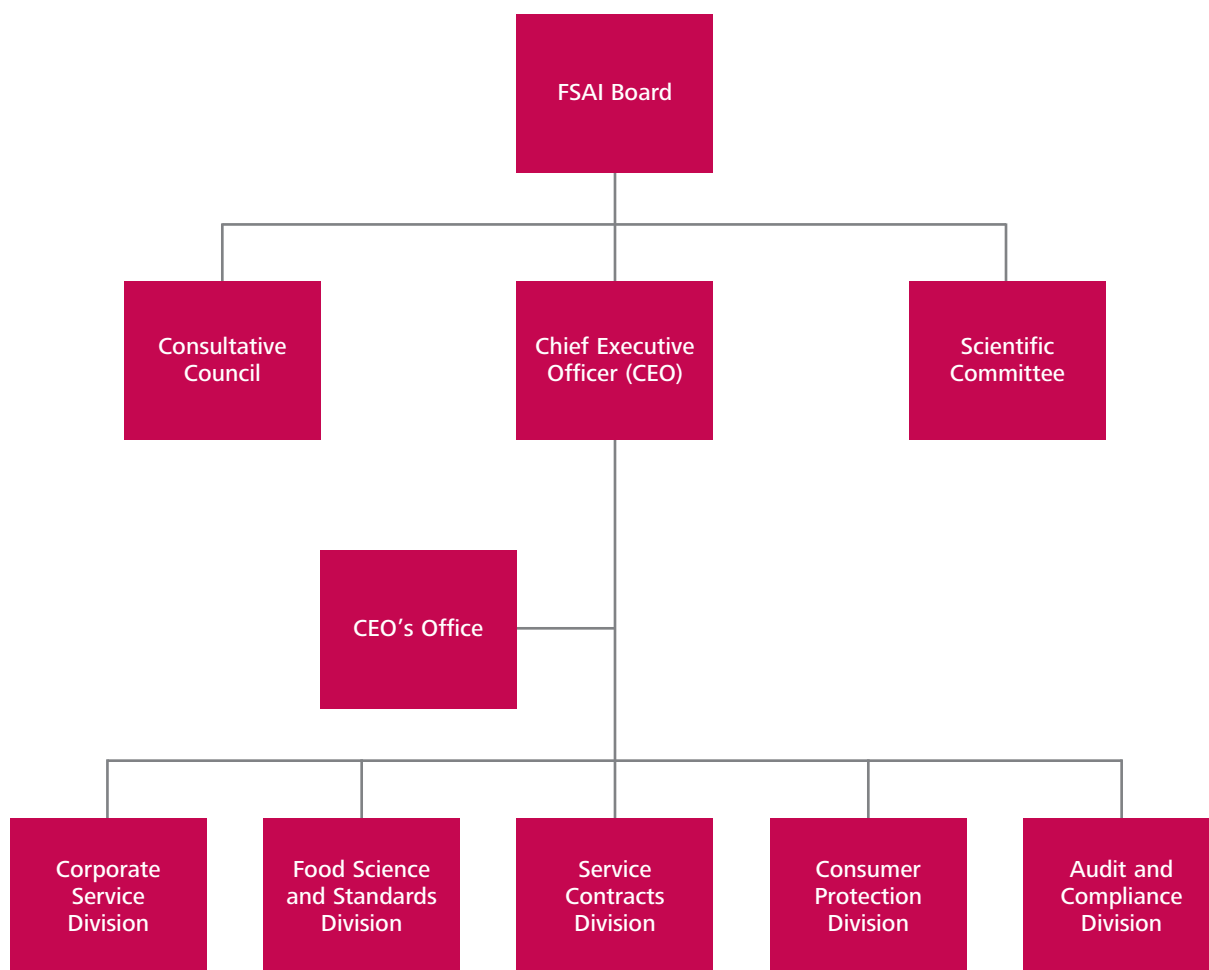
2.2.1 FOOD SAFETY AUTHORITY OF IRELAND

The FSAI was established through the FSAI Act, 1998. The principal function of the FSAI is to ensure that food produced in the State (whether or not distributed or marketed in the State), and food distributed or marketed in the State meets the highest standards of food safety and hygiene reasonably available and it shall, in particular, take all reasonable steps to ensure that such food complies with food legislation in respect of food safety and hygiene standards, or where appropriate, with the provisions of generally recognised standards or codes of good practice aimed at ensuring the achievement of high standards of food hygiene and food safety.

2.2.1.1 Organisational structure of the FSAI

The FSAI is structured as follows: under the Board are the Scientific Committee, the Food Safety Consultative Council and the Chief Executive Officer (CEO). Under the CEO are five divisions, these are the Food Science and Standards Division, Service Contracts Division, Consumer Protection Division, Audit and Compliance Division and the Corporate Services Division.

FIGURE 3: FSAI ORGANISATIONAL CHART



Further information on each FSAI division is available in Appendix 2.

The Scientific Committee of the FSAI is composed of scientists from a range of disciplines working in a voluntary capacity. Their role is to assist and advise the FSAI Board on scientific matters. There are a number of Sub-committees; Microbiology, GMO, TSE, Nutrition and Novel Foods and Food Additives, Contaminants and Residues. These sub-committees are composed of experts who are charged with addressing specific scientific tasks.

The Food Safety Consultative Council is a constructive vehicle for consumers and industry to debate on food safety issues and provide input to the agenda of the FSAI. The Consultative Council advises the FSAI Board on specific issues, enabling the FSAI to discharge its function to consult widely for the purposes of promoting higher food safety standards and progressing the food safety agenda.

The Food Science and Standards Division provide a scientific base to support enforcement and compliance activities. The Service Contracts Division manages the relationship between the FSAI and the competent authorities involved in food controls. The Consumer Protection Division provides technical support in the areas of Environmental Health, Public Health Nutrition, Veterinary Public Health and Agriculture and Training and Compliance. The Audit and Compliance Division is the audit section of the FSAI. The Corporate Services Division provides corporate services (finance, human resources, information technology) to FSAI. The CEO's office includes the Public Relations section of the FSAI.

2.2.1.2 FSAI scope of responsibility/FSAI activities

FSAI has a dual function, FSAI is responsible for:

1. co-ordination of the competent authorities involved in the enforcement of food legislation
2. development of a culture of food safety, by working to influence change in the food industry and encourage compliance.

The scope of FSAI's responsibility regarding food legislation is from the farm gate to the final consumer; FSAI is not responsible for primary production, except in the case of fish.

FSAI has responsibility to:

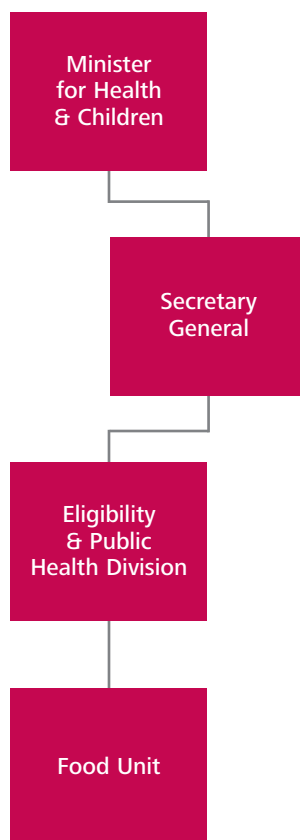
1. ensure the enforcement of food legislation
2. ensure the consistent interpretation and application of legal requirements
3. co-ordinate official controls through the management of the service contracts with the competent authorities
4. resolve interagency supervision arrangements
5. ensure co-ordination between/within competent authorities
6. organise monitoring and surveillance programmes
7. carry out audits of food businesses and competent authorities to ensure compliance with legislative and contractual requirements
8. provide training for industry and competent authorities
9. compile and analyse data relating to establishments, inspections and samples
10. certify foods of non-animal origin for export
11. issue permits for the irradiation of certain foodstuffs by authorised facilities
12. promote and contribute to the development of food quality assurance schemes
13. carry out the pre-market assessments of novel foods
14. carry out the pre-market assessments of GM foods
15. process the notifications of new food supplements
16. process the notification of foods for particular nutritional uses
17. process the notification of foods for special medical purposes.

2.2.1.3 FSAI reporting and communication channels

The FSAI internal reporting arrangements are generally in line with the organisational structure outlined in Figure 3.

The FSAI reports to the Minister for Health and Children. The FSAI liaises with Department of Health and Children (DoHC) with respect to legislation and policy matters through the Food Unit.

FIGURE 4: DOHC ORGANISATIONAL CHART



The FSAI communicates with the competent authorities involved in food controls through regular liaison meetings. The FSAI has also established an extranet service called Safety Net, which allows for the sharing of information between competent authorities involved in food controls.

2.2.2 DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES & FOOD

In Ireland, the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries & Food is the competent authority for the development of policy, the negotiation of rules at European Community level and the implementation in national law of those rules for the following areas:

1. primary production of food, excluding fish
2. slaughter, cutting, preparation and processing of foods of animal origin, excluding fish, up to, but not including, retail level.

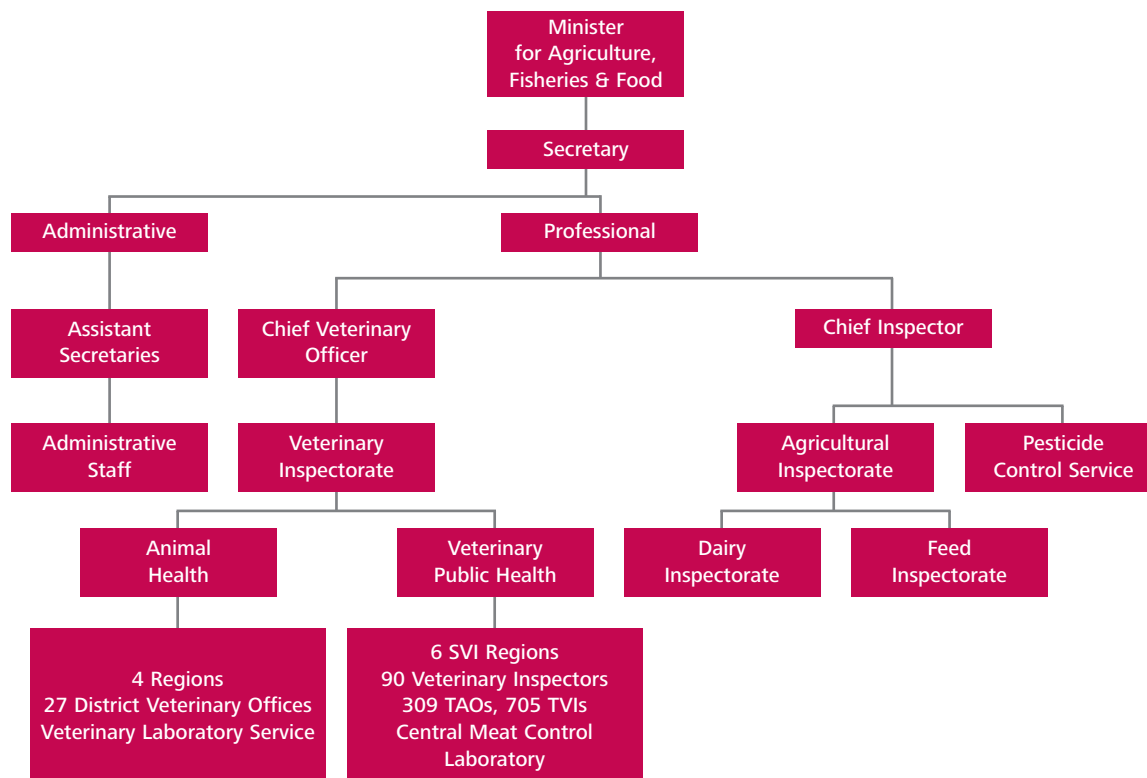
The Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food is also the competent authority for the development and implementation of official controls in the above areas, with the exception of slaughter, cutting, preparation and processing of foods of animal origin in those smaller premises, which were formally restricted to trading on the national market. The controls in these smaller premises are implemented by the Local Authority Veterinary Services.

The Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries & Food is also the competent authority for:

1. feed safety
2. animal health
3. animal welfare
4. plant health.

2.2.2.1 Organisational structure of DAFF

FIGURE 5: DAFF ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE IN RELATION TO OFFICIAL CONTROL



DAFF, under the Secretary General, comprises nine Assistant Secretaries, the Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) the Chief Agricultural Inspector and the Director of Laboratories.

The following services are involved in food controls:

1. Agricultural Inspectorate
 - Dairy Produce Inspectorate
 - Egg and Poultry Inspectorate
 - Organics Unit.
2. State Veterinary Service
 - Veterinary Public Health Inspectorate
 - Border Inspection Posts.
3. Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food Laboratory Service.
4. Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food Administration.

Further details of the structure of the individual services within DAFF are described in more detail in Chapter 3 in the section dealing with the particular service (outlined above).

Further information on the roles of the DAFF laboratories is available in Section 2.4. Details of the types of samples and analysis carried out by these laboratories are available in the FSAI publication "An overview of the food laboratories in the FSAI's official agencies".

2.2.2.2 DAFF scope of responsibility/DAFF activities

DAFF is responsible for official controls in relation to products of animal origin (excluding fish and shellfish) during primary production, slaughtering, manufacturing, processing, import, distribution and wholesale. DAFF is responsible for official controls during primary production and harvesting of plant products. Certain DAFF inspectors carry out checks at retail level for compliance with marketing standards.

The legislation enforced by this agency includes general food law, official controls, food hygiene, import controls, labelling, presentation and advertising of foodstuffs, additives and flavourings, contaminants, residues of veterinary medicines, pesticide residues, microbiological criteria, specified risk material, zoonoses, materials in contact with foodstuff, infant formula, genetically modified foods and organic foods.

DAFF uses the following controls to ensure compliance with legislative requirements; verification, inspection, audit, sampling and analysis, monitoring and surveillance. Further information on DAFF food control activities can be found in the DAFF service contract. The contract covers controls in relation to meat and meat products, milk and milk products, eggs and egg products, border inspection posts, organic foods, pesticides, residues, and zoonoses.

DAFF is responsible for approving certain establishments under national legislation implementing Regulation (EC) No. 853/2004.

DAFF maintains records of the official controls carried out and provides the business operator concerned with a copy of the report at least in the case of non-compliance.

These controls are provided by the following DAFF services:

Agricultural Inspectorate: Dairy Produce Inspectorate

DAFF's Dairy Produce Inspectorate is responsible for carrying out official controls in milk treatment establishments, milk processing establishments, processing establishments with limited production capacity and collection centres and storage premises. It is responsible for the monitoring, audit, inspection and the surveillance in the establishments. Further details on the responsibilities of the Dairy Produce Inspectorate are available in Chapter 3.

Agricultural Inspectorate: Egg and Poultry Inspectorate

The DAFF Egg and Poultry Inspectorate is responsible for controls in barn egg producers, free range producers and egg packing centres. This inspectorate is also responsible for verification of compliance with the marketing standards for eggs and poultry from primary production through to retail. Further details on the Egg and Poultry Inspectorate are available in Chapter 3.

Agricultural Inspectorate: Organic Unit

The Organic Unit of DAFF is responsible for the inspection and certification of organic food. These activities are carried out in conjunction with a number of control bodies (see Section 2.3). Further details on the Organics Unit are available in Chapter 3.

State Veterinary Service: Veterinary Public Health Inspectorate

The Veterinary Public Health Inspectorate (VPHI) supervises slaughterhouses, meat processing plants, milk pasteurisation establishments and egg products facilities. The VPHI is permanently located in the larger meat and poultry slaughtering and processing plants; other plants are visited and inspected on a regular basis. In these establishments, the VPHI is responsible for checks in relation to animal welfare, identity checks, the provision of the ante and post-mortem inspection service, inspections of structural and operational hygiene standards, monitoring of own checks, examination of food business operator's (FBOs) documentation, audits of HACCP programmes, auditing of compliance with requirements in relation to SRM (as appropriate) and taking of samples for sampling programmes. Further details on the responsibilities of the VPHI are available in Chapter 3.

State Veterinary Service: Border Inspection Posts

DAFF is responsible for the control of the importation of live animals and products of animal origin (POAO) from third countries into the European Community at BIPs. Controls include identity, documentary and physical checks for POAO where Ireland is the first point of entry to the EU. Once a consignment has been cleared at any EU designated BIP, it enters into free circulation within the EU. There are three designated BIPs for imports from third countries into the Republic of Ireland; Dublin Airport, Dublin Port and Shannon Airport. Dublin Port and Shannon Airport are the designated as BIPs for the import of food and Dublin Airport and Shannon Airport are designated as BIPs for the imports of live animals. Further details on the BIPs are available in Chapter 3.

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES & FOOD LABORATORY SERVICE: FOOD LABORATORIES

Veterinary Laboratories

Central Veterinary Research Laboratory (CVRL)	The CVRL provides laboratory support (bacteriology/parasitology, pathology and virology) for national disease eradication programmes. The CVRL is the National Reference Laboratory (NRL) for certain parameters (see Section 2.4.1).
Central Meat Control Laboratory (CMCL)	The CMCL carries out sampling and analysis to support veterinary certification of meat and meat products to ensure they meet EU standards with respect to hygiene, freedom from pathogenic bacteria, residues of veterinary drugs, illegal growth promoters and contaminants (lead, mercury, cadmium, arsenic, etc) and compliance with legal levels for food additives. The CMCL is NRL for certain parameters (see Section 2.4.1).
Food Laboratory, Waterford Regional Veterinary Laboratory (RVL-W)	The RVL-W provides laboratory services for testing of liquid milk and testing of water from liquid milk establishments.

Agriculture Laboratories

Pesticide Control Laboratory Service (PCLS)	The Pesticide Control Laboratory Service is responsible for the analysis of pesticide residues in food. The PCLS is NRL for certain parameters (see Section 2.4.1).
Dairy Science Laboratories	The three Dairy Science Laboratories, based in Kildare, Cork and Limerick, are responsible for the analysis of milk and milk product samples including drinking milk taken during official controls. The Dairy Science Laboratory in Kildare is NRL for certain parameters (see Section 2.4.1).

Further details on the responsibilities of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food Laboratory Service are available in Chapter 3.

2.2.2.3 DAFF reporting and communication channels

DAFF internal reporting and communication channels

DAFF internal reporting arrangements are generally in line with the organisational structure in Figure 5. Further details of the reporting arrangements within the different services in the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food are described within each section of Chapter 3.

DAFF reporting and communication channels with FSAI

The reporting and communication channels between the FSAI and DAFF are set out in the DAFF service contract. These requirements include a schedule of liaison meetings between the FSAI and DAFF, data transmission in the form of Schedule 4 and annual reports.

The FSAI meet with DAFF at a number of levels:

1. Steering Group meetings address high level agreements and policy issues
2. Food Safety Liaison Unit meetings deal with central issues and provide a forum to resolve any issues not addressed through the divisional liaison meetings
3. liaison meetings with the different service divisions within DAFF involved in food controls. These meetings focus on issues specific to the division
4. cross agency meetings with DAFF and other competent authorities.

DAFF communication channels with other authorities:

1. DAFF liaises with DCMNR/SFPA in relation to fish feed
2. DAFF works with Customs and SFPA regarding the import control of live animals and products of animal origin
3. DAFF participates in regional zoonoses committees with representatives from the LAs and HSE
4. DAFF liaises on a local level with other competent authorities (HSE, LAs, ODCA) with respect to specific food issues
5. DAFF participates in radioactivity monitoring programmes organised by the RPII, see Section 2.2.10.1.

2.2.3 HEALTH SERVICE EXECUTIVE (HSE)

2.2.3.1 Organisational structure of the HSE

The objective of the HSE is to improve, promote and protect the health and welfare of the public in an effective and efficient manner.

National Structure

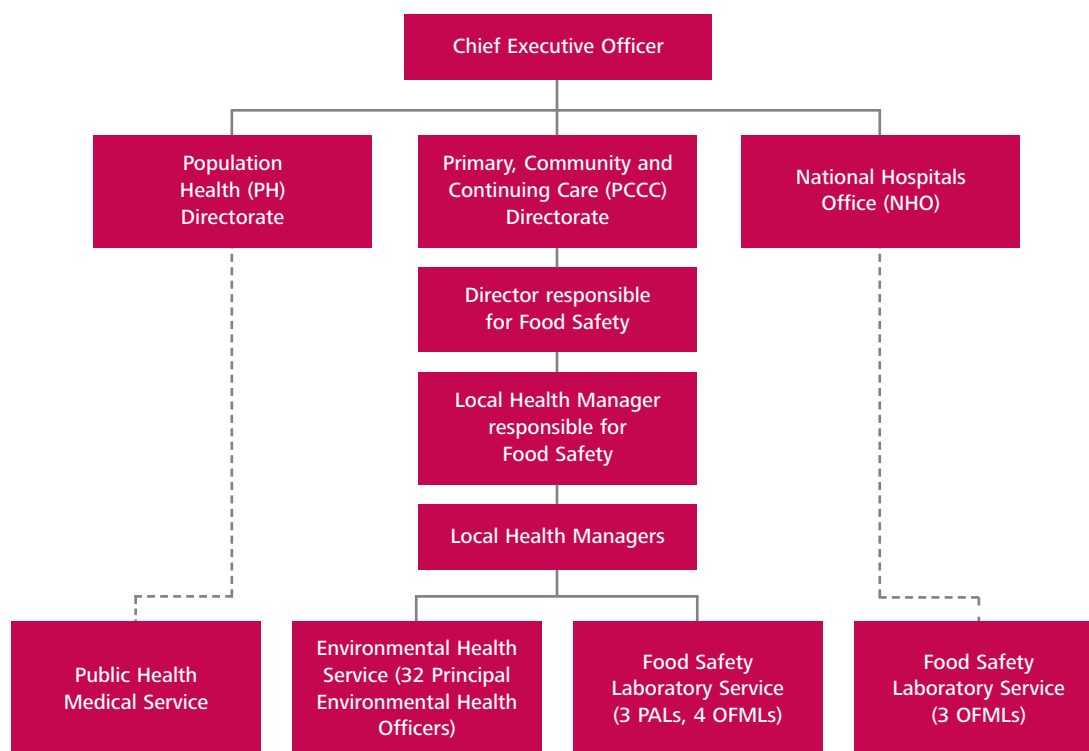
The HSE is divided into three service delivery units:

1. the Population Health (PH) Directorate promotes and protects the health of the entire population
2. the Primary, Community and Continuing Care (PCCC) Directorate deliver health and personal social services in the community and other settings
3. the National Hospitals Office (NHO) provides acute hospital and ambulance services throughout the country.

The FSAI has a service contract with the HSE to provide the following food control services:

4. Environmental Health Services from the PCCC Directorate
5. Food Safety Laboratory Services from the PCCC Directorate and the NHO
6. Public Health Medical Services from the PH Directorate.

FIGURE 6: HSE SERVICES INVOLVED IN THE OFFICIAL CONTROL OF FOOD



Note: HSE are currently reviewing the organisation of their food control services. This organisational structure will be updated on completion of the review.

The Environmental Health Service

The Environmental Health Service (EHS) provides a range of food safety/food control services in accordance with its service contract with the FSAI. These services include inspection of relevant food businesses together with food sampling to ensure compliance with food law, the management of food alerts and outbreaks, and a range of compliance building/education measures. The HSE is responsible for import controls on products of non-animal origin.

The HSE is divided into four geographical regions: Southern Region, Western Region, Dublin Mid-Leinster Region and Dublin North Eastern Region. There are between seven and nine environmental health sections in each region, thirty three nationally. Environmental health services are delivered under the supervision of a Principal Environmental Health Officer.

The Food Safety Laboratory Service

The HSE operates the Food Safety Laboratory Service (FSLS). This network of laboratories comprises of three regional Public Analyst Laboratories (PALs) responsible for physical/chemical analysis of food and food related samples and seven Official Food Microbiology Laboratories (OFMLs) responsible for the microbiological testing of foodstuffs. All of these laboratories are accredited to ISO 17025.

These laboratories analyse samples taken during official controls by Environmental Health Officers (EHOs). These samples are taken to support inspection, as part of monitoring and surveillance programmes or as part of the investigation of an outbreak, incident, food alert or consumer complaint. The EHS and the FSLS maintain close linkages, meeting frequently to discuss food monitoring and surveillance programmes.

The PALs generally operate on a regional basis, i.e. Dublin PAL serves HSE Dublin Mid-Leinster and Dublin North Eastern Regions, Galway PAL serves the HSE Western Region and Cork PAL serves the HSE Southern Region. For certain specialist parameters a single PAL provides analytical services on a national basis. The PALs are NRLs for certain parameters (see Section 2.4.1).

The OFMLs generally operate on a local basis, receiving samples from a number of neighbouring environmental health offices. For certain specialist parameters, a single OFML provides analytical services on a national basis.

Further information on the role of the FSLS is available in Section 2.4, details of types of samples and analysis carried out by these laboratories is available in the FSAI publication "An overview of the food laboratories in the FSAI's official agencies".

The Public Health Medical Service

The Public Health Medical Service (PHMS) of the HSE participates in multi-disciplinary teams investigating, managing and controlling outbreaks of food borne illnesses. The PHMS links closely with the EHS and FSLS during these investigations.

The Health Protection Surveillance Centre

The Health Protection Surveillance Centre (HPSC), is part of the Health Service Executive, and is the national agency with responsibility for the surveillance of communicable diseases in Ireland. The aim of HPSC is to improve the health of the Irish population by collating, interpreting and disseminating data in order to provide the best possible information on infectious disease. This is achieved through surveillance and independent advice, epidemiological investigation, research and training. The HPSC collates and analyses statutory weekly notifications of infectious diseases that have been provided by medical practitioners and clinical directors of diagnostic laboratories. Data are collected nationally using Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting which is an information system developed to manage the surveillance and control of infectious diseases in Ireland. The HPSC provides data on notifiable infectious diseases on a weekly basis, including data on foodborne illness, to the relevant authorities.

2.2.3.2 HSE scope of responsibility/HSE activities

HSE is responsible for official controls in certain manufacturing/processing establishments, certain wholesale/distribution operations, imports of foods of non-animal origin and all retail sector (retail and catering) establishments.

The legislation enforced by this agency includes general food law, official controls, food hygiene, import controls, labelling, presentation and advertising of foodstuffs, additives and flavourings, contaminants, microbiological criteria, specified risk material, zoonoses, materials in contact with foodstuff, foods for particular nutritional uses (including infant formula), genetically modified foods, novel foods and foodstuffs treated with ionising radiation.

The HSE uses the following controls to ensure compliance with legislative requirements; verification, inspection, audit, sampling and analysis, monitoring and surveillance. Further information on the HSE food control activities can be found in the HSE Service Contract.

The HSE are responsible for approving certain establishments under national legislation implementing Regulation (EC) No. 853/2004.

The HSE maintain records of the official controls carried out and provides the business operator concerned with a copy of the report at least in the case of non-compliance.

2.2.3.3 HSE reporting and communication channels

HSE internal reporting and communication channels

HSE internal reporting arrangements are generally in line with the organisational structure in Figure 6.

HSE reporting and communication channels with the FSAI

The reporting and communication channels between the FSAI and the HSE are set out in the HSE service contract. These requirements include a schedule of liaison meetings between the FSAI and the HSE food control services, data transmission in the form of agreed datasets and quarterly and annual reports. Additionally enforcement activities under the FSAI Act, 1998 are notified to the Authority in accordance with Guidance Note 13. There is also a requirement for the HSE to notify the FSAI of foodborne outbreaks and the outcome of investigations without undue delay.

The FSAI meet with HSE at a number of levels:

1. meetings with HSE management
2. regional liaison meeting with representatives of the EHS and the FSLS
3. national meetings with professional groups, i.e. PEHOs, OFMLs, PALs
4. working groups which address specific issues/topics
5. cross agency meetings with HSE and other competent authorities.

The HSE communication channels with other authorities:

1. the HSE interacts with Customs officials at points of entry for food. Customs formally notify HSE of any imports of foods which on documentary, identity or physical checks are considered suspect or of foods which are subject to EU safeguard measures. For further details see Section 2.2.9
2. the HSE participates in radioactivity monitoring programmes organised by the RPII, see Section 2.2.10.1.
3. the HSE participates in regional zoonoses committees with representatives from the LAs and DAFF
4. the HSE liaises on a local level with other competent authorities (LAs, DAFF, ODCA, SFPA, NSAI) with respect to specific food issues.

2.2.4 THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES

2.2.4.1 Organisational structure of the local authorities

Local authorities are multi-purpose bodies who are responsible for an extensive range of services, including veterinary services.

The FSAI currently has Service Contracts with 31 individual local authorities:



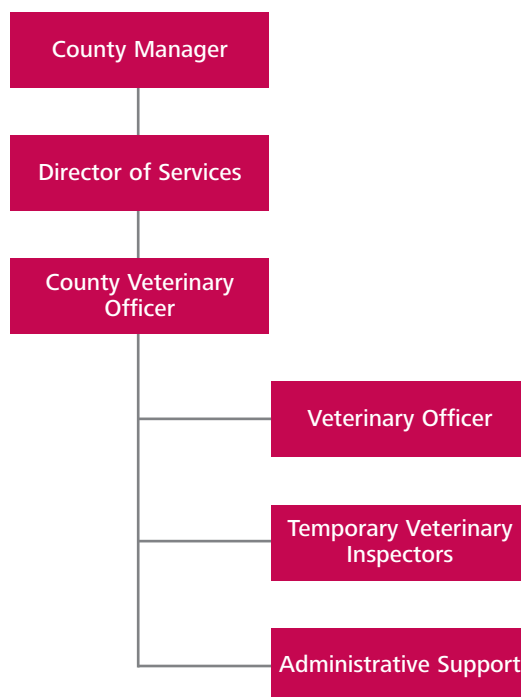
Regional structures

The local authorities are autonomous bodies with no formal regional structure. Local Authority Veterinary Officers may meet informally on a regional basis to discuss matters of local or regional importance.

Local structures

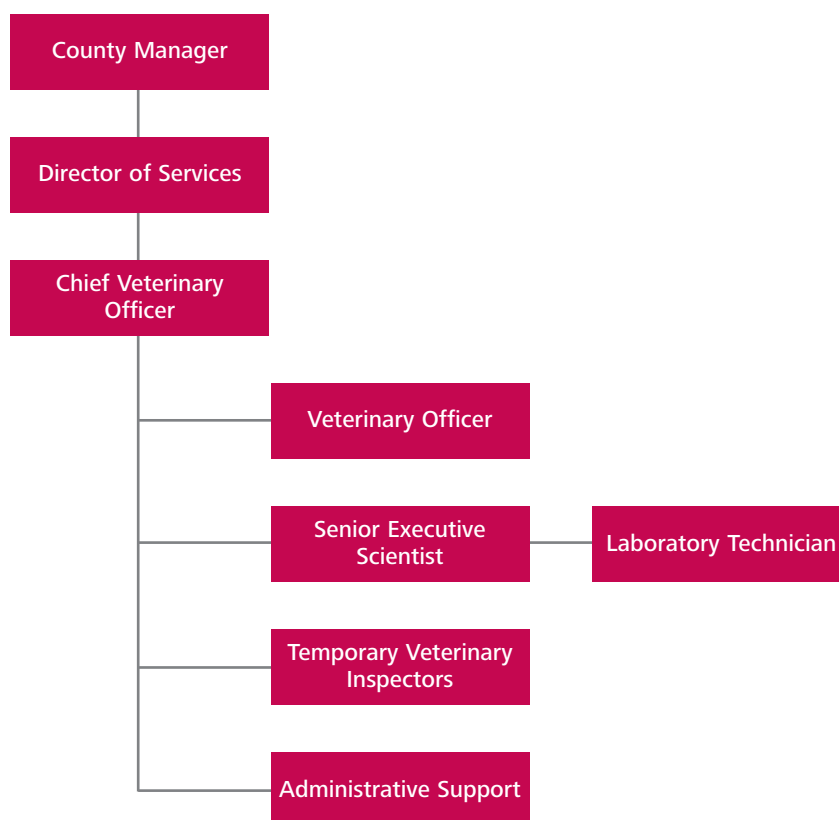
The majority of local authorities have a local structure involving a County Manager, a Director of Services, the County Veterinary Officer, Temporary Veterinary Inspectors (TVIs) and administrative support, see Figure 7.

FIGURE 7: GENERAL LA ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE



The exception is Cork County Council which is made up of four local areas each supervised by a whole-time Veterinary Officer. The service is managed and co-ordinated by a Chief Veterinary Officer. This local authority also has a laboratory service.

FIGURE 8: CORK COUNTY COUNCIL ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE



Local Authority Veterinary Service (LAVS)

A formal grouping called the Local Authority Veterinary Service (LAVS) provides national co-ordination of local authority veterinary officers. The LAVS is a sub-group of Veterinary Ireland, the representative organisation for registered veterinary surgeons in Ireland. National meetings of the LAVS are usually held two to three times per year and all local authority veterinary officers are invited to attend.

The LAVS has a National Committee; the function of this committee is to liaise with the FSAI, DAFF, other Government Departments etc in matters relating to the Local Authority Veterinary Inspectorate.

The LAVS also has a number of sub-committees which focus on specific areas, i.e. the standardisation sub-committee, the poultry sub-committee, the dairy hygiene sub-committee and the microbiology sub-committee. These sub-committees are working to produce standard operating procedures, national rules, standard reports and guidance for specific LA activities. The LAVS has also co-ordinated a number of training initiatives for LA Veterinary Officers.

2.2.4.2 Local authorities scope of responsibility

The LAs are responsible for official controls in low throughput slaughterhouses; establishments producing small quantities of fresh meat, minced meat, meat preparations or meat products; cold stores/distribution centres subject to Regulation (EC) No. 853/2004 and meat transport vehicles at, or associated with inspected establishments.

FSAI maintain a national register of the establishments where LAs carry out official controls.

The legislation enforced by these agencies includes general food law, official controls, food hygiene, labelling, presentation and advertising of foodstuffs, additives and flavourings, contaminants, residues of veterinary medicines, microbiological criteria, specified risk material, zoonoses, materials in contact with foodstuff, slaughter of animals and animal remedies.

LAs use the verification, inspection, audit, sampling and analysis, monitoring and surveillance to ensure compliance with legislative requirements. Further information on the LA food control activities can be found in the LA service contracts.

LAs are responsible for approving certain establishments under national legislation implementing Regulation (EC) No. 853/2004.

LAs are required to maintain records of the official controls carried out and to provide the business operator concerned with a copy of the inspection report.

Further information on the role of the Cork County Council laboratory is available in Section 2.4; details of types of samples and analysis carried out by this laboratory are available in the FSAI publication "An overview of the food laboratories in the FSAI's official agencies".

2.2.4.3 LA reporting and communication channels

LA internal reporting and communication channels

LA internal reporting arrangements are generally in line with the organisational structures in Figures 7 and 8.

LA reporting and communication channels with the FSAI

The reporting and communication channels between the FSAI and the LAs are set out in the LA service contracts. These requirements include a schedule of liaison meetings between the FSAI and the LA Veterinary Officer, data transmission in the form of agreed datasets and monthly and annual reports. Additionally enforcement activities under the FSAI Act are notified to the FSAI in accordance with Guidance Note No. 13.

The FSAI meets with LAs at a number of levels:

1. liaison meetings with each LA
2. regional liaison meeting with LAVOs
3. national meeting with representatives of LA management
4. cross agency meetings with LAs and other competent authorities.

LA communication channels with other authorities

LAs liaise with DAFF in relation to animal health and welfare issues.

LAs participates in regional zoonoses committees with representatives from the HSE and DAFF.

LAs liaise on a local level with other competent authorities (HSE, DAFF, ODCA) with respect to specific food issues.

2.2.5 THE SEA-FISHERIES PROTECTION AUTHORITY (SFPA)

2.2.5.1 Organisational structure of the SFPA

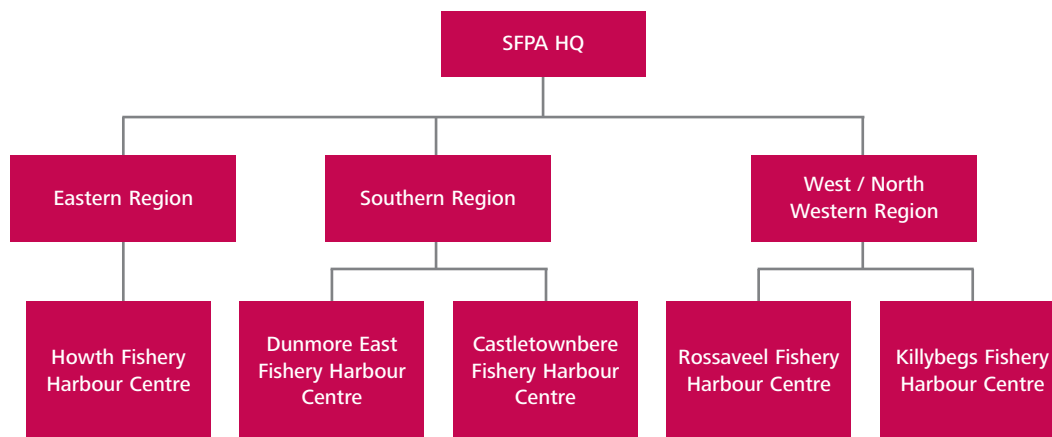
As of 1st January 2007, the official food control activities of DCMNR have been transferred to a new statutory body, the Sea-Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA). A principal function of the SFPA is to secure efficient and effective enforcement of sea-fisheries law and food safety law.

As the SFPA was only recently established the structure of this authority is currently evolving. The current structure consists of three regions: the East, the South and the West/North West. Each region includes a number of Fishery Harbour Centres:

1. 1 in the East
2. 2 in the South
3. 2 in the West/North West.

Each Fishery Harbour Centre has a Port Officer responsible for the Sea-Fisheries Protection Officers who carry out the official controls.

FIGURE 9: ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE SFPA



2.2.5.2 Scope of responsibility of the SFPA

The SFPA is responsible for the implementation and enforcement of national and EU legislation which deal with health conditions for the production and placing on the market of fish, shellfish and fisheries products.

The SFPA carries out official controls on fish, shellfish and products thereof from harvesting, movement, processing, wholesale and distribution. The SFPA is responsible for official controls on imported fish and shellfish. These products are only allowed to enter Ireland through BIPs controlled by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food (DAFF). DAFF notify the SFPA of any imports of fish from third countries.

The legislation enforced by this agency includes general food law, official controls, food hygiene, import control, labelling, presentation and advertising of foodstuffs, additives and flavourings, contaminants, residues of veterinary medicines, microbiological criteria, marine biotoxins, zoonoses, materials in contact with foodstuff, animal remedies and organic food.

Sea Fishery Protection Officers (SFPOs) use the verification, inspection, audit, sampling, monitoring and surveillance to ensure compliance with legislative requirements. Further information on the SFPA food control activities are in line with the activities found in the DCMNR Service Contract.

SFPA is responsible for approving certain establishments under national legislation implementing Regulation (EC) No. 853/2004.

SFPA maintain records of the official controls carried out and provide the business operator concerned with a copy of the report at least in the case of non-compliance.

2.2.5.3 SFPA reporting and communication channels

SFPA internal reporting and communication channels

The SFPA internal reporting arrangements are evolving and are currently in line with the organisational structures described in Figure 9. The SFPA also report to DCMNR.

SFPA reporting and communication channels with the FSAI

The reporting and communication channels between the FSAI and the SFPA are in line with the mechanisms set out in the DCMNR Service Contract. These requirements include a schedule of liaison meetings between the FSAI and the SFPA, data transmission in the form of agreed datasets and quarterly and annual reports. Additionally, enforcement activities under the FSAI Act are notified to the FSAI in accordance with Guidance Note No. 13.

The FSAI will meet with SFPA at a number of levels; the previous meeting structure from DCMNR will apply:

1. Liaison meetings with management
2. Regional liaison meetings with SFPOs
3. Cross agency meetings with other competent authorities.

SFPA communication channels with other authorities:

1. SFPA reports to it's parent Government department, DCMNR
2. The MI provides analytical and technical support to the SFPA, MI reports on analysis to the SFPA and these bodies meet regularly
3. SFPA liaises with DAFF in relation to feed
4. SFPA works with DAFF and Customs regarding import controls
5. SFPA liaises on a local level with other competent authorities (HSE, DAFF) with respect to specific food issues
6. SFPA is involved in radioactivity monitoring programmes organised by the Radiological Protection Institute of Ireland (RPII) see Section 2.2.10.1.

2.2.6 THE MARINE INSTITUTE (MI)

2.2.6.1 Organisational structure of the MI

The Marine Institute (MI) is the national agency responsible for marine research, technology development and innovation. DCMNR is the parent department of MI; the MI provides analytical and technical services to the SFPA and DCMNR.

FIGURE 10: ORGANISATIONAL CHART FOR THE MARINE INSTITUTE

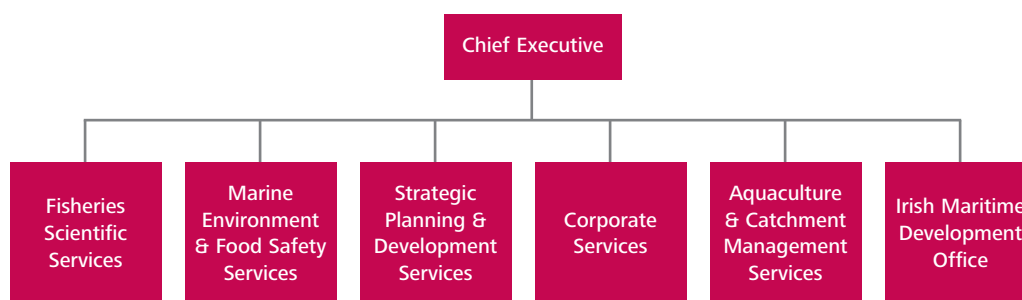
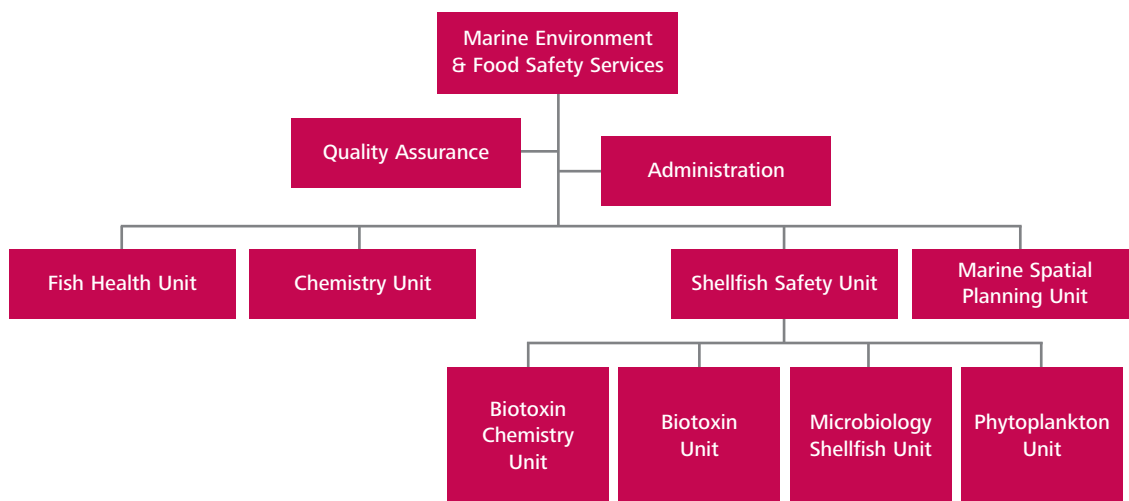


FIGURE 11: ORGANISATIONAL CHART FOR THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT AND FOOD SAFETY SERVICES (MEFS) DIVISION OF THE MI



The Marine Environment and Food Safety Services (MEFS) Division of the MI provides scientific advice and a range of marine environmental monitoring services to help ensure Irish seafood products meet approved quality standards.

2.2.6.2 Scope of responsibility of the MI

The MI provides services to the SFPA, i.e. scientific advice, carries out risk assessment, carries out analysis and monitors analyses from other laboratories.

The MI carries out analysis to ensure compliance with legislative requirements with respect to general food law, official controls, food hygiene, contaminants, residues of veterinary medicines, microbiological criteria and marine biotoxins. The MI is the NRL for certain parameters (see Section 2.4.1).

Further information on the MI food control activities will be found in the MI Service Contract. For further information on the role of the Marine Institute is available in Section 2.4, details of types of samples and analysis carried out by this laboratory are available in the FSAI publication "An overview of the food laboratories in the FSAI's official agencies".

2.2.6.3 MI reporting and communication channels

MI internal reporting and communication channels

MI internal reporting arrangements are generally in line with the organisational structure in Figures 10 and 11.

DCMNR is the parent department of MI; DCMNR has a performance contract with the MI which includes reporting requirements. MI report on the services provided through hard copy reports, publications, electronically or via formal meetings.

MI has had initial discussions on collaboration with SFPA and expects to formalise links via service level agreement in 2007.

MI reporting and communication channels with the FSAI

The reporting and communication channels between the FSAI and the MI are set out in the MI Service Contract. These requirements include a schedule of liaison meetings between the FSAI and the MI, data transmission in the form of agreed datasets and the annual report.

The FSAI meet with MI through liaison meetings and in cross agency meetings with other competent authorities.

MI communication channels with other authorities

MI reports to their parent Government department, DCMNR

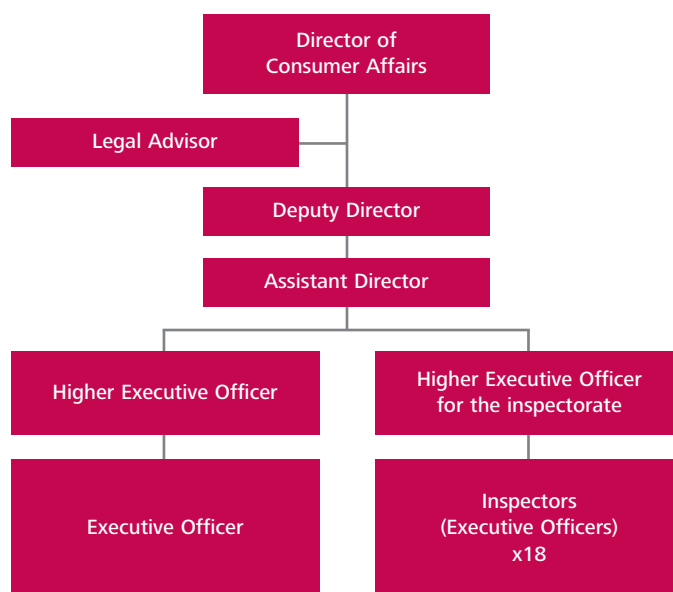
The MI provides analytical and technical support to the SFPA, MI reports on analysis to the SFPA and these bodies meet regularly.

2.2.7 OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS

2.2.7.1 Organisational structure of the ODCA

The role of the Office of the Director of Consumer Affairs is to enforce consumer legislation and to promote consumers interests. As regards official food controls, ODCA is responsible for the determination of compliance with food legislation by means of the inspection and verification of general food labelling information.

FIGURE 12: ODCA STAFF INVOLVED IN FOOD CONTROLS



Note: The ODCA will be amalgamated into the new National Consumer Agency (NCA) during 2007

2.2.7.2 Scope of responsibility of the ODCA

ODCA deals with general food labelling complaints and enquiries as they arise and it carries out labelling surveys. Other competent authorities facilitate in the investigation of commodity specific labelling complaints received by ODCA through referral of the complaint by ODCA.

The ODCA carries out surveys to check for compliance with legislative requirements regarding the general labelling, presentation and advertising of foodstuffs.

ODCA maintain records of the official controls carried out and follows up non-compliances with food business operators.

Further information on the ODCA food control activities will be found in the ODCA Service Contract.

2.2.7.3 ODCA reporting and communication channels

ODCA internal reporting and communication channels

ODCA internal reporting arrangements are generally in line with the organisational structure in Figure 12.

ODCA reporting and communication channels with the FSAI

The reporting and communication channels between the FSAI and the ODCA are set out in the ODCA Service Contract. These requirements include a schedule of liaison meetings between the FSAI and the ODCA, data transmission in the form of agreed datasets and quarterly and annual reports.

The FSAI meets with the ODCA through liaison meetings and in cross agency meetings with other competent authorities.

ODCA communication channels with other authorities

The ODCA liaise on a local level with other competent authorities (HSE, DAFF) with respect to specific food labelling issues.

2.2.8 NATIONAL STANDARDS AUTHORITY OF IRELAND (NSAI)

The National Standards Authority of Ireland is Ireland's Standards body; NSAI facilitates the development and publication of voluntary standards. The NSAI is also responsible for the provision of an independent certification service in respect of certification to nationally/internationally recognised standards for processes and services. This includes certification of natural mineral water and other bottled waters to the Irish Standard I.S. 432.

2.2.8.1 Organisational structure of the NSAI

NSAI has limited involvement in official control of food, the staff involved in food control activities are illustrated in Figure 13.

FIGURE 13: NSAI STAFF INVOLVED IN FOOD CONTROLS



2.2.8.2 Scope of responsibility of the NSAI

NSAI is responsible for the determination of compliance with legislative requirements in relation to the recognition and exploitation of natural mineral waters, which involves:

1. formal recognition of waters extracted from the ground as 'natural mineral water'
2. permitting companies to exploit (bottle and place on the market) the natural mineral water from named bore hole exits/extraction point
3. continual recognition of the natural mineral water by means of surveillance inspections confirming the water continues to satisfy legal requirements
4. ongoing renewal of permission to exploit by means of surveillance inspections
5. permitting companies to exploit from additional bore hole exits/extraction points and confirmation of originating source.

The NSAI maintain records of the official controls carried out and provides the business operator concerned with a copy of the report at least in the case of non-compliance.

Further information on the NSAI food control activities will be found in the NSAI Service Contract.

2.2.8.3 NSAI reporting and communication channels

NSAI internal reporting and communication channels

NSAI internal reporting arrangements are generally in line with the organisational structure in Figure 13.

NSAI reporting and communication channels with the FSAI

The reporting and communication channels between the FSAI and the NSAI are set out in the NSAI Service Contract. These requirements include a schedule of liaison meetings between the FSAI and the NSAI, data transmission in the form of agreed datasets and an annual report.

The FSAI meet with the NSAI through liaison meetings and in cross agency meetings with competent authorities.

NSAI communication channels with other authorities

The NSAI liaise on a local level with other competent authorities (HSE) with respect to specific issues regarding the recognition and exploitation of natural mineral waters.

2.2.9 CUSTOMS

The Customs Division of the Revenue Commissioners is responsible for collecting taxes and duties and implementing import and export controls. The Customs Division has a Memorandum of Understanding with the FSAI in relation to imports of products of non-animal origin. Customs work with DAFF in relation to products of animal origin. There is also collaboration between the two agencies on plants and plant products.

2.2.9.1 Organisational structure of the Customs division

FIGURE 14: THE CUSTOMS SERVICES HAS THE FOLLOWING NATIONAL AND REGIONAL STRUCTURE

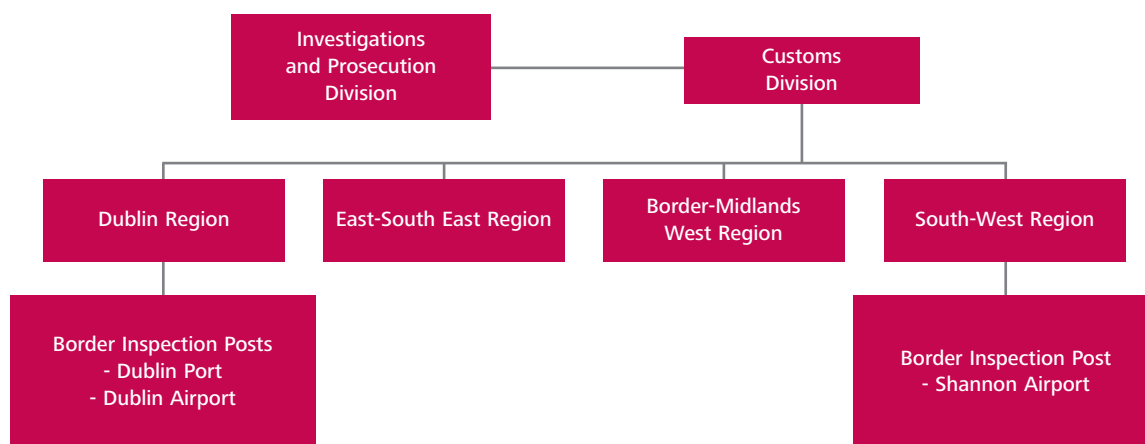


TABLE 2: CUSTOMS OFFICIALS BASED AT THE BORDER INSPECTION POSTS

	Dublin Port	Shannon
Enforcement staff	45	4
Ordinary control staff	70	Passenger 12
		Cargo 7
Dog handlers	2	1

Note: These staff are involved in all Customs duties, not just food controls.

2.2.9.2 Scope of responsibility of the Customs division

2.2.9.2.1 Products of non-animal origin

Customs are involved in import controls of products of non-animal origin subject to emergency measures and in the notification of products of non-animal origin found suspect during random documentary, identity and physical checks by Customs officials.

When Customs are advised of products subject to emergency measures they apply a Red or Orange routing to imports of the food bearing customs tariff numbers (CN codes) from the affected countries. Red routed entries will trigger a physical check on the goods and Orange routed goods will trigger a documentary check and possibly a physical check.

When suspect products of non-animal origin or foods subject to EU emergency measures are found Customs arrange to suspend release of the product concerned from customs control for up to a maximum of three working days and immediately notify the HSE or FSAI.

For further information on the Customs activities refer to the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the FSAI and Customs.

2.2.9.2.2 Products of animal origin

Customs are involved with DAFF in the control of the importation of live animals and products of animal origin (POAO) from third countries into the European Community at Border Inspection Posts (BIPs). Controls include documentary, identity and physical checks for POAO where Ireland is the first point of entry to the EU. Once a consignment has been cleared at any EU designated BIP, it enters into free circulation within the EU. There are three designated BIPs for imports from third countries into the Republic of Ireland; Dublin Airport, Dublin Port and Shannon Airport. Dublin Port and Shannon Airport are designated as BIPs for the import of food and Dublin Airport and Shannon Airport are designated as BIPs for the imports of live animals.

2.2.9.3 Customs division reporting and communication channels

Customs internal reporting and communication channels

Details of all seizures in Ireland are submitted to the Investigations and Prosecutions Division of the Revenue Commissioners. This information is categorised and entered into a database. Reports from this database are provided to the Customs Division.

Customs reporting and communication channels with the FSAI

The reporting and communication channels between the FSAI and Customs are set out in the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the FSAI and Customs, which includes a schedule of bilateral meetings between the FSAI and Customs and the provision of quarterly reports on seizures and imports of products subject to EU emergency measures.

Customs communication channels with other authorities

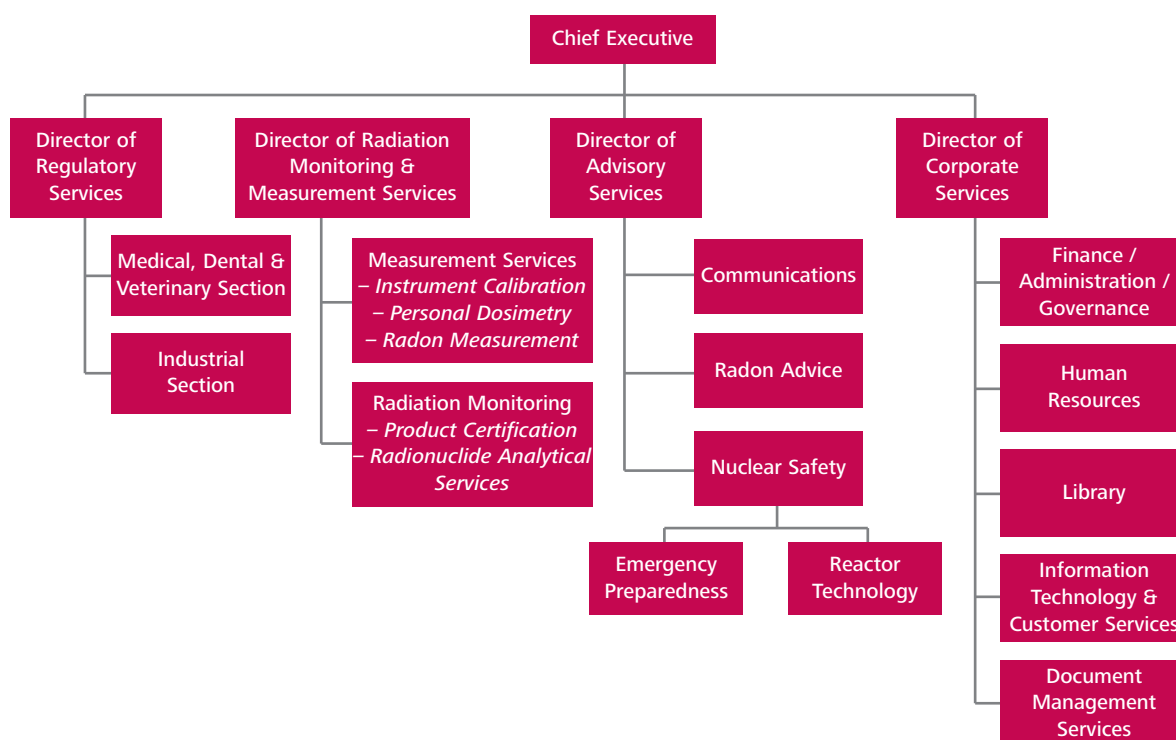
Customs liaise on a central and local level with competent authorities (HSE, DAFF, DCMNR, SFPA) with respect to specific issues regarding food imports.

2.2.10 THE RADIOLOGICAL PROTECTION INSTITUTE OF IRELAND

The Radiological Protection Institute of Ireland (RPII) is the national organisation with regulatory, monitoring and advisory responsibilities in matters pertaining to ionising radiation.

2.2.10.1 Organisational structure of the RPII

FIGURE 15: THE RPII HAS THE FOLLOWING ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE



2.2.10.2 Scope of responsibility of the RPII

The RPII carries out extensive monitoring of radioactivity in the food chain and the environment in fulfilment of its statutory obligation under the Radiological Protection Act, 1991 to "monitor activity or ionising radiation levels in anything in the State or in waters surrounding the State. These monitoring programmes are discussed at bilateral meetings between the FSAI and the RPII.

The RPII is also the responsible authority in relation to the granting of food irradiation licences to irradiation facilities. The granting of such licences is subject to there being in force a permit granted by the FSAI and a licence in respect of the irradiation facility granted under the Radiological Protection Act, 1991. These activities are carried out in accordance with the requirements of S.I. No. 297 of 2000 which gives effect to Directive 1999/2/EC.

Further details of the activities related to food control are outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the FSAI and the RPII.

2.2.10.3 RPII reporting and communication channels

RPII internal reporting and communication channels

RPII reports to the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

RPII internal reporting arrangements are generally in line with the organisational structure in Figure 15.

RPII reporting and communication channels with the FSAI

The reporting and communication channels between the FSAI and RPII are set out in the MoU, which includes a schedule of bilateral meetings between the FSAI and the RPII and the provision of reports and data and other documentation to the FSAI.

RPII communication channels with other authorities

RPII liaise on a local level with competent authorities (HSE, DAFF, DCMNR, SFPA) with respect to radioactivity monitoring programmes.

2.3 DELEGATION OF TASKS TO CONTROL BODIES

For the most part, official controls in Ireland are carried out by the competent authorities. DAFF has delegated the certification of organic food, feed and farming to a number of control bodies, as outlined in Table 3.

The Service Contract between the FSAI and DAFF specifies that DAFF may delegate a task or function to a third party subject to the agreement of the FSAI. DAFF provides regular updates on the activities of these certification bodies at liaison meetings between FSAI and DAFF's Organics Unit.

As regards the requirements of Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004 Article 5, the Organic Unit of DAFF is charged with the approval and supervision of these certification bodies.

TABLE 3: CONTROL BODIES AND THE SPECIFIC CONTROL TASKS THEY HAVE BEEN DELEGATED BY COMPETENT AUTHORITIES IN IRELAND

Competent authority delegating control task	Control bodies	Task(s) delegated
DAFF - Organic Unit	Organic certification bodies - Irish Organic Farmers and Growers Association (IOFGA) - Organic Trust - Demeter	Inspection and certification of organic food, feed and farming as required by Council Regulation 2092/91 (as amended) and by S.I. No. 112 of 2004

2.4 LABORATORIES INVOLVED IN OFFICIAL CONTROLS

There are a number of laboratories involved in official controls in Ireland. These laboratories fit into the categories listed in Table 4. Some laboratories perform the functions within a number of these categories.

TABLE 4: LABORATORIES INVOLVED IN THE OFFICIAL CONTROL OF FOOD

Type of Lab	Definition
National Reference Laboratory	National expert for specific parameter(s), the role of an NRL is defined in Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004 (Article 33)
Official laboratories	Laboratories which operate under the aegis of a Government department or competent authority that carry out the analysis of samples taken during official controls.
Other laboratories	1. Laboratories appointed by a competent authority for specialist surveys. 2. Reference laboratories used by a competent authority specialist testing. 3. Private laboratories used by a competent authority for official controls.

2.4.1 NATIONAL REFERENCE LABORATORIES

National Reference Laboratories (NRLs) are expert for specific parameter(s); the role of an NRL is defined in Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004 (Article 33).

Designation of NRLs is decided between the appropriate Government departments, with input from the relevant agencies and the FSAI. The designating Government department advises the Commission of the designated NRLs for Ireland.

The NRLs for Ireland corresponding to the Community Reference Laboratories (NRLs) listed in Commission Regulation (EC) No. 776/2006 amending Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004 are listed in Appendix 3 (Part A).

Accreditation status

Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004 Article 33(3) requires national reference laboratories to operate and be assessed and accredited in accordance with the European standards, EN ISO/IEC 17025, EN 45002, EN 45003.

The laboratories designated as Irish NRLs are accredited to ISO 17025, with the exception of two laboratories which have availed of the derogation in Commission Regulation (EC) No. 2076/2005 until 31st Dec 2009. These laboratories have initiated and are pursuing the necessary accreditation procedures.

The accreditation status of each of the laboratories designated as a NRL for Ireland is listed in Appendix 3 (Part B). The links to the scope of accreditation for each of these laboratories is included.

The requirement for food laboratories to maintain/pursue accreditation is included in the Service Contracts with the competent authorities responsible for these laboratories.

NRL activities

The NRLs from Ireland work with the CRLs, competent authorities and official laboratories to fulfil the requirements of Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004 Article 33(2).

NRL Activity	Status
Collaborate with the Community Reference Laboratory (CRL)	Contact details for the NRLs in Ireland have been provided to the Commission. The CRLs and NRLs are establishing linkages for collaboration.
Coordinate, for their area of competence, the activities of official laboratories	There is good co-ordination between NRLs and official laboratories from the same competent authority. Co-ordination between NRLs and official laboratories from other competent authorities is limited to specific monitoring programmes, e.g. the national residues monitoring programmes.
Where appropriate, organise comparative tests between the official national laboratories	The majority of official laboratories participate in recognised proficiency schemes. The organisation of comparative testing between laboratories is limited to specific monitoring programmes, e.g. Biotoxins Monitoring Programme.
Ensure the dissemination to the competent authority and official national laboratories of information that the CRL supplies	There are communication channels in-place for the sharing of information between the NRLs and the official laboratories from their competent authority and the competent authority they are associated with.
Provide scientific and technical assistance to the competent authority for the implementation of coordinated control plans	Currently there are no coordinated control plans in place with respect to Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004. Mechanisms are in place for NRLs to provide scientific and technical assistance to their associated competent authority and to the FSAI in relation to the implementation of coordinated control plans.

These functions have been identified as areas for development over the lifetime of this plan (see Section 4.2). The requirements in relation to the functions of food NRLs are incorporated in the service contracts with the competent authorities responsible for these laboratories.

2.4.2 OFFICIAL LABORATORIES

Official laboratories are laboratories which operate under the aegis of a Government department or a competent authority to carry out the analysis of samples taken during official controls.

Official laboratories are designated by a Government department in national legislation or through an administrative procedure.

Official laboratories involved in the National Control Plan (NCP) are listed in Appendix 4. Further details of types of samples tested and analysis carried out by these laboratories is available in the FSAI publication "An overview of the food laboratories in the FSAI's official agencies".

Accreditation status

Regulation 882/2004 Article 12(2) requires official laboratories to operate and be assessed and accredited in accordance with the European standards, EN ISO/IEC 17025, EN 45002, EN 45003.

The majority of the Irish official laboratories are accredited to ISO 17025, the remainder have availed of the derogation in Commission Regulation (EC) No. 2076/2005 until 31st Dec 2009 and have initiated and are pursuing the necessary accreditation procedures.

The accreditation status of each of the Irish laboratories designated as an official laboratory is listed in Appendix 4. The links to the scope of accreditation for each of these laboratories is included.

The requirement for food laboratories to maintain/pursue accreditation is included in the service contracts with the competent authorities responsible for these laboratories.

2.4.3 OTHER LABORATORIES

2.4.3.1 Laboratories appointed by a competent authority for specialist surveys

These laboratories are selected for specialist surveys when the analysis required is not available in an official laboratory. These laboratories are appointed on the basis of a tendering process. The tender document specifies the analysis required, the commodities to be analysed, the EU legislation containing the relevant criteria, analytical requirements and the reporting arrangements.

The tender information required from the applicant laboratory includes information on laboratory accreditation related to the analysis required, proof of participation in relevant external proficiency tests and inter-laboratory comparison schemes, details of the methodologies to be used, e.g. LODs, LOQs, internal standards, certified reference materials and method performance, quality assurance measures in place, information on experience in relation to the commodity and parameters.

Laboratories are selected based on their expertise and are subject to contractual arrangement with the relevant competent authority. These contractual arrangements include details of the tasks being delegated, the reporting arrangements (in particular any instances where immediate notification is required) and arrangements for audits or inspections, if deemed necessary.

Details of these laboratories are available to competent authorities involved in food controls through the FSAI extranet service Safety Net.

2.4.3.2 Reference laboratories used for specialist testing

Reference laboratories are used by competent authorities/official laboratories on an ad-hoc basis for confirmatory analysis or for further microbial identification, serotyping, phage typing and toxin detection.

Details of these laboratories are available to competent authorities involved in food controls through the FSAI extranet service Safety Net.

2.4.3.3 Private laboratories used by a competent authority for official controls

These laboratories are employed by competent authorities on a needs basis.

Details of these laboratories are available to competent authorities involved in food controls through the FSAI extranet service, Safety Net.

The relevant competent authorities are to develop mechanisms to ensure delegation of analysis to private laboratories fulfils the requirements of Regulation (EC) No.882/2004 (Article 5).

2.5 THE ORGANISATION OF OFFICIAL CONTROL BY COMPETENT AUTHORITIES

2.5.1 THE ROLE OF THE FSAI IN THE OFFICIAL CONTROL OF FOOD

2.5.1.1 FSAI activities to ensure co-ordination and consistency

The FSAI is responsible for co-ordination of food control activities within and between competent authorities, determining inter-agency supervisory arrangements and ensuring consistency of enforcement. This is achieved through:

1. management of the official control activities through the Service Contract arrangements
2. carrying out risk assessment to underpin risk management decisions/actions.
3. the provision of scientific and technical support to competent authorities through publications and training programmes.

The FSAI is directly responsible for the enforcement of some food legislation (see Section 2.5.1.2.5). The majority of food legislation is enforced by the competent authorities (official agencies) who carry out controls under Service Contract to the FSAI, i.e.

1. Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food
2. Health Service Executive
3. Local Authorities (27 County Councils and four City Councils)
4. Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources (DCMNR)/Sea-Fisheries Protection Authority
5. Marine Institute
6. Office of the Director of Consumer Affairs
7. National Standards Authority of Ireland.

2.5.1.1.1 Inter-agency supervisory arrangements

Schedule 1 of the service contracts specifies the legislation to be enforced by each competent authority. Together, these agencies make up a seamless food inspection service. The FSAI is responsible for establishing interagency supervisory arrangements to ensure that there are no gaps and to minimise overlaps. Effective enforcement of the hygiene package is being achieved through an inter-agency working group chaired by the FSAI (see Table 5).

2.5.1.1.2 Publications

The FSAI provide scientific and technical support to competent authorities and Industry. This is achieved through various publications: reports, guidance notes, codes of practice and information leaflets. These publications are publicly available on the publications section of the FSAI website. They have improved transparency by clearly setting out the specific legal requirements and recommendations for best practice. They also improve consistency by ensuring a standardised approach.

2.5.1.1.3 Food alerts

The FSAI is the coordinating body for food alerts and the contact point for the EU Rapid Alert System for Feed and Food (RASFF) in Ireland. Food incidents are investigated by the competent authorities in accordance with Code of Practice No. 5 – Food Incidents and Food Alerts. Local incidents will normally be investigated by one competent authority, but for those with a wider impact, the FSAI acts as a central contact point for gathering and issuing information from and to the competent authorities involved. The FSAI also provides support to the investigating competent authorities by providing information and scientific advice during the investigation and by contributing to the risk analysis process. The FSAI is responsible for the issue of national food alert and RASFF notifications (see Section 2.7.2 for details on mutual assistance).

2.5.1.1.4 Training

FSAI delivers needs-based professional development training programmes for officials in the competent authorities to ensure consistent interpretation and application of legislation. For further information on training see Section 2.9.

In addition, FSAI Guidance Note No.12 – The Inspection of Food Safety Training and Competence allows for a consistent approach by competent authorities to the inspection of the training and competence of staff dealing with food and the provision of advice to food businesses in relation to staff training.

2.5.1.1.5 Working groups

The FSAI chairs working groups with each of the competent authorities to progress issues in relation to official control of food specific to the competent authority. In addition, FSAI also chairs inter-agency working groups to discuss areas where a number of competent authorities are involved. Examples of some of the inter-agency working groups chaired by the FSAI are included in Table 5.

TABLE 5: INTER-AGENCY WORKING GROUPS INVOLVING THE FSAI AND THE COMPETENT AUTHORITIES INVOLVED IN THE OFFICIAL CONTROL OF FOOD

Working Group	Remit
FSAI-DoHC-HSE Food Safety Legislation Committee	To consider the implications of new and revised food control legislation for the HSE Food Control Service, to assess the enforcement priority for legislation listed in Schedule 1 of the HSE Service Contract and to determine the training needs of the HSE's Food Control Service arising from new and/or revised legislation.
FSAI-DAFF-LA Hygiene Package Working Group	The purpose of this working group is to ensure the consistent and correct interpretation/implementation of the hygiene package across the FSAI, DAFF and LAs.
Inter-agency Contaminants Working Group (FSAI-DAFF-DoHC-HSE-DCMNR/SFPA-MI-State Lab-Ashtown Food Centre)	To discuss and review the implications of new legislation on contaminants in an interagency forum. To identify the overlaps and gaps in terms of enforcement across the competent authorities (official agencies) involved.
Import Controls Working Group	Act as a cross-agency forum on matters relating to imported food controls, including identification of training needs of enforcement officers.
Molluscan Shellfish Safety Council (FSAI- DCMNR/SFPA-MI-HSE-an Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM))	The Molluscan Shellfish Safety Committee (MSSC) provides a national forum for all involved in the production and placing on the market of bivalve molluscs to discuss the safety of the product and the management of the industry from a consumer protection perspective.
Inter-Agency Supervisory Arrangements Working Group (HSE, DAFF, LAs, DCMNR, SFPA)	The purpose of this working group is to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. review current supervisory arrangements with a view to identifying any gaps or overlaps 2. set up an agreed protocol for transfer of establishments between competent authorities (official agencies) 3. review the approval processes under Regulation (EC) No. 853/2004 across the competent authorities (official agencies) involved, to ensure consistent implementation of the requirements of this Regulation 4. ensure a consistent implementation of the hygiene package across all of the competent authorities (official agencies) involved in food controls.

The FSAI maintains a list of working groups involving the competent authorities (official agencies) which is available to all competent authorities through the official agency extranet service, Safety Net.

2.5.1.1.6 Data management

The FSAI provides a data management service to collect and collate the official food control data. Each of the competent authorities maintains data on establishments, inspections, samples and analysis. The FSAI Data Management Group works closely with the competent authorities to ensure that data sets are routinely collected and standard approaches to data management are adopted. The FSAI develops and maintains data management systems for the collection, quality assurance, analysis and interpretation of data. This national data are used to monitor and evaluate official control systems, as a basis for risk assessment and to prepare reports to the Commission and EFSA.

In carrying out this work, the FSAI Data Management Group collaborate with EFSA and Eurostat.

2.5.1.2 FSAI control activities

The FSAI is directly involved in a number of control activities, including audits, inspections, certification/permitting, investigation of food incidents and alerts and monitoring and surveillance. As a priority, controls are targeted at areas of non-compliance or where there are suspected non-compliances.

2.5.1.2.1 FSAI audits

The FSAI carries out audits under the following headings:

- Targeted Audits – targeted audits determine compliance with a specific piece of European or National legislation. These audits are typically carried out in food business operations and are designed to verify compliance with the piece of legislation in question. Following the audit, the food business operation is issued with a report which details where appropriate any non-compliance identified. The competent authorities (official agencies) supervising the food business are responsible for ensuring that appropriate corrective action is put in place for each non conformance. Examples of targeted audits include SRM Audits, Labelling and Traceability Audits, and Honey Authenticity Audits. Other targeted audits are those carried out to determine the efficacy of specific programmes, for example the Marine Biotxin Monitoring Programme.
- Service Contract Audits – These audits are conducted to ensure that competent authorities (official agencies) adhere to the terms and conditions set out in their service contracts. The statutory basis for these audits is contained in Section 48(9) of the FSAI Act, 1998. The procedures and processes governing the way FSAI carry out audits of the competent authorities (official agencies) are set out in Schedule 5 of each of the Service Contracts. To comply with the requirements of Article 4(6) of Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004, these audits cover the following three points set out in Article 2(6) of Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004:
 - Verification of compliance with planned arrangements in order to provide assurances that official controls are carried out as intended and that any instructions or guidelines given to staff carrying out the controls are followed. This may largely be addressed by document review, but will also require on-site verification.
 - Verification of the effective implementation of planned arrangements. In order to assess effectiveness, that is the extent to which planned results are achieved, on-site operational implementation is included. This involves the assessment of the quality and consistency of the controls and typically involves on-site audit activities.
 - These audits endeavour to assess whether the planned arrangements are suitable to achieve the objectives of Regulation (EC) No.882/2004. This includes assessing the suitability of official controls, with regard, for example, to their frequency and the methods applied, having regard to the structure of the production chain(s) and to production practices and volume.
- FVO Closeout Audits - The FSAI has taken a proactive approach to closing out findings and recommendations contained in FVO Mission reports. Close-out audits are carried out, where necessary, to verify that the corrective action forwarded to the Commission have been fully implemented. A report on the status of the corrective action process is completed and sent to the competent authorities (official agencies) concerned. This report is also made available to the Commission services as required.

The FSAI carries out these audits in accordance with the annual audit programme. As the need arises the FSAI may also carry out unprogrammed audits. These audits arise out of food incidents or rapid alerts and are typically of an investigative nature. In all cases an audit report is issued to the auditee and where appropriate it is copied to the relevant competent authorities (official agencies). A corrective action plan is agreed between the auditee and the audit team. Confirmation that corrective action has been implemented is the responsibility of the relevant competent authority (official agency). The service contract liaison process is the mechanism through which verification of corrective action being implemented is verified to the FSAI.

FSAI audits are carried out in accordance with documented protocols and procedures, which are based on international standards such as ISO 19011:2002. Protocols include the scope, nature and extent of the audit, its legislative basis and details on the audit process and reporting arrangements. These protocols and procedures are part of the FSAI Quality Management System (QMS) and are therefore subject to internal audit by personnel independent of the audit activity and externally audits by the NSAI and the FVO.

2.5.1.2.2 Disease surveillance

The FSAI collaborates with the HPSC (see Section 2.2.3.1) in the control and prevention of foodborne illness in Ireland. The food alert system (described in Section 2.5.1.1.3) provides a rapid means of communication between the food business operators and other stakeholders regarding food products that pose a risk to the health of consumers and need to be withdrawn from the market or recalled.

2.5.1.2.3 Monitoring and surveillance

The FSAI provides scientific and technical input to surveillance and monitoring programmes organised by the competent authorities involved in food controls.

The FSAI co-ordinates a national microbiological surveillance programme in conjunction with the Environmental Health Service and Official Food Microbiological Laboratories in the HSE. This involves selecting three topics on an annual basis. The FSAI prepares a sampling protocol, prepares a questionnaire to collect information at the time of sampling, compiles the sample and test data and produces a report on the findings of these surveys.

The FSAI is responsible for the organisation of the surveillance activities required by EU co-ordinated control plans. This involves participating in the EU working group meetings to decide on the topics for these plans and advising the relevant competent authorities of the sampling and analytical requirements. The FSAI is also responsible for the compilation of the sample and test data and sending reports on same to the Commission.

The FSAI also organises and carries out a number of monitoring and surveillance programmes, such as:

1. national surveys, e.g. to detect genetically modified foods/food components, irradiated foods/food components, composition of food supplements, compliance with labelling requirements
2. specialist surveys of chemicals in food, i.e. additives or contaminants, e.g. persistent organic pollutants. Where monitoring is required and the capability/capacity for analysis is not available within the official laboratories, the FSAI organises specialist surveys using external laboratories
3. topical surveys are arranged to obtain information on areas where the FSAI are working with industry to achieve gradual, sustained and universal improvements, e.g. salt, prevalence of non-O157 VTEC in Irish minced beef.

2.5.1.2.5 Certification/permitting/authorisation

Activity	FSAI role
Certificates for free sale	The FSAI provides, on request, certificates of free sale for exported foods of non-animal origin based on analysis of the food, a positive inspection of the food business by the relevant competent authority (official agency) and where necessary an examination of the labelling. This activity is carried out in accordance with a standard operating procedure which is part of the FSAI QMS.
Permits for food irradiation facilities	In order to operate a food irradiation facility, the operator requires a licence from the Radiological Protection Institute of Ireland and a permit from the FSAI. These activities are carried out in accordance with the requirements of S.I. No. 297 of 2000 which gives effect to Directive 1999/2/EC.
Assessment of novel food applications	This activity is carried out in line with the requirements of Regulation (EC) No. 258/1997 and in accordance with a standard operating procedure which is part of the QMS.
Assessment of genetically modified food applications	This activity is carried out in accordance with the requirements in Regulation (EC) No. 1829/2003 and Regulation (EC) No. 1830/2003.
Assessment of food supplements	Food supplements are assessed in line with the requirements of S.I. No. 539 of 2003 which give effect to Directive 2002/46/EC. This activity is carried out in accordance with a standard operating procedure which is part of the QMS.
Assessment of foods for particular nutritional uses (PARNUTs)	This activity is carried out in accordance with the requirements of S.I. No. 579 of 2006 which gives effect to Council Directive 89/398/EEC, as amended.
Assessment of dietary foods for special medical purposes (Medical Foods)	Dietary Foods for Special Medical Purposes are assessed in line with the requirements of S.I. No. 64 of 2001, which gives effect to Directive 89/398/EEC ⁵⁶ , Directive 1999/21/EC, and Directive 2001/15/EC. This activity is carried out in accordance with a standard operating procedure which is part of the QMS.
Authorisation of food additives	Provisional national authorisation is granted in line with the requirements in S.I. No. 437 of 2000 (as amended) and S.I. No. 58 of 2004 (as amended) which give effect to Article 5 of Directive 89/107/EC, as amended. This activity is carried out in accordance with a standard operating procedure which is part of the QMS.
Notification of substances for approval for use in materials and articles intended to come into contact with foodstuffs	Notification to the European Food Safety Authority of substances for approval for use in materials and articles intended to come into contact with foodstuffs in accordance with the requirements of Regulation (EC) No. 1935/2004.

2.5.1.3 FSAI activities to foster an culture of compliance

To foster a culture of compliance, Ireland has taken a risk based approach to controls which protects public, animal and plant health, and consumer interests without imposing unnecessary burdens on the authorities that are responsible for undertaking official controls or on the food business operators that are subject to these controls.

2.5.1.3.1 FSAI Act enforcement provisions

The Food Safety Authority of Ireland Act, 1998 contains enforcement provisions which are in addition to the powers to prosecute and other provisions on specific pieces of food legislation. The provisions in the FSAI Act are designed to provide an improved means of reacting to and dealing with situations posing a risk to public health. The provisions in the FSAI Act are as follows:

- Improvement Notice – an Improvement Notice is issued if the competent authority is of the opinion that a premises or practice is of such a nature that if it persists, it will or is likely to pose a risk to public health. The notice outlines the breaches found and the remedial action required, and specifies the time period by when these breaches are to be remedied.
- Improvement Order - an Improvement Order is issued by the District Court if an Improvement Notice is not complied with. Improvement Orders are published on the enforcements section of the FSAI website and remain on the website for a period of three months from the date when the order is lifted by the competent authority.
- Closure Order – a Closure Order is issued if it is the opinion of the competent authority, that there is or there is likely to be a grave and immediate danger to public health at/or in the food premises. Closures Orders can refer to the immediate closure of all or part of the food premises, or all or some of its activities. The Orders may be lifted when the premises has improved to the satisfaction of the competent authority. Failure to comply with an Improvement Order may also result in the issuing of a Closure Order. Closure Orders are published on the enforcements section of the FSAI website and remain on the website for a period of three months from the date when the order is lifted by the competent authority.
- Prohibition Order - a Prohibition Order is issued if the activities (handling, processing, disposal, manufacturing, storage, distribution or selling food) involve or are likely to involve a serious risk to public health from a particular product, class, batch or item of food. The effect is to prohibit the sale of the product, either temporarily or permanently. Prohibition Orders are published on the enforcements section of the FSAI website and remain on the website for a period of one month from the date when the order is lifted by the competent authority.

These enforcement tools provide an alternative to a strictly punitive response to non-compliance and create an environment for compliance building.

2.5.1.3.2 FSAI working with the food industry

The FSAI aims to assist industry to achieve good hygiene standards and comply with the law. To achieve this goal, the FSAI has a number of mechanisms for consulting with industry.

The Food Safety Consultative Council (described in Section 2.2.1.1) provides a forum for stakeholders (including consumers and industry) to feed in to the food safety agenda.

In addition, the FSAI has established specific industry forums to allow competitors from a sector of the food industry to come together in a non-competitive arena to discuss food safety with the FSAI and advance best hygienic practice in their sector. Currently, there are three industry forums in place, the Retail Forum, the Food Service Forum and the Artisan Forum. These forums meet with the FSAI on a quarterly basis and discuss items such as impending food legislation and the approaches taken to food safety. The Retail Forum includes membership from the supermarkets and wholesalers managing symbol groups of independent retailers operating in Ireland. The Food Service Forum draws its membership from businesses and representative organisations in the catering sector. The Artisan Forum is composed of small business artisan food producers involved in food processing.

2.5.1.3.3 The National HACCP Strategy

A National HACCP Strategy was initiated in 2002 by the FSAI and the then Health Boards (now the Health Service Executive (HSE)), in order to tackle the low level of HACCP compliance in the catering and retail sectors. The objectives of the HACCP Strategy are to:

- aggressively promote HACCP at national and regional level
- demystify the concept of HACCP
- develop a targeted approach to ensuring full compliance with the law
- facilitate the development of an enhanced role for the industry in its own development of HACCP
- develop a consistent approach to implementation and enforcement of HACCP
- develop and implement an accurate measure of the success of the strategy.

Its goal is to bring about a significant increase in the number of food businesses that implement a food safety management system based on the principles of HACCP. The strategy is implemented via a steering committee and is scheduled to be reviewed in 2007. The associated Guidance Note (Guidance Note No. 11) to assess compliance with HACCP requirements is currently being revised in light of the HACCP requirements in Regulation (EC) No. 852/2004.

2.5.1.3.4 Guidance for industry

In addition, the FSAI provides training initiatives and guides for industry to create an environment for fostering compliance. The FSAI believes that Guidance Notes have a major role to play in assisting the food industry and regulators in Ireland, to achieve a high degree of compliance with legislation and with good practice generally.

Examples include the FSAI Guide to Food Safety Training Level 1 – Induction Skills which describes the standard of food safety training required of food handlers and non-food handlers in the Food Service, Retail and Manufacturing Sectors and FSAI Guidance Note 18 – Determination of product shelf-life which assists food business operators in deciding a reproducible and accurately determined shelf-life.

2.5.1.3.5 Accessibility to legislation and associated guidance

National and European legislation is available to competent authorities, food business operators and consumers through the FSAI website in the legislation section and the Compendium of Food Law (which is currently being updated).

Similarly, guidance for industry and enforcement staff is available to all stakeholders through the FSAI website in the publications section or as hardcopy documents from the FSAI publications office.

2.5.1.3.6 Support for industry developed Quality Assurance Schemes

Quality Assurance (QA) schemes, such as those developed by Bord Bia and Bord Iascaigh Mhara, set out best practice requirements, identify current standards, promote continuous improvement, promote food safety controls, set high standards of animal welfare and provide a marketing tool to food businesses. QA schemes are subject to independent inspection and some are accredited under EN45011. Most managers of QA schemes intend to progress accreditation for all QA schemes. Standards for QA schemes are developed by technical advisory committees made up of producers, processors, farm organisations and State agencies, such as the FSAI. The FSAI participates in the development of standards for QA schemes and in an advisory role on the overall management of QA schemes.

2.5.1.4 FSAI resources

Staffing resources

The primary responsibility for the enforcement of food law rests with the relevant competent authorities (official agencies) and is discharged through the service contract mechanism. In support of the competent authority (official agency) personnel, the FSAI has specialist staff with expertise in the areas of veterinary public health, environmental health, marine, biotechnology, toxicology, and audit who can participate in/advise on official controls where necessary.

Further details of FSAI staff in each of the FSAI divisions are available in Appendix 2.

In addition, 30 members of FSAI staff are authorised under the FSAI Act, 1998 to enforce food legislation.

Training resources

The FSAI has a specialist training unit, which provides training to both the competent authorities (official agencies) and industry. The training unit uses contract trainers for certain industry programmes.

IT resources

FSAI has a number of specialist IT resources, including:

- Safety Net, an extranet service for sharing information with official food control staff in the competent authorities
- databases to record establishments, inspections, sample and laboratory results data from the competent authorities (official agencies)
- marine biotoxin monitoring information on the FSAI website, based on laboratory results data submitted to the FSAI on a daily basis by the Marine Institute.
- enforcements database to record enforcements under the FSAI Act and for their publication on the enforcements section of the FSAI website.

2.5.2 DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES & FOOD

2.5.2.1 Organisation of official controls by DAFF

DAFF carries out official controls (verification, inspection, audit, sampling and analysis, monitoring, surveillance) in accordance with legislative requirements, the requirements of the service contract between DAFF and the FSAI, DAFF business plans and DAFF sampling plans.

DAFF is also responsible for the certification of meat, meat products and dairy products from approved establishments for export to third countries.

DAFF business plans include the control activities (inspection, sampling and analysis) to be undertaken to ensure compliance with the relevant legislation.

Inspections are carried out in accordance with an annual inspection programme or in line with the frequencies established in documented procedures. The criteria for determining the frequency of inspections include:

1. the outcome of previous inspections
2. compliance history
3. nature of risk to public health in terms of type of product produced
4. effective food safety management systems
5. self-monitoring programmes operated by the food business operator.

DAFF prepare annual sampling programmes for the monitoring of, e.g. residues, TSEs, pesticides and microorganisms.

Official controls are carried out in accordance with documented procedures (Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), Veterinary Procedural Notices (VPNs), laboratory procedures, aide memoirs, Manual of Operation, Procedures Manual, Guidance Notes and Codes of Practice (COPs)).

Further details on how controls are organised within the various DAFF service areas below are described in Chapter 3:

1. Agricultural Inspectorate
 - Dairy Produce Inspectorate
 - Egg and Poultry Inspectorate
 - Organics Unit
2. State Veterinary Service
 - Veterinary Public Health Inspectorate
 - Border Inspection Posts
3. Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food Laboratory Service
4. Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food Administration.

2.5.2.2 DAFF resources available for official controls

Staffing resources

DAFF provide FSAI with details of the staffing resources for official control of foods on an annual basis, as required by the DAFF Service Contract. Staffing resources are also specified in the DAFF business plans.

Further details on staffing resources within the various DAFF service areas below are described in Chapter 3:

1. Agricultural Inspectorate
 - Dairy Produce Inspectorate
 - Egg and Poultry Inspectorate
 - Organics Unit.
2. State Veterinary Service
 - Veterinary Public Health Inspectorate
 - Border Inspection Posts.
3. Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food Laboratory Service
4. Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food Administration.

Laboratory resources

The laboratory resources DAFF has agreed to provide for the official control of foodstuffs are listed in the service contract between FSAI and DAFF. DAFF provides the FSAI with details of any external laboratories used for official controls.

IT resources

The Information Systems Division of the DAFF is responsible for the maintenance and security of databases used by the services involved in food control. These databases facilitate data storage and the processing of reports in respect of the inspection and sampling programmes. Work is on-going to provide electronic data extract from this system to feed into a database of establishments, inspections and sample analysis in FSAI.

Training resources

DAFF has a specialist training unit. For further details on DAFF training see Chapter 3.

2.5.3 HSE

2.5.3.1 Organisation of official controls by the HSE

HSE carries out official controls (verification, inspection, audit, sampling and analysis, monitoring and surveillance) in accordance with legislative requirements, the requirements of the service contract between HSE and FSAI, HSE local food control annual service plans, regional/local sampling plans, national surveillance programmes and the National HACCP Strategy (see Section 2.5.1.3.3).

Official controls are carried out in accordance with standard operating procedures (SOPs), which are part of HSE's quality management systems (QMS), and FSAI Guidance Notes and Codes of Practice (COPs).

Standard inspection frequencies for establishments are set out in the Service Contract between the HSE and the FSAI. Frequency of inspection is related to risk categorisation of the establishment; the means of by which establishments are categorised by HSE is set out in FSAI Code of Practice 1. This COP also includes guidance to take account of the provisions in Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004.

Inspections by HSE are carried out in accordance with FSAI Guidance Note No. 1. This includes guidance on programmed and non-programmed inspections. Programmed inspections comprise of full and surveillance inspections.

Sampling is carried out by HSE to support inspection, as part of monitoring and surveillance programmes or as part of the investigation of an outbreak, incident, food alert or consumer complaint.

Local sampling plans for microbiological testing are agreed on an annual basis following consultation between the OFML and the local EHS. These sampling plans include national microbiological surveys which are developed on an annual basis by an FSAI-EHO-OFML working group, see Section 2.5.1.2.3. During the year there is on-going communication between the OFML and the EHS regarding these sampling plans. Microbiological test results are interpreted using the criteria in Regulation (EC) No. 2073/2005 and Guidance Note No. 3. Guidance Note No.3 is currently being revised to take account of the requirements of Regulation (EC) No. 2073/2005.

Regional sampling plans for chemical analysis are agreed on an annual, and three year rolling basis, following consultation between PALs, FSAI, and EHOs. The parameters and food types are chosen on the basis of risk. The regional programmes include any national and local surveillance requirements. During the year there is on-going communication between the PALs and the EHS regarding these sampling plans.

Priorities and areas for development are identified through various working groups. These activities are fed into the local food control annual service plan for the year ahead.

2.5.3.2 HSE resources available for official controls

Staffing resources

The staffing resources HSE has agreed to provide for the official control of foodstuffs are included in the Service Contract between the FSAI and the HSE. Staffing resources are also specified in the HSE local food control service plans.

Laboratory resources

Laboratory resources HSE has agreed to provide for the official control of foodstuffs are advised to FSAI as required by the Service Contract between the FSAI and the HSE. Laboratory resources are also specified in the HSE local food control service plans. The HSE provides the FSAI with details of any external laboratories used during official controls.

IT resources

HSE utilise a number of specialist IT resources for official controls, including:

1. information management systems for storing information on establishments, inspections and sampling
2. laboratory information management systems for storing information on samples and analysis.

Work is on-going to provide electronic data extract from both of these systems to feed into a database of establishments, inspections and sample analysis in the FSAI.

2.5.4 LOCAL AUTHORITIES

2.5.4.1 Organisation of official controls by LAs

LAs carry out official controls (verification, inspection, audit, sampling and analysis) in accordance with legislative requirements, the requirements of the Service Contracts between the LAs and the FSAI, Local Authority Veterinary Service Annual Service Plans and Local Authority Sampling Plans.

Official controls are carried out in accordance with standard operating procedures (SOPs), Guidance Notes and Codes of Practice.

Inspections

Hygiene inspections are carried out on a regular basis in low throughput slaughterhouses and cutting plants by the local authority veterinary officer.

In slaughterhouses ante-mortem and post-mortem examinations are carried out by veterinary officers or temporary veterinary inspectors. Otherwise, the frequency of inspection is based on nature of the food business, volume of activity and prior history of the establishment. A risk assessment of establishments is carried out in accordance with FSAI Code of Practice No. 3 on the Risk Categorisation, Inspection and Sampling Frequencies of Meat Manufacturing Premises. Inspections are carried out in accordance with standard operating procedures. Verification of meat labelling requirements is carried in accordance with FSAI Guidance Note 17 - The Labelling of Meat.

Sampling

Microbiology

Where appropriate each establishment has a sampling plan regarding microbiological testing of samples taken by food business operators as part of their own checks. The results of these may be examined by the LAVI in the course of inspections and audits. Official control samples are taken to support inspection findings by the LAVI. A microbiological sampling guidance document and risk assessment template for small slaughterhouses and meat manufacturing establishments has been recently finalised. Microbiological test results are interpreted using the criteria in Regulation (EC) No. 2073/2005 and Guidance Note No. 3. Guidance Note No. 3 is currently being revised to take account of the requirements of Regulation (EC) No. 2073/2005.

Each local authority carries out sampling for residues in accordance with a local residue sampling plan, which forms part of the National Residue Control Plan.

2.5.4.2 LA resources available for official controls

Staffing resources

Staffing resources each of the local authorities has agreed to provide for the official control of foodstuffs is included in each of the service contracts between the FSAI and the local authorities. Staffing resources are also specified in each of the Local Authority Veterinary Service Annual Service Plans.

Adequate resources are allocated to ensure that ante and post-mortem examinations are carried out on all animals at slaughterhouses.

Laboratory resources

Cork County Council agrees to provide laboratory resources for official control; the other LAs do not provide laboratory resources. The LAs provide FSAI with details of external laboratories used for official controls on a monthly basis. These laboratories fit into the category described in Section 7.3.3.

IT Resources

Each LA has its own information technology service. Work is on-going to provide electronic data extract from these systems to feed into a database of establishments, inspections and sample analysis in the FSAI.

Standard Operating Procedures are available to all local authority veterinary officials through an extranet service "Safety Net" provided by the FSAI.

2.5.5 SEA-FISHERIES PROTECTION AUTHORITY

2.5.5.1 Organisation of official controls by the SFPA

Since January 1st 2007, the food control activities of DCMNR have been transferred to a new regulatory authority, the SFPA.

The SFPA carries out official controls (verification, inspection, audit, sampling and analysis, monitoring, surveillance) in accordance with legislative requirements, the requirements of the service contract between DCMNR and the FSAI, the SFPA Annual Service Plan and SFPA sampling plans.

DCMNR guidance notes specify frequency of inspection based on the risk category of the establishment, high, medium or low.

SFPA, in conjunction with DCMNR, MI and the FSAI, are involved in the classification and monitoring of shellfish production areas and the biotoxin monitoring programme.

Classification and monitoring of shellfish production areas

Shellfish areas are classified by the microbiological quality of the water in accordance with Regulation (EC) No. 854/2004. Areas are assigned a classification of A, B or C by DCMNR based on microbiological monitoring. Sampling is carried out by SFPA. Codes of Practice for this activity are currently under development.

Biotoxin monitoring programme

Ireland has a national marine biotoxin monitoring programme to monitor shellfish harvesting areas for the presence of toxins produced by some species of marine phytoplankton (in accordance with Regulation (EC) No. 854/2004). The programme covers the following toxins, Diarrhetic Shellfish Poisoning (DSP), Azaspiracid poisoning (AZP), Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning (PSP) and Amnesic Shellfish Poisoning (ASP). Other toxins are also tested for on an ongoing basis. Sampling is carried out by the SFPA in accordance with the Code of Practice on Marine Biotoxins.

2.5.5.2 SFPA resources available for official controls

Staffing resources

Staffing resources the SFPA provides for the official control of foodstuffs are in line with the resources DCMNR agreed to provide in the service contract between the FSAI and DCMNR.

Laboratory resources

The Marine Institute (MI) provides analytical services for the SFPA. The activities of the MI are covered in Section 2.5.6.

IT Resources

Work is on-going to provide electronic data extract from SFPA to feed into a database of establishments, inspections and sample analysis in FSAI.

2.5.6 MARINE INSTITUTE

2.5.6.1 Organisation of official controls by MI

MI carries out a wide range of analyses of molluscan shellfish, farmed and wild fish, in accordance with legislative requirements, the requirements of the Service Contract between the MI and the FSAI, the annual MI sampling plan and the National Residues Control Plan.

Food safety monitoring ensures that Irish marine fish, shellfish and seafood products remain safe from elevated residues and contaminants. This monitoring complies with a range of EU Directives as well as with national requirements. Environmental monitoring is designed to assess levels, distribution and trends of man-made contaminants and naturally occurring biotoxins. Pollution may adversely affect the health of our seas and ultimately limit our ability, or that of future generations, to use the seas as a sustainable resource.

Analysis in the MI is carried out in accordance with documented procedures. The MI reviews results of analysis and looks for issues that require prioritisation.

The MI, in conjunction with DCMNR, SFPA and the FSAI, are involved in the classification and monitoring of shellfish production areas and the biotoxin monitoring programme.

Classification and monitoring of shellfish production areas (see Section 2.5.5.1).

The MI is responsible for the analysis of samples taken by the SFPA. Codes of Practice for this activity are currently under development.

Biotoxin monitoring programme (see Section 2.5.5.1).

MI is responsible for the analysis of samples taken by the SFPA and industry, in accordance with the Code of Practice on Marine Biotoxins. The latest data from these analyses are uploaded to the Irish Shellfish Monitoring Programme information website which provides competent authorities, the shellfish industry and members of the public with easy access to information on the biotoxin status of shellfish production areas in Ireland.

2.5.6.2 MI Resources available for official controls

Staffing resources

Staffing resources the MI has agreed to provide for the official control of foodstuffs are included in the service contract between the FSAI and the MI.

Laboratory resources

The MI is a laboratory which provides analytical services. In addition, MI provides the FSAI with details of external laboratories used for official controls.

IT resources

The MI has its own information technology service. Standard operating procedures (SOPs) are available to all MI staff through an intranet service.

The Marine Environment and Food Safety Services (MEFS) maintain records of food analysis for greater than five years.

2.5.7 OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS

2.5.7.1 Organisation of official controls by ODCA

The ODCA carries out inspections and verification of labelling information in accordance with legislative requirements, the requirements of the service contract between the ODCA and the FSAI and the ODCA annual survey plan.

Annual surveys are based on targeting areas where non-compliances have been observed or queries/complaints have been received. Control activities are carried out in accordance with the procedures manual.

Other competent authorities (FSAI, HSE, DAFF) facilitate in the investigation of commodity specific labelling complaints received by the ODCA through referral of the complaint by the ODCA.

2.5.7.2 ODCA resources available for official controls

Staffing resources

Staffing resources the ODCA have agreed to provide for the official control of foodstuffs are included in the service contract between the FSAI and the ODCA.

IT resources

The ODCA maintains a database for recording all food labelling complaints and enquiries. The ODCA also records survey data in a database developed in conjunction with the FSAI.

2.5.8 NATIONAL STANDARDS AUTHORITY OF IRELAND

2.5.8.1 Organisation of official controls by the NSAI

The NSAI carries out inspection and verification activities in accordance with legislative requirements, the requirements of the service contract between the NSAI and the FSAI and the NSAI annual business plan.

The NSAI carries out inspections for the initial recognition and permission to exploit natural mineral waters, as requested.

The NSAI carries out surveillance inspections of all natural mineral water producers three times per year to ensure legal requirements with respect to recognition and exploitation continue to be met. The NSAI take samples of source water from each company at least once per year for micro and chemical analysis.

2.5.8.2 NSAI resources available for official controls

Staffing resources

Staffing resources NSAI have agreed to provide for the official control of foodstuffs are included in the service contract between the FSAI and the NSAI.

Laboratory resources

The NSAI has an arrangement with official laboratories from the HSE to carry out the analysis of samples taken for official control of natural mineral waters.

IT resources

The NSAI has its own information technology service. Work is on-going to provide electronic data extract from these systems to feed into a database of establishments, inspections and sample analysis in the FSAI.

2.6 ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE APPLICATION OF HORIZONTAL LEGISLATION ACROSS DIFFERENT SECTORS/SUB-SECTORS

The role of the FSAI is to ensure consistent enforcement of horizontal food legislation across the different competent authorities (official agencies) involved in the official control of food. This is achieved through inter-agency working groups, cross agency guidance documents, cross agency training and consistency working groups. The effectiveness of the application of horizontal legislation is examined through FSAI audits and FVO missions.

Each of the competent authorities (official agencies) has agreed to work in partnership with the FSAI and its other official agencies to enhance consumer protection and ensure an effective inspection service.

2.7 CONTINGENCY PLANS AND MUTUAL ASSISTANCE

2.7.1 CONTINGENCY PLANS

The FSAI has an internal crisis management plan which is available to all staff on the FSAI intranet and in the library. The FSAI plan is linked to the EU plan. The plan clearly identifies the people involved and the circumstances under which the plan is initiated. All staff have been informed of the existence and purpose of the plan. People involved in the plan have received training to familiarise them with the contents of the plan and arrangements in the plan. Further training involving simulation exercises is proposed. Activation arrangements indicate when other agencies need to be involved; the FSAI plan includes contact details for government departments, competent authorities (official agencies) and other Member States. In the case of an emergency, the FSAI can be contacted by competent authorities via a 24 hour emergency phone number.

The FSAI crisis management plan will link to contingency plans in the relevant competent authorities (official agencies). It is a requirement in the service contracts for the official agency, in conjunction with the FSAI, to ensure that there are contingency plans in place at central and regional level for dealing with crisis incidents, large scale food safety incidents and outbreaks of food related disease.

Food incidents/alerts are dealt with by the FSAI or the competent authorities (official agencies), in accordance with Code of Practice 5 – Food Incidents and Food Alerts, see Section 2.5.1.1.3 on food alerts.

The FSAI delivered an inter-agency introductory training session on contingency planning, including simulation exercises, to all of the competent authorities (official agencies) involved in food controls in Nov 2004.

The Veterinary Public Health Service of DAFF has put in place, a contingency plan for products of animal origin setting out the procedures to be followed and the measures to be taken in the event of a serious food incident. The plan covers primary production of food of animal origin; importation of food animals and products of animal origin, slaughtering of animals, processing of products of animal origin and the transport, storage and distribution of products of animal origin.

The contingency plan describes the crisis planning measures which have been put in place to ensure that DAFF officials are ready to respond effectively and in a timely, coordinated and coherent manner to a food safety crisis, explains the crisis management procedures which are followed when DAFF is notified of or detects a serious food safety hazard involving live animals or food products of animal origin and specifies the responsibilities of DAFF officers and the legal basis with regard to the actions to be taken.

Hazards requiring consideration and possible management may be identified following the Department's routine controls on food production or may be notified by an external source, for example, through the EU Rapid Alert System for food and feed.

For further details see Chapter 3.

The HSE has local plans in place for dealing with outbreaks. The HSE is to establish a contingency plan in conjunction with the FSAI.

Contact details of local authority veterinary officers are listed in each of the local authority's emergency plans.

The MI and SFPA are to participate in the development of a contingency plan in conjunction with the FSAI. The MI will be involved in the scientific risk assessment and the SFPA in the risk management.

The Dept of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government has developed a National Emergency Plan for Nuclear Accidents (NEPNA). This plan illustrates how Ireland will respond to a nuclear accident and conforms to the requirements of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Safety Standard on 'Preparedness and Response for a Nuclear or Radiological Emergency'. The NEPNA includes an Emergency Response Co-ordination Committee (ERCC) which considers the technical assessment of the actual and potential consequences of the accident and advice on what countermeasures should be implemented. The FSAI is a member of the ERCC, with responsibility for food contamination issues.

Each service contract requires the official agency to provide the FSAI with a single central contact point for emergency/out of hours contact for emergency and crisis situations. Currently, out-of-hours cover in emergency situations is provided informally and on a 'goodwill' basis.

2.7.2 MUTUAL ASSISTANCE

Arrangements for mutual assistance:

Liaison body	Area of responsibility	Contact details
FSAI	Food	Contact: Consumer Protection Division Food Safety Authority of Ireland
		Address: Abbey Court, Lower Abbey Street, Dublin 1
		Telephone: +353 1 817 1300
		Facsimile: +353 1 817 1301
		E-mail: rapidalert@fsai.ie

The procedures for the FSAI and the competent authorities (official agencies) in relation to mutual assistance regarding food are documented in a Code of Practice 5 – Food Incidents and Food Alerts. The FSAI maintains the list of contact points responsible for food in other Member States.

2.8 SPECIFIC CONTROL PLANS

TABLE 5: COMPETENT AUTHORITIES INVOLVED IN SPECIFIC CONTROL PLANS

	FSAI	DAFF	SFPA	MI	HSE	LAs
National Residues Control Plan	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Pesticides Control Plan	✓	✓				

Official controls for specific control plans are integrated into business plans/ service plans/sampling plans of the various competent authorities involved and compliment other official controls.

2.8.1 NATIONAL RESIDUES CONTROL PLAN

Council Directive 96/23/EC on measures to monitor certain substances and residues thereof in live animals and animal products requires Member States to monitor animals and primary animal products to detect residues of unauthorised or banned substances, e.g. hormones, steroids and residues of permitted veterinary drugs in excess of the maximum permitted limits, e.g. antibiotics, anticoccidiostats.

The annual National Residues Control Programme for Ireland is developed by DAFF in consultation with FSAI, SFPA and LAs.

The Irish Annual National Residue Control Programme (NRCP) involves sampling of live animals and fresh meat (bovine, porcine, ovine), poultry, hen eggs, honey, wild and farmed deer, horses, milk, aquaculture (farmed finfish) and imported samples (from third countries). Sampling for this programme is carried out by DAFF inspectors, LA veterinary officers and Sea Fishery Officers.

The number of samples is based on throughput, sampling is spread throughout the year and sampling locations are proportionate to production. For each substance tested for, and each species or food type, the plan details the number of samples to be taken, the sample matrix, the laboratory to be used for analysis and the methods of analysis (LOD etc).

Further details are available in the Annual National Residues Control Plan which is in-place by the end of the first quarter of each year.

2.8.2 PESTICIDES CONTROL PLAN

Council Directive 96/23/EC requires monitoring of food of animal origin for pesticide residues. Council Directives 86/362/EEC and 90/642/EEC require the monitoring of food of plant origin for pesticide residues. The maximum residue levels (MRLs) are derived from these Directives until Regulation (EC) No. 396 of 2005 applies.

The National Pesticides Monitoring Programme is developed by DAFF in consultation with the FSAI. The number of samples per food type is based on consumption data for adults and children of the particular food and results over time for the presence of pesticides in this food. On the basis of this information the National Pesticides Monitoring Programme specifies the foods to be sampled, the number of samples to be taken and the pesticides they are to be tested for.

Sampling is carried out by DAFF inspectors and analysis is carried out in the DAFF Pesticides Control Laboratory.

Further details are available in the annual National Pesticides Control Plan which is available at the start of each year.

2.9 TRAINING OF STAFF CARRYING OUT OFFICIAL CONTROLS

2.9.1 TRAINING OF STAFF IN COMPETENT AUTHORITIES

Each of the competent authorities is responsible for the training of staff involved in official controls. A recruitment procedure for each of the competent authorities includes specific requirements with respect to minimum entry requirements in relation to educational qualifications. The competent authorities operate induction training programmes for new staff and systems are in place to ensure the continuous development of staff so they are kept up-to-date with current and anticipated requirements. Training needs are established on a one-to-one basis between staff and their managers through the Performance Management Development System (PMDS) or through local, regional, national forums which identify training needs for groups of staff. Training needs identified are used by each competent authority to prepare an annual training plan. Training is rolled out through local or national initiatives. Training records are maintained for each member of staff. Training is evaluated at a local level between staff and their management. Feedback on formal training events is gathered using evaluation forms. For those competent authorities that operate a Quality Management System (QMS), procedures in relation to training are part of the QMS and are subject to audits for certification to ISO 9001:2000/or accreditation to ISO 17025.

In order to be registered in the Veterinary Council of Ireland's Continuing Education Accreditation Scheme, Veterinary Surgeons must obtain 20 or more Continuing Veterinary Education (CVE) points each year.

For further details on DAFF training see Chapter 3.

2.9.2 FSAI ROLE IN TRAINING

The Service Contracts between the FSAI and the competent authorities involved in food control include requirements in relation to the provision of induction training and continuing professional development to ensure all staff performing official controls are kept up to date in their area of competence.

The FSAI also provides training for official control staff. The FSAI develops and implements these training programmes in consultation with the relevant competent authorities. The FSAI provides training to:

1. educate official control staff on the requirements of new/revised legislation
2. role out the application of new guidance notes or codes of practices
3. allow for standardised approaches to new activities.

The aim is to ensure a consistent understanding and application of new legislation, new guidance or new procedures.

The FSAI is the national contact point for training provided by the Commission under Article 51 of Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004. This role involves disseminating information to the competent authorities (official agencies), coordinating nominations, ensuring a fair distribution of participant places and forwarding completed registration forms to the Commission within the guidelines and timeframes set by them. The FSAI provides feedback to the Commission on their training activities and assists in the development of future training programmes.

Training needs for official control staff are identified through liaison meetings, working groups and feedback from other training events. Training priorities are decided on an annual basis when preparing FSAI business plans, these plans allow for a certain amount of flexibility to take account of training needs identified/ re-prioritised during the year.

The FSAI maintains the following records in relation to the training programmes it provides:

1. training material used (electronic record)
2. attendance records (paper record)
3. evaluation forms (paper record, retained for 6-8 months)
4. compilation of information from the evaluation forms (electronic record).

The FSAI is currently developing a database to track the officials that attend FSAI training programmes, the competent authority (official agency) they work for and the training attended. The FSAI will start to populate this database from January 2007.

Training is rolled out either formally as a national or regional training event or informally as part of a national or regional meeting. Details of training given in relation to the Hygiene Package are outlined in Appendix 5. The FSAI staff involved in official controls also attend these training events.

Training is evaluated by reviewing the evaluation forms circulated at the training event, requesting feedback at liaison meetings with the participating competent authorities and by collating any comments received by FSAI staff involved in the training during/after the training events. For training programmes that are run on a phased basis, the FSAI incorporate a review of progress between each of the phases. At the end of the year, the training programme is reviewed to assist in determining priorities for the following year.

Activities in relation to training are part of the FSAI QMS, and training procedures are subject to ISO 9001:2000 certification audits by the NSAI.

The FSAI audits to determine compliance with the requirements of Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004 may include an assessment of training provided to authorised officers by the relevant competent authority/official agency. Where non compliance with the training requirements of this regulation is identified, corrective action will be required.

It should be noted that the FSAI has a dual role with respect to training; it assists competent authorities in meeting their training requirements and it is also responsible for raising and harmonising standards of food safety training in the food industry

2.10 DOCUMENTED PROCEDURES, QUALITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS AND AUDITS

2.10.1 DOCUMENTED PROCEDURES

All official controls are carried out in accordance with documented procedures, e.g. standard operating procedures, veterinary practice notes, guidance notes, codes of practice, aide memoirs. For a number of competent authorities, these documented procedure form part of a QMS, which, for some, is certified to ISO 9001:2000 or in the case of laboratories, accredited to ISO 17025 (see Table 6).

TABLE 6: QUALITY PROCEDURES IN COMPETENT AUTHORITIES

	FSAI	HSE	DAFF	LAs	SFPA	MI	ODCA	NSAI
Documented Procedures	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Internal Audit	✓	✓	✓	X ^b	X ^d	✓	X	✓
QMS	✓	✓	X ^c	X ^c	X	✓	X	✓
Certification of QMS to ISO 9001:2000	✓	✓ ^a	X	X	X	✓	X	✓
Accreditation of Lab QMSs to ISO 17025	N/A	✓	✓ ^e	X	N/A	✓	N/A	N/A

✓ In place

X Not currently in place

^a The QMSs in the majority of EHS offices are certified to ISO 9001:2000

^b 1 LA operates an internal audit system

^c QMS is under development

^d Propose to develop an internal audit system

^e Accreditation to ISO 17025 for some laboratories.

2.10.2 INTERNAL AUDIT SYSTEMS

The majority of competent authorities in Ireland have an internal audit system (see Table 6) to ensure the efficient and effective implementation of documented procedures. Internal audits are carried out according to an annual internal audit programme. Internal audit are carried out in accordance with documented procedures and in so far as possible, audits are carried out by personnel independent of the function being audited. For those competent authorities with certified/accredited Quality Management Systems (see Table 6), the internal audit system is an integral part of the QMS and is subject to external certification /accreditation audits.

Competent authorities are required under Article 4(6) of Regulation (EC) No.882 to carry out internal or have external audits carried out to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Regulation. The audits described in Section 2.5.1.2.1 will complement internal audits, and in the case of competent authorities who do not have the resources to carry out internal audits will fulfil the requirements of the Regulation.

Certification audits are carried out once or twice a year by the certification bodies National Standards Authority of Ireland or SGS Ireland Ltd; laboratory accreditation audits are carried out annually by the Irish National Accreditation Board. These audits monitor for compliance with the requirements of the standard ISO9001:2000 or ISO 17025 and determine adherence to defined SOPs/process flows.

The internal audit systems are focussed on the requirements of the standards ISO9001:2000 or ISO 17025 and are currently being expanded to take account of the requirements of Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004. The process of continual improvement, which is a requirement of these standards, will allow for the incorporation of required activities under Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004 into the competent authorities' Quality Management Systems. These activities would then be subject to internal audit and external audits.

The internal audit systems include procedures to ensure appropriate measures are taken in the light of results of internal and external audits.

In general, the service contracts between the FSAI and the competent authority include requirements in relation to documented procedures and/or a quality management system.

Independence of the external audits is assured by certification of the external audit bodies to I.S. ISO/IEG Guide 62/EN 45012.

2.11 COMPLIANCE WITH THE OPERATIONAL CRITERIA OF REGULATION (EC) NO. 882/2004

Within competent authorities, the management structures are responsible for ensuring compliance/conformance with the operational criteria in Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004.

Operational criteria are a key aspect of the negotiation process for service contracts which are reviewed and renegotiated every three to five years.

The liaison meetings between the FSAI and the competent authorities provide forums to address issues in relation to operational matters which affect a competent authority's ability to meet the requirements of the service contract. These operational matters are raised at management level.

Internal/external audit schemes will be designed to assess whether competent authorities meet the operational criteria set out for them in Regulation (EC) No.882/2004.

CHAPTER 3:

THE NATIONAL CONTROL SYSTEMS FOR FEED, PLANT HEALTH, ANIMAL HEALTH AND ANIMAL WELFARE

3.1 INTRODUCTION

In Ireland, the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries & Food is the competent authority for the development of policy, the negotiation of rules at European Community level and the implementation in national law of those rules for the following areas:

- primary production of food, excluding fish
- slaughter, cutting, preparation and processing of foods of animal origin, excluding fish, up to, but not including, retail level.

The Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food is also the competent authority for the development and implementation of official controls in the above areas, with the exception of slaughter, cutting, preparation and processing of foods of animal origin in those smaller premises, which were formally restricted to trading on the national market. The controls in these smaller premises are implemented by the local authority veterinary services.

The Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries & Food is also the competent authority for:

- feed safety
- animal health
- animal welfare
- plant health.

3.2 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES & FOOD

The strategic objectives of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food (DAFF) are to:

- develop an internationally competitive consumer-focused agri-food sector and support and facilitate trade in agriculture and food
- ensure the highest standards of food safety and consumer protection, animal health and welfare and plant health
- promote the development of the rural economy and of environmentally friendly and sustainable systems of agriculture, forestry and food production and assist structural change
- operate all our schemes and programmes in an efficient and effective manner, and ensure the highest standards of corporate and financial management and accountability in all our activities
- develop our human and physical resources, our operational capabilities and ensure the delivery of quality service and public service modernisation.

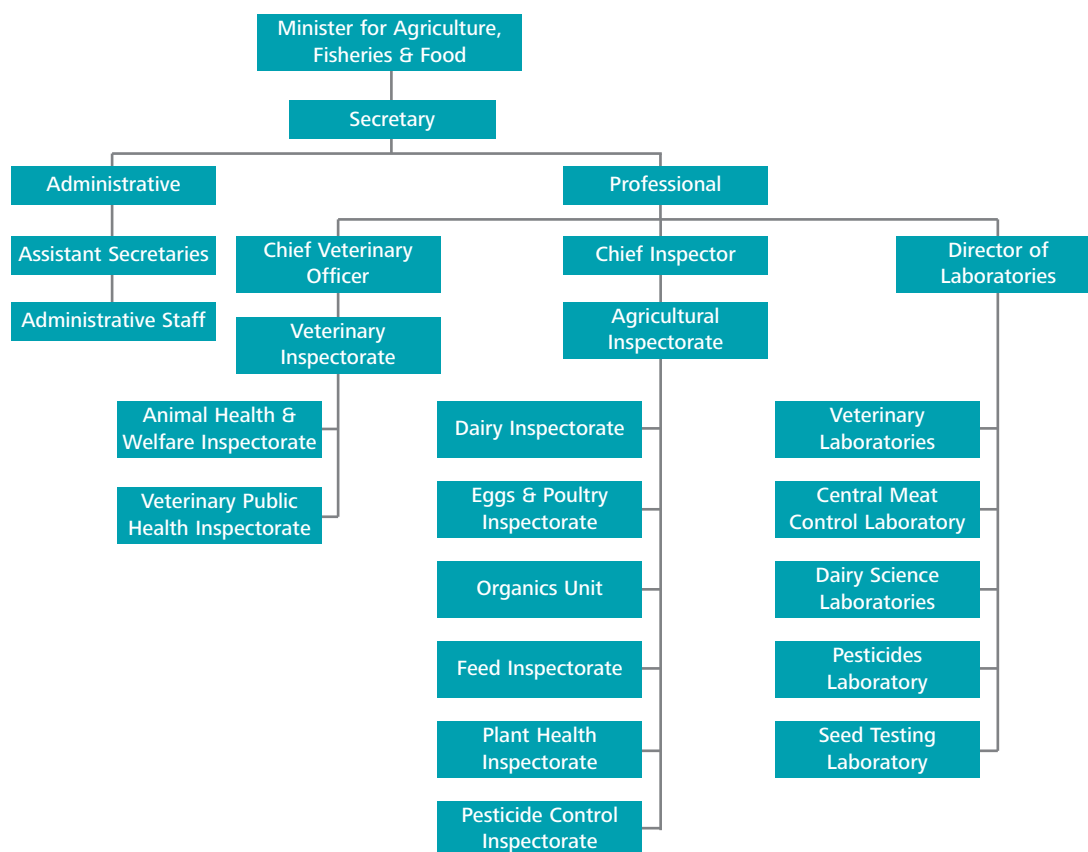
The mission statement of DAFF is to lead the sustainable development of a competitive, consumer-focused agri-food sector and to contribute to a vibrant rural economy and society. The European model of agriculture, to which Ireland subscribes, acknowledges the linkages between the agriculture sector, the variety, safety and quality of food production, the rural economy and the protection of the environment. Consequently, DAFF addresses a broad range of issues including food safety and quality, consumer demands, the competitiveness of the agri-food sector, animal health and welfare, the rural economy and environmental management. The agri-food sector includes primary production, forestry, food and drink sector.

DAFF pursues its objectives through:

- the enforcement of strict regulatory standards regarding registration, approvals, identification and labelling, farm inputs, animal health, animal welfare, veterinary hygiene, animal remedies, plant health and pesticides
- the enforcement of EU and national rules relating to transport, marketing centres, processing plants, storage and distribution operations
- the control of imports and exports of animals, plants and animal and plant products
- the network of veterinary research laboratories, dairy science laboratories, the pesticide laboratory and private laboratories
- close co-operation with the FSAI and other Government agencies.

3.3 DAFF ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE IN RELATION TO OFFICIAL CONTROLS

FIGURE 16: ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES & FOOD



DAFF uses a business model known as the Performance Management Development System (PMDS). This model has three key elements as follows:

- **Statement of Strategy** -this defines the goals and objectives of DAFF in relation to broader government policy and EU obligations.
- **Business Plan** - each division within DAFF must complete a business plan based on the objectives in the Annual Statement of Strategy that are relevant to the work of that division. The business plan details the objectives of the division, the actions necessary to achieve these objectives, the performance indicators for each action, the prioritisation of the actions and the staff resources which are to be allocated to it. The business plan is drawn up annually by the management committee.

- **Role Profile** - individual staff members must complete a role profile which identifies the work areas where they have responsibilities and sets targets relevant to these. The role profile also identifies the skills and qualifications which are necessary for their job and identifies training requirements, in the form of a training plan, which will help them to perform their duties better. These individual role profiles are agreed in consultation with line management.

3.3.1 STATE VETERINARY SERVICE

3.3.1.1 Role of the state veterinary service

The State Veterinary Service (SVS) of DAFF advises the Minister on matters of animal health and disease, zoonoses, and public health in so far as it relates to food and products of animal origin. It assists in the preparation, implementation and enforcement of European Union and National legislation, implements control measures to protect the health of the animal and human populations, and provides certification for animals and animal products intended for export.

Veterinary officers are authorised under the relevant legislation to enforce EU and national measures relating to animal health and welfare, including legislation concerning the control of animal disease, veterinary medicines, and the hygienic production of foods of animal origin, by routine inspection and sampling, by investigation and the acquisition of evidence, and by legal process in the courts, often in co-operation with the Garda (police) and Customs officers.

3.3.1.2 Organisational structure of the state veterinary service

The Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) and a management team are based in Department headquarters in Agriculture House, Kildare Street, Dublin 2.

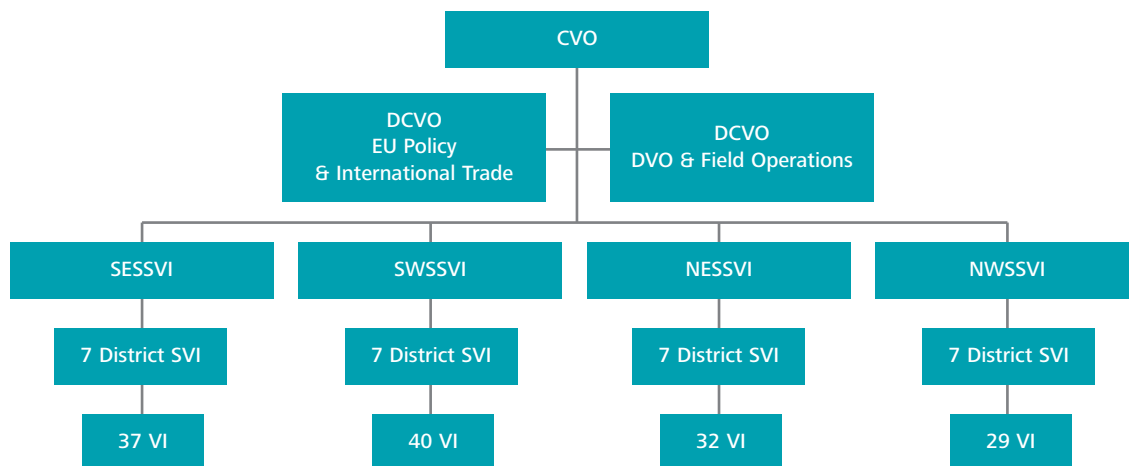
FIGURE 17A: ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE STATE VETERINARY SERVICE – MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE



Animal health, animal welfare, on-farm controls relation to TSEs, zoonoses, controls of veterinary medicines

In Ireland, the national veterinary service is sub-divided as follows: four regional animal health and welfare inspectorates (North East (NE), North West (NW), South East (SE), South West (SW)) each under the supervision of a Senior Superintending Veterinary Inspector (SSVI). There are 28 District Veterinary Offices, each of which is under the supervision of a Superintending Veterinary Inspector (SVI) and staffed by Veterinary Inspectors, Agricultural Officers and administrative and clerical staff. The District Veterinary Offices are responsible for animal health and animal welfare, on-farm TSE controls, rendering plants, knackerries and for the implementation of controls on residues in live animals.

FIGURE 17B: ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE STATE VETERINARY SERVICE – STAFF RESPONSIBLE FOR ANIMAL HEALTH, ANIMAL WELFARE, ON-FARM CONTROLS RELATION TO TSES, ZOOONOSES, CONTROLS OF VETERINARY MEDICINES

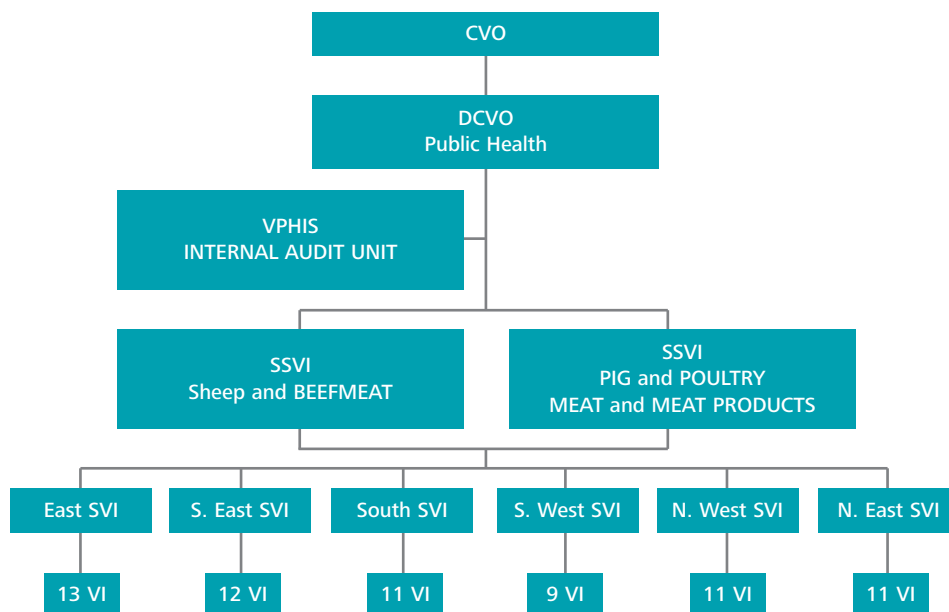


Veterinary public health

There are six regional veterinary public health inspectorate regions (East, South East, South, South West, North West and North East) each under the supervision of a Superintending Veterinary Inspector.

Slaughterhouses and meat processing plants are supervised by Veterinary Inspectors of the Veterinary Public Health Inspection Service (VPHIS) of the DAFF. Veterinary Inspectors are permanently located in all the larger meat and poultry slaughtering and processing plants and are responsible for the provision of the ante and post-mortem inspection service, inspections of structural and operational hygiene standards and controls on residues. Other plants are visited and inspected regularly for compliance with health and hygiene regulations. Officials working for DAFF are full-time government employees.

FIGURE 17C: ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE STATE VETERINARY SERVICE – STAFF RESPONSIBLE FOR VETERINARY PUBLIC HEALTH



3.3.1.3 Staffing resources of the state veterinary service

Professional and technical staff

Veterinary Inspectorate (all grades)	338
Temporary Veterinary Inspectors (meat establishments)	705
Laboratory Technicians (all grades)	77
Agricultural Officers (all grades)	550

Headquarters administrative staff

Animal Health Welfare/Disease Eradication Divisions	95
Meat Hygiene/Meat Policy Divisions	42

District Veterinary Office administrative staff 537

Centrally

Professional Veterinary Staff:

CVO	1
DCVO	3
SSVI	12
SVI	53
VI	230
DVRL	1
DDVRL	1
SSRO	3
SRO	14
RO	20
Total	338

Technical Staff (Agriculture Officers - all grades):

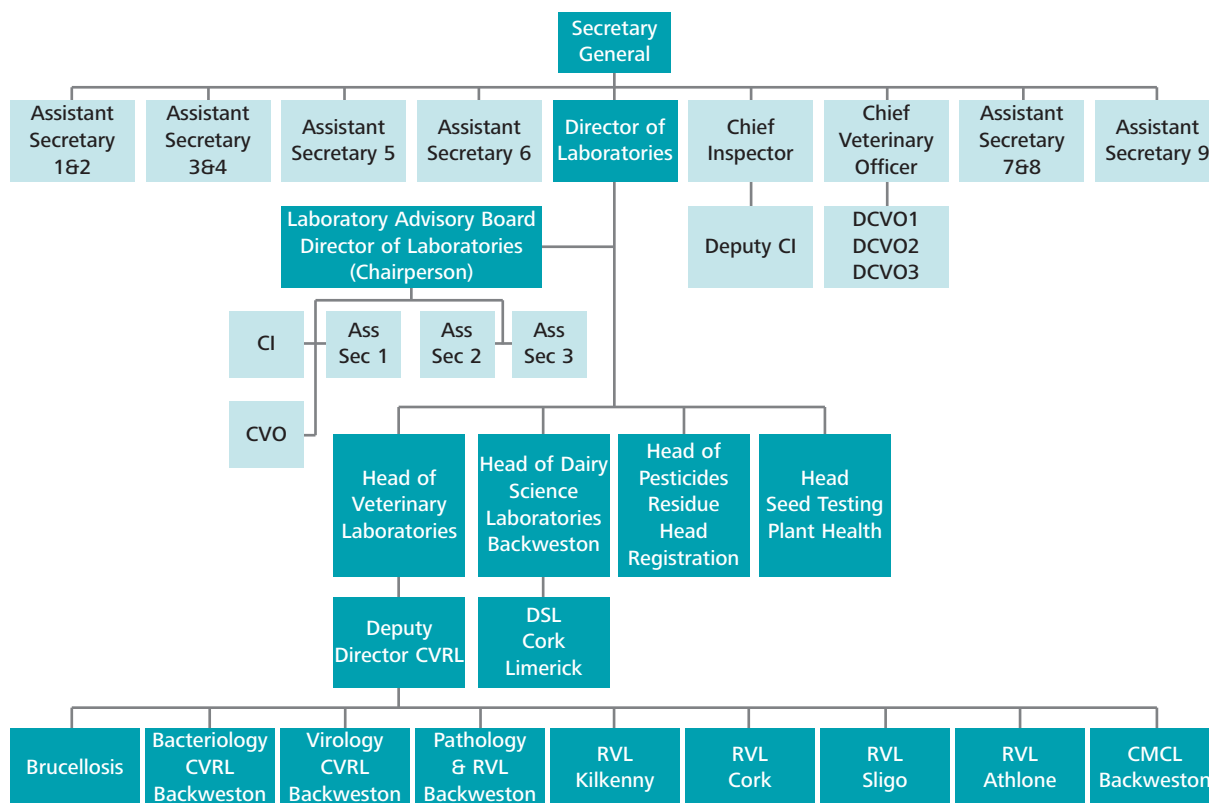
District Veterinary Offices	212
Public Health	309
Poultry	21
Veterinary Medicines	8
Total	550

3.3.2 DAFF LABORATORY SERVICES

3.3.2.1 Overview of DAFF laboratory services

DAFF primary laboratories are located in Backweston Campus, Young's Cross, Celbridge, Co. Kildare. The veterinary laboratories include the Central Veterinary Research Laboratory (CVRL), Central Meat Control Laboratory (CMCL), Blood Testing Laboratory (BTL) in Cork and five Regional Veterinary Laboratories (RVL's) located in Cork, Limerick, Kilkenny, Sligo and Athlone. The agriculture laboratories include the Pesticide Laboratory, Central Plant Laboratory (comprising the Seed testing Laboratory and the Plant Health Laboratory) and the Dairy Science Laboratory (DSL). The DSL has associated regional laboratories in Cork and Limerick. The State laboratory is also located on the Backweston Campus.

FIGURE 18: MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE OF THE DAFF LABORATORY SERVICE



Management Advisory Committee (MAC)

The DAFF MAC oversees the work of the DAFF, including the veterinary and agriculture laboratories. The laboratory service is headed by the Director of Laboratories who is a member of MAC. The Director reports to DAFF's Secretary General in relation to the organisation and management of the laboratories. The Director has overall accountability for the totality of services provided by the laboratories. A Laboratory Advisory Board supports and advises the Director on the continued development and improvement of the laboratory service. The Board meets regularly to agree the role, activities, resources and performance of the laboratories. Membership of the Board is decided by the MAC and currently includes the Director of Laboratories, the Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO), the Chief Inspector (CI), and four Assistant Secretaries whose areas of responsibility involve interaction with the laboratories. The CVO and CI have broad ranging responsibilities in their respective areas of which the laboratory network is a component. The CVO is supported by four deputies (DCVO's) one of who is the Director of the CVRL. The CI is supported by one Deputy (DCI).

The Director of Laboratories is currently supported by senior managers of each of the laboratories and a Head of Support Services.

The mission of the laboratory service is outlined in the DAFF Statement of Strategy 2005 – 2007. The mission statement for each laboratory service is outlined in Appendix 6. In this regard, each head of a laboratory undertakes an annual business planning exercise which links the laboratory's mission, objectives and key performance indicators to the Strategy Statement of the Department. In the majority of cases, these business plans also highlight current organisation structures and/or re-sourcing within the laboratory. MAC must approve the annual business plans. Interdependencies and communication channels exist across the laboratory structure. Other stakeholders interact with laboratory management frequently. These stakeholders include Assistant Secretaries of the Department who may seek advice as appropriate on policy matters or information to respond to ministerial questions etc. Equally, veterinary laboratory management communicate regularly with the District Veterinary Offices (DVO's) while agricultural laboratories depend on other internal divisions, such as the Dairy Regions Division and external customers and stakeholders, such as the FSAI. Other cross functional communications happen with the Livestock Policy, ERAD and Animal Health and Welfare Divisions.

3.3.2.2 DAFF veterinary laboratories

The Director of Veterinary Laboratories (DCVRL) is responsible for the management and operation of all the DAFF veterinary laboratory facilities. This includes the CVRL, CMCL, BTL and six RVLs.

The DCVRL reports directly to the Director of Laboratories and is accountable to the Director for the performance of the veterinary laboratories. Working relationships exist with the Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) in relation to veterinary policy, particularly those associated with the activities and functions of the veterinary laboratories. The DCVRL is supported by a Deputy Director (DDVRL).

3.3.2.2.1 The Central Veterinary Research Laboratory (CVRL)

The CVRL supports the implementation of national and EU legislation. It provides clinical diagnosis and research services to the livestock and poultry industries in key defined clinical areas, which are grouped into pathology, bacteriology and virology units. The laboratory also provides a support service to the RVL's in areas such as specialised testing. In this regard, it has both central and supporting roles in relation to national disease surveillance and control schemes.

Objectives of the CVRL

A key objective of the CVRL is to provide comprehensive diagnostic, surveillance and research service to the livestock and poultry industries by carrying out analysis and investigations. The CVRL plays an important statutory role in supporting the implementation of EU and national legislation. It has central and supporting roles in relation to national diseases surveillance and control schemes, providing laboratory services, including diagnosis, examinations and research, to the livestock and poultry industry. In this regard, it provides highly specialised veterinary expertise in support of the formulation and operation of the Department's animal health policy.

In its role as a National Reference Laboratory for many List A (exotic) and other diseases or tasks (Table 1), the CVRL is required to provide the necessary diagnostic and research laboratory support as required under EU and national legislation. This also entails developing test methods for the same and participating in proficiency trials relation to List A (exotic) and other diseases.

In addition, the CVRL also undertakes to:

- testing of samples to facilitate trade in animals and their products
- provide laboratory support for national disease eradication programmes
- conduct investigations of animal disease outbreaks
- carry out inspections/audits of private laboratories working for DAFF
- validation of compliance of continuous rendering plants under TSE regulations
- engage in R & D as appropriate.

The priorities vary by speciality but clinical diagnosis and testing for List A Diseases is the key function and priority of the laboratory service.

Regional Veterinary Laboratories have been established across the country to serve the needs of the local livestock, poultry and feed industries. The six RVLs are located in Dublin, Kilkenny, Athlone, Sligo, Limerick and Cork. They provide a specialist diagnostic pathology service in support of the department's animal disease surveillance functions. In addition, they provide laboratory services on a regional basis, carrying out clinical diagnosis testing and examinations (such as post-mortem).

The RVLs are managed by SROs who report directly to the Deputy Director with the exception of the Dublin RVL. The Dublin RVL reports through the CVRL structure.

The Blood Testing Laboratory carries out veterinary laboratory services to deal with brucellosis eradication and infection in general. The laboratory is located in Cork and is managed by an SRO who reports to the Deputy Director.

Organisational structure of the CVRL

The laboratory is organised by a scientific discipline, namely bacteriology/ parasitology, pathology and virology. Each division is headed by an SSRO who is responsible for management of the unit on a day-to-day basis. The SSRO's liaise closely with the DVRL and the DDVRL of the laboratory, the heads of the other Dublin-based divisions and the Farm Manager at Longtown. The SSROs report directly to the DDVRL and DVRL.

Each division of the CVRL is sub-divided into further levels of specialised units. The Bacteriology division is supported by three SRO's who manage laboratory staff in the areas of parasitology and bacteriology (Tuberculosis, Brucellosis, Salmonellosis and other zoonoses etc). The pathology division is supported by three SROs who focus on biochemistry, gross post mortem examinations, histopathology and immunohistochemistry. The Virology division has a complement of two SROs. The division uses a wide range of complex techniques associated with virus isolation and identification as well as molecular diagnostic and research methods.

Some of the units are further supported by Research Officers who support the SRO with the workload of the unit.

3.3.3.2.2 The Regional Veterinary Laboratories (RVLs)

The RVLs provide similar clinical diagnosis and research services to the livestock and poultry industry producers in the region.

Objectives of the RVLs

Key objectives of the RVLs include:

- providing comprehensive diagnostic and research service to the livestock and poultry industries by carrying out examinations for diseases, with particular priority attached to List A (exotic) and other diseases, e.g. TB, brucellosis etc. This involves carrying out port-mortem examinations as well as histopathological, haematological, biochemical, bacteriological, serological examinations
- liaising with the local veterinary inspectorate in contingency planning for suspect List A disease
- investigating potential environmental pollution issues that may impact on animal health
- monitoring against scheduled and notifiable diseases
- participating in and advise on disease eradication programmes
- contributing to EU/national surveys as appropriate
- testing of samples to facilitate trade.

Organisational structure of the RVLs

Overall responsibility for the RVLs (as per the CVRL) resides with the DVRL. The Director is again supported DDVRL.

Each RVL is headed by an SRO who reports to the DDVRL/DVRL. The SRO is responsible for all aspects of organising and managing the RVL. The SROs develop and agree the RVL's annual business plan and budget with the DDVRL/DVRL. They are responsible for delivery of the plan.

The RVLs have broadly similar organisation structures and complements of staff. The SRO is typically supported by two Research Officers. The RVL is also staffed by a number of technicians, serological assistants, laboratory attendants and clerical staff.

3.3.3.2.3 The Blood Testing Laboratory (BTL)

The BTL supports the brucellosis eradication programme. The BTL has been located in Cork since the early 1980s. Responsibility for the laboratory resides within the RVL structure of CVRL.

The BTL is a high volume-testing laboratory, which conducts all the testing for brucellosis (with the exception of small scale testing in the RVL Sligo). The laboratory conducts approximately five million blood sample tests conducted on bovine cattle annually, with over 80% of its activity dedicated to national brucellosis eradication programme testing. The laboratory also conducts testing on sheep, goats and pigs.

Objectives of the BTL

Providing laboratory support to the Brucellosis eradication programme including the provision of various diagnostic/screening testing. The laboratory conducts a wide range of different tests on blood and milk samples for *Brucella abortus*.

The laboratory also monitors for *Brucella ovis* and *Brucella suis*.

Other duties of this laboratory include:

- liaising with District Veterinary Offices (DVO's), HQ staff at Agriculture House and CVERA, UCD to report testing results
- preparing and distributing blood testing kits to veterinary practitioners and DVO's as well as whey-ELISA plates to dairy co-ops
- participating in EU disease surveys which involves testing bloods for *Brucella melitensis* and preparing samples for Enzootic Bovine Leucosis surveys
- performing duties as national reference laboratory for brucellosis. This includes maintaining reference cultures and sera as well as the preparation of antigens and tests, including validation and controls for the laboratory.

3.3.3.2.4 The Central Meat Control Laboratory (CMCL)

The CMCL carries out sampling analyses including National Residue Monitoring Plan testing, suspect sample testing and a range of inspections to ensure that the requisite standards are maintained in establishments, such as abattoirs. The laboratory is headed up by a Superintending Veterinary Inspector (SVI) who reports to the DCVRL. The SVI is supported in the management of the laboratory by a Research Officer.

The CMCL is focused on ensuring compliance with food safety standards with regard to meat products. The laboratory comes under the remit of the Veterinary Public Health Division of DAFF. It liaises with other internal and external stakeholders, most notably the FSAI with which it has a service contract. All laboratory procedures (analytical methods, sample control, documentation and result reporting) are being reviewed with a view to meeting the requirements of the National Accreditation Board (NAB).

Objectives of the CMCL

A key objective of the CMCL includes supporting veterinary certification of meat and meat products ensuring they meet EU standards for the areas listed below:

- hygiene and freedom from pathogenic bacteria
- freedom from residues of veterinary drugs
- freedom from illegal growth promoters
- freedom from contaminants (lead, mercury, cadmium, arsenic, etc).

The CMCL plays a role in organising the sampling programmes with the Veterinary Inspectors and carries out almost 90% of the necessary tests. Laboratory tests conducted at CMCL include assays for heavy metals, chemistry, GC screening, LC screening, Immunoassays, 6 Plate Test, microbiology. The CMCL undertakes analysis of samples as part of the National Residue Monitoring Plan including the collection and transport to the laboratory of samples. The CMCL also undertakes analysis of suspect samples sent in by Veterinary Inspector.

In addition, the CMCL:

- conducts microbiological analyses on open pack products
- conducts nitrite/nitrate testing of bacon
- organises special surveys as required
- audits private laboratories wishing to gain DAFF approval to carry out microbiological testing. This activity is jointly supervised by the Bacteriology Division of the CVRL and the CMCL
- approves meat product recipes to ensure that the levels of food additives used do not exceed EU Regulations
- carries out trichinella testing on horse and pork meat
- conducts heavy metal testing involving atomic absorption spectrum analysis for lead, mercury, arsenic and cadmium.

Organisational structure of the CMCL

The CMCL is managed by a Superintending Veterinary Inspector (SVI) who reports directly to the DCVRL.

Further details of the tasks and analytical activities assigned to the DAFF veterinary laboratory service can be found in Appendix 7.

3.3.2.4 DAFF agriculture laboratories

3.3.2.4.1 The Pesticide Control Laboratory (PCL)

The Pesticide Control Laboratory, part of the Pesticide Control Service, has two functions in that it:

- is responsible for the analysis of pesticide residues in food
- provides the laboratory support to the Pesticide Registration Division to ensure that plant protection products comply with their authorised specifications.

Plant protection products are authorised for use on both food and non food crops. There is a necessity to monitor pesticide levels in/on treated crops to ensure that the products are used in accordance with their authorisation and to ensure that the presence of pesticide residues does not pose a danger to consumers. Pesticide residues in food are controlled by EU legislation (Regulation 396/2005/EC which will supersede Directives 90/642/EEC, 86/362/EEC, 86/363/EEC and 76/895/EEC when Annexes 2, 3 and 4 are finalised) that establishes maximum residue levels (MRLs) for pesticides in food. Directive 91/414/EEC controls the authorisation marketing and use of plant protection products while Directive 98/8/EC controls the authorisation, marketing and use of pesticides which are used for biocidal purposes.

Objectives of the PCL

Key objectives of the PCL include:

- control of pesticide residues in food
- delivery of the annual Irish pesticide residue monitoring programme agreed under the service contract between DAFF and the FSAI
- acts as the NRL for the four CRLs working in the pesticide area.
- analytical controls to ensure that plant protection and biocidal products sold on the Irish market comply with specifications agreed at time of their authorisation.

Organisational structure of the PCL

The PCL is currently part of the Residues Division of the Pesticide Control Service. The Residues Division is managed by a Senior Inspector. The laboratory itself is accredited to the ISO17025 standard and has a cohort of staff which includes two Agriculture Inspectors, one Assistant Agriculture Inspector, four senior Laboratory Technicians, twelve Laboratory Technicians and two Laboratory Attendants. Samples of food of plant origin as required by the pesticide monitoring programme, are sampled by field officers from within the Residue Division in accordance with the provisions of the sampling Directive 2002/63/EC. Samples of food of animal origin are taken by either the Dairy or Veterinary inspectorate and submitted to the laboratory for analysis.

3.3.2.4.2 The Dairy Science Laboratories (DSLs)

The three DSLs, based in Dublin, Cork and Limerick, are responsible for the examination and analysis of dairy products and act in a monitoring capacity to ensure that food manufacturers/factories located across the country carry out their own testing to the requisite standard. The activities of the laboratories are governed by national and EU regulation and broadly include two areas of responsibility, namely, food safety and market support.

Objectives of the DSLs

Key objectives of the DSL's include:

- fulfilling requirements of the service contract with the FSAI in relation to milk/milk product testing
- ensuring relevant national legislation is respected and export market specifications adhered to through routine chemical analysis and creation of chemical composition database of dairy products
- participate in international fora to determine the most suitable regulatory framework for dairy products
- provide laboratory support to fulfil product testing requirements in respect of milk and milk products.

With regard to food safety, the laboratories are responsible for ensuring the maintenance of the highest standards of food safety and consumer protection, thereby fulfilling the requirements of the FSAI. The laboratories also undertake the testing and analysis of milk and milk products for various EU Market Support and trade schemes.

The DSL in Backweston acts as the National Reference Laboratory for Dairy Products and *Listeria* spp. Its tests are accredited to ISO 17025 standard for food safety methods while the other laboratories are progressing their accreditation processes and engaging in other independent proficiency testing.

The laboratories work closely with other divisions of DAFF. In particular, they depend on the Dairy Regions Division to conduct the sampling activity and deliver them to the laboratories to be tested.

Organisational structure of the DSLs

Overall responsibility for the DSL's is with the Director of Laboratories. The DSLs are individually managed by AI's. The AI's currently report directly to the SI, Dairy Headquarters and Laboratories Division. Each laboratory is organised into two sections; chemistry and microbiology. In the DSL's in Dublin and Cork the AI operates as the laboratory manager with an AAI as technical manager for the entire laboratory. In the DSL's in Cork and Limerick one AI is responsible for the microbiology section and another for the chemistry section.

3.3.2.4.3 The Central Plant Laboratory (CPL)

The Central Plant Laboratory (CPL) comprises a Seed Testing Laboratory and Plant Health Laboratory. The Seed Testing Laboratory conducts much of the laboratory activities within DAFF's Seed Certification Division. The remit of the Seed Certification Division as a whole is to ensure a competitive agricultural seeds sector and to ensure the development and implementation of all legislation for seeds and plant propagating materials.

The Seed Testing Laboratory has responsibilities for food safety control in the area of PAP analysis.

The Plant Health Laboratory provides analytical services in support of plant health controls. Its main area of work involves fungal plant pathogen although it is hoped to expand its work area to include other analytical disciplines.

Objectives of the CPL

Key objective of the CPL service include:

- ensuring an efficient and comprehensive diagnostic service operates for the analysis of plants seed and feeding stuffs
- operating an NRL for animal protein in animal feeding stuffs
- ensuring that seed released onto the market through the seed certification system meet the prescribed national community and international standards.

Organisational structure of the CPL

The overall responsibility for the CPL rests with the Director of Laboratories. Operational and budgetary responsibility is the function of an AI grade officer. The AI is supported by AAI grade staff who are assigned particular areas of scientific responsibility.

3.3.3 DAFF AGRICULTURAL INSPECTORATE

3.3.3.1 Objectives of the DAFF agricultural inspectorate

The specific objectives of the agricultural inspectorate divisions are to:

- ensure compliance by primary food producers with Directives 91/414/EEC and 98/8/EC and Regulation (EC) No.852/2004, as amended, in relation to use of plant protection and biocidal products
- ensure compliance with the provisions of Directives 76/895/EEC, 86/362/EEC, 86/363/EEC 90/642/EEC and Regulation (EC) No. 396/2005, as amended, concerning pesticide residues in food of plant and animals origin
- ensure that feeding stuffs do not endanger food safety or animal health and to ensure that all operators in the feed chain comply with a suite of statutory provisions and in particular with the primary production, imports, storage, manufacture, trade and use requirements of Regulation No. 183/2005
- ensure that all operators in the eggs and poultrymeat sectors comply with the relevant EU Marketing Standards Legislation and in particular the Hygiene Regulations (Regulation 852/2004 and Regulation 853/2004).
- ensure compliance by producers of milk and milk products with Regulation (EC) No. 178/2002, Regulation (EC) No. 852/2004, Regulation (EC) No. 853/2004 and Regulation (EC) No. 2073/2005
- achieve the highest possible standards of plant health and in particular the requirements of Article 27 (a) of Council Decision 2000/29/EC as amended
- ensure compliance with the provisions of Regulations (EC) No. 178/2002 and 852/2004 as they relate to primary producers of horticultural produce
- ensure compliance with the provisions of Regulations (EC) No. 178/2002, 852/2004 and 853/2004 as they relate to primary producers of honey.

3.3.3.2 Responsibilities of the DAFF agricultural inspectorate

In the work areas managed by the Chief Inspector, DAFF is the competent authority for the regulation of:

- plant protection and biocidal products a function carried out by its Pesticide Control Service (PCS)
- animal feed, a function which is carried out by its Animal Feedingstuffs and Crop Production and Safety Divisions
- egg and poultry, a function which is carried out by the Egg and Poultry Marketing Inspection Staff (part of the Animal Feedingstuffs Division) and by Meat Policy Division
- milk and milk products which is carried out by the DAFF Dairying Divisions
- plant health, a function which is carried out by its Horticulture and Plant Health and Crop Production and Safety Divisions.
- horticulture, a function which is carried out by its Horticulture and Plant Health Division forestry elements by the Forest Service and Crop Production and Safety Divisions
- beekeeping products, a function which is carried out by its Horticulture and Plant Health and Crop Production and Safety Divisions.

DAFF, through its Pesticide Control Service (PCS) is responsible for the authorisation of plant protection and biocidal products and the subsequent enforcement of the associated regulatory requirements. The PCS regulatory inspection/enforcement programmes for 2007 has been finalised Ref: (the inspection programme) and Ref: (the inspection forms). This programme will be modified, as required, on an annual basis and will be implemented over the duration of the multi-annual national control plan.

The pesticide residue monitoring programme in food is a risk based programme and is agreed and delivered annually by way of a service contract with the FSAI. The 2007 programme is currently in place and will following an annual review and appropriate modifications be implemented over the lifetime of the plan.

DAFF, through its Feedingstuffs/Crop Production and Safety Divisions (Animal Feedingstuffs Control Group [AFCG] is responsible of the negotiation, transposition and enforcement of legislation in the feeding stuffs area. At central level, the AFCG negotiate EU policy, transpose legislation and establish a risk based inspection programme for animal feed as well as administering, co-ordinating and implementing that programme. The programme for 2007 has been prepared.

DAFF, through its Animal Feedingstuffs Division, is responsible for the enforcement of legislation in relation to eggs and poultrymeat marketing. Checks are carried out at primary production, retail and processor level to ensure compliance.

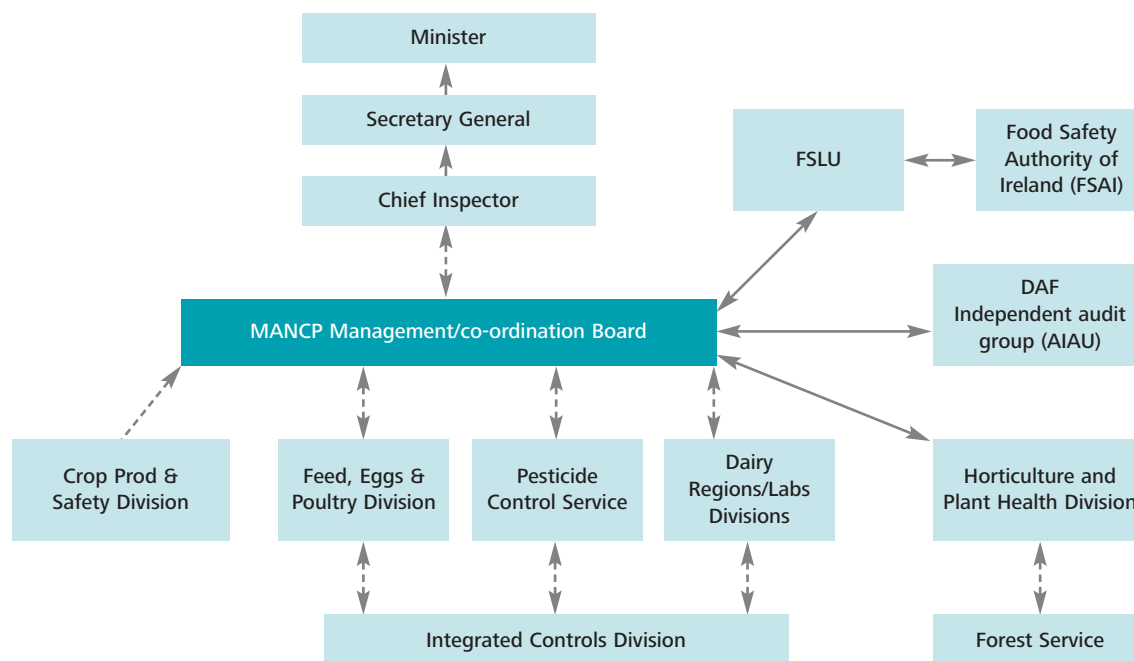
DAFF, through the plant health section of the Horticulture and Plant Health Divisions (HPHD) and the Crop Production and Safety Division and in association with the Forest Service, is responsible for the negotiation, transposition and enforcement of legislation in the plant health area.

DAFF, through its dairy regions/laboratory and HQ divisions is responsible for the monitoring, audit, inspection and surveillance of the activities of milk and milk product producers and processors and the analysis of milk and milk product samples taken during official controls. The programme of work for 2007 has been finalised (Dairy Control Plan 2007).

DAFF, through the horticulture section of HPHD, is responsible for ensuring the compliance of primary producers of fruit, vegetables, mushrooms and honey with legislative requirements. Risk-based inspection programmes are being developed. These divisions are also responsible for the sampling of horticultural products and honey as part of the monitoring programme required by Regulation (EC) No. 466/2001.

3.3.3.3 Reporting and communication channels of the DAFF agricultural inspectorate

FIGURE 19: ORGANISATIONAL AND REPORTING STRUCTURE OF THE DAFF AGRICULTURAL INSPECTORATE



Note 1: The Feed and Crop Production Divisions combine, as animal feedingstuffs control group (AFCG), to manage the legislation controlling animal feedingstuffs.

3.3.3.4 Delegation of tasks to control bodies by DAFF agricultural inspectorate

Animal feed: the animal feedingstuffs control group (AFCG) liaise with customs authorities to ensure identification and control of imported feed. Importers are required to notify the group in advance of importing animal feed. This pre-notification system is highly effective in ensuring that appropriate controls are carried out on imports.

Plant health: horticulture and plant health divisions liaise with customs authorities to control the introduction of quarantine organisms in Ireland.

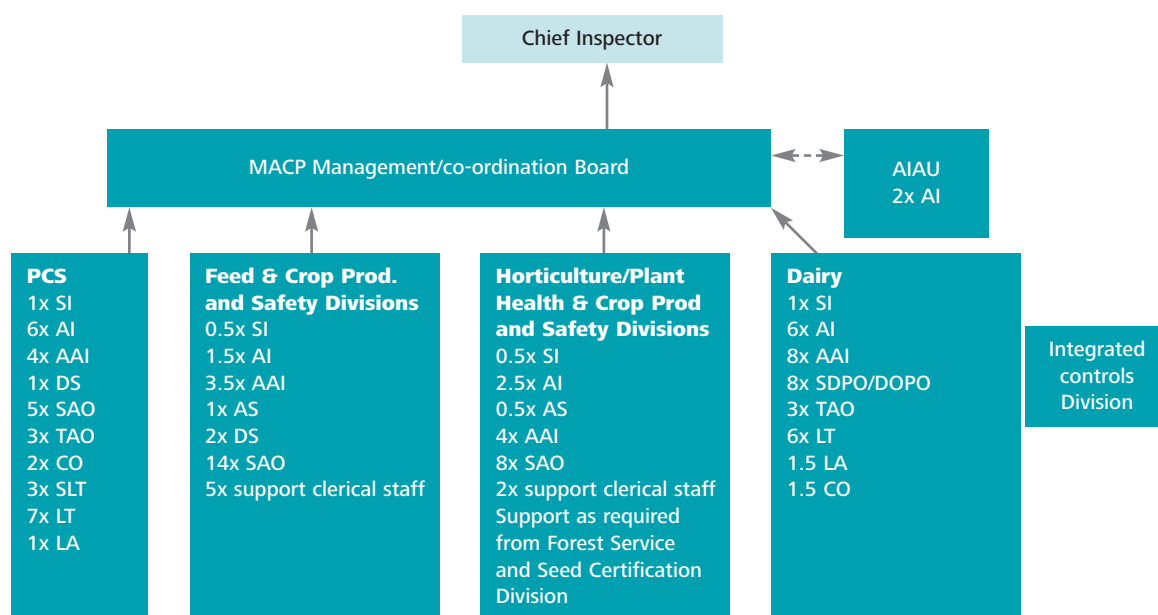
3.3.3.5 National Reference Laboratories supporting the DAFF agricultural inspectorate

The NRLs supporting the work of the agricultural inspectorate in the control of pesticides, animal feed and dairying are referred earlier in this chapter under the "DAFF Laboratory Services" and are also listed in Appendix 3. Details of the accreditation status of these laboratories are also provided along with a description of the arrangements in place to ensure that the laboratories function as NRLs.

3.3.3.6 Organisational structure and staffing resources of the DAFF agricultural inspectorate

This section of the plan describes the co-ordination of activities of a number of DAFF divisions reporting to the Chief Inspector. The heads of divisions (HODs) are responsible for managing and delivering on specific components of the plan and report to a management/co-ordination board. The HODs are assisted in the delivery of the plan by field inspection, laboratory and other support staff.

FIGURE 20: ORGANISATIONAL AND STAFFING RESOURCES OF THE DAFF AGRICULTURAL INSPECTORATE



3.3.3.7 Other resources of the DAFF agricultural inspectorate

- Laboratory facilities: Laboratories designated as NRLs and utilised as part of the work programme work to the ISO 17025 accreditation standard. All other laboratories used to fulfil the requirements of the work programme are either accredited to the ISO 17025 standard or will be accredited by 2009.
- Additional diagnostic resource as necessary to fulfil the plan requirements.
- LAN network and database systems.

3.3.3.8 Organisation of official controls by the DAFF agricultural inspectorate

3.3.3.8.1 Pesticide controls

The controls in place deal with the following areas:

- correct storage and usage of plant protection products and biocidal products in accordance with the conditions of authorisation and registration. The inspection/enforcement programme for 2007 has been finalised (Reference 1 and 2) and procedures have been specified to be followed when inspections are being carried out
- the control of pesticide residues in food. The monitoring programme for 2007 has been prepared (Reference 3) along with the agreed protocol (Reference 6) for dealing with MRL exceedances. This work is carried out by way of a service contract between DAFF and the FSAI
- the relevant legislation in place (listed in Reference 7) to support the control methods applied.

3.3.3.8.2 Animal feedingstuffs controls

The programme includes inspection, sampling and analysis activities in relation to all levels of the feed chain. In particular, it covers the following areas:

- general food law
- feed hygiene
- circulation and use of feed materials
- marketing of compound feed
- additives used in animal nutrition
- undesirable substances in animal feed
- feeding stuffs for particular nutritional purposes
- certain protein products used in animal nutrition
- GMO in feed
- medicated feeding stuffs
- animal health (as it relates to animal feed).

3.3.3.8.3 Egg and poultry controls

Controls are in place to deal with monitoring, inspecting, auditing and sampling the following areas:

- laying hen units
- eggs storage and handling facilities, egg packing centres, wholesale and retail establishments
- free range broiler/turkey units
- poultrymeat processing, wholesale and retail establishments.

3.3.3.8.4 Dairy controls

The controls in place deal with the following areas:

- monitoring, inspecting, auditing of milk production holdings
- monitoring, inspecting, auditing of processing establishments and storage facilities.

3.3.3.8.5 Plant health controls

The following control measures are in place:

- inspection of relevant direct imports of third country plant material (and machinery) for compliance with Council Directive 2000/29/EC
- targeted inspections of plants and cut flowers from EU and third countries and their associated records for compliance with legislation (in particular for *Liriomyza spp.*, *Bemisia tabaci* and *Thrips palmi* and other plant health requirements)
- targeted inspections of imported products, especially potatoes and close leaved vegetables, for *Leptinotarsa decemlineata*
- targeted inspections of imported ware potatoes for quarantine pests
- targeted inspections of plants, water, soil and other growing media at nurseries and traders premises
- maintenance of plant health register by inspection of registered producers, importers, traders etc. for compliance with plant health regulations [includes passport requirements and data base development]
- endeavour to maintain protected zone status for relevant organisms and develop systems for rapid reaction to outbreaks of plant diseases by carrying out surveys and follow-up actions (in the case of positive findings) in respect to *Ralstonia solanacearum*, *Clavibacter michiganensis ssp. sepedonicus*, *Erwinia amylovora*, Beet necrotic yellow vein virus, Pepino mosaic virus, *Ciborinia camelliae*, *Phytophthora ramorum*, *Diabrotica virgifera*, *Dryocosmus kuriphilus*, *Colletotrichum acutatum*, PSTV and other surveys (including citrus) as required
- inspections by the forest service of imports of wood and wood packaging material
- surveys by the forest service of the national forest estate for the relevant protected zone harmful organisms and other specific forestry harmful organisms such as *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus* and *Gibberella circinata*
- facilitate exports by carrying out growing season/dry bulb inspection of bulbs to meet USA pre-clearance programme and issuance of phytosanitary certificates in respect of plants and plant products destined for export to third countries and harmonisation of phytosanitary certificates issued by other divisions
- organisms for which plant health controls exist in Ireland are given in the appendices to Council Decision 2000/29/EC and other legislation.

3.3.3.8.6 Horticulture controls

A register of primary producers of horticultural products is maintained as required by Regulations (EC) No. 178/2002 and 852/2004.

A programme for inspection, sampling and analytical activities in relation to primary production of fruit, vegetables and mushrooms is being developed.

As part of the annual monitoring programme under Regulation (EC) No. 466/2001 inspections and sampling are carried out on a risk analysis basis for:

- residues of nitrates in lettuce and spinach
- residues of nitrates in other horticultural products, e.g. cabbage, broccoli, potatoes etc.
- other contaminants, e.g. heavy metals in fruit and vegetables, patulin in apple juice.

3.3.3.8.7 Honey

To ensure compliance with the requirements of Regulations (EC) No. 178/2002, 852/2004 and 853/2004 a programme of inspections, sampling and analysis in relation to primary production of honey is being developed.

3.3.3.9 Prioritisation of official controls by the DAFF agricultural inspectorate

3.3.3.9.1 Pesticide Control Service

In relation to use of plant protection and biocidal products, 1% of farmers participating in the single payment system are selected for inspection following application of the risk assessment procedures specified in Commission Regulation (EC) No. 796/2004, as amended.

The resources allocated are as specified at point 1.3.3 above, supplemented by the resources available to Integrated Control Division are adequate.

The annual residue monitoring programme developed reflects a risk analysis conducted that includes consideration of dietary importance of the various commodities and previous history of infringement. The number of samples of particular commodities included are further adjusted to reflect where the nature of the commodity i.e. upward adjustment for commodities eaten raw, downward adjustment for commodities with inedible peel. The annual monitoring plan is a programme agreed between DAFF and the FSAI and incorporates the EU programme for the relevant year.

The resources allocated as specified above, are adequate.

3.3.3.9.2 Dairy regions/HQ and labs division

Primary producers

In relation to milk and milk products, the milk purchaser controls farmers producing milk. DAFF audits the milk purchaser's inspection systems by inspecting 1% of suppliers.

Processing establishments: samples

The sampling plan developed for each year reflects a risk analysis conducted that includes consideration of Dairy Science Laboratory results (previous 12 months), manufacturer's in-house controls, products type and type of product. These plans reflect the frequency and number of samples to be taken by field staff at each premises and the relevant criteria (Regulation (EC) No. 2073/2005) to be analysed by the dairy laboratories. Sampling plans are reviewed if changes in the assessed risk take place.

Processing establishments: inspection, audits

The frequency and type of official control at processing establishments are risk based. The parameters taken into account when assessing the risk are: the outcome of previous full inspection at the establishment, the results of official sampling, the results of the food business operators own in-house controls, and the product type and manufacturing process involved.

3.3.3.9.3 Animal feed

The inspection programme runs from 1st January to the 31st December annually. The programme contains information on the scope of the inspections and on the structure and systems of the control activities. The programme provides information on the following:

- overview of the inspection activities and the staff involved
- scope and criteria for controls
- type and number of inspections
- type and number of samples
- type and number of analyses
- analysis methods, tolerances and designated testing laboratories
- risk assessment for determining control activities.

When drawing up the inspection programme each year, a detailed risk assessment is carried out to determine how resources should be used. Once this is determined, the number of inspections and analysis completed for each operator within each segment of the industry is determined using risk based criteria, which takes into account the following:

- the outcome of previous inspections
- nature of risk to health or the environment associated with an operation or type of feed
- auto controls of the operator and history of compliance
- community coordinated controls
- information on controls in other member states or scientific findings.

Progress on the inspection programme is formally reviewed on a quarterly basis and management makes adjustments in priorities and/or resources as required.

3.3.3.9.4 Eggs and poultry

Systematic inspections are carried out in relation to:

- egg packing centres, free range and barn egg production units, wholesale and retail outlets
- poultrymeat processing, wholesale and retail premises
- free range broiler/turkey production sites.

3.3.3.9.5 Plant health

Inspections are implemented on an annual basis. Control priorities, resource allocation and risk categorisation are detailed in the integrated plant health plan which is supported where required by the Forest Service and Seed Certification Division. The plan includes:

- details of staff resources involved in formulating and implementing control measures
- type and number of inspections to be undertaken
- type and number of samples to be taken
- organisms subject to control and
- prioritisation of control measures.

3.3.3.9.6 Horticulture

The DAFF horticultural inspectorate is responsible for the registration and control of primary producers of fruit, vegetables and honey. The inspectorate is also responsible for verification of compliance with marketing standards for these products from primary production through to retail

The inspection programme under Regulations (EC) No. 178/2002 and 852/2004 will be drawn up having regard to the degree of risk to food safety associated with particular operations or produce. A sample of at least 1% of primary producers premises across all horticultural sectors will be selected for inspection annually under Hygiene Regulation (EC) No. 178/2002 and 852/2004.

The inspection programme for contaminants under Regulation (EC) No. 466/2001 is drawn up having regard to:

- the outcome of previous inspections
- the nature of the risk to food safety associated with particular operations or produce.

3.3.3.10 DAFF agricultural inspectorate – supervision and verification of planned arrangements including reporting arrangements

The DAFF agricultural inspectorate has, in place, arrangements to:

- review the control programmes being implemented on a bi-annual basis by way of in-house and business plan review meeting
- conduct an annual review of the control programmes by management /co-ordination board
- ensure that quarterly and annual reports are prepared where required.
- convene twice yearly liaison meetings between the FSAI and DAFF to discuss elements of the service contract, to plan the annual work programme and to review progress
- ensure that relevant elements of the annual report are prepared by the competent authority for submission to the EU Commission
- facilitate laboratories being audited, as required, by accreditation standard ISO 17025
- ensure direct reporting/supervision arrangements are in place (see point 1.3.2 above).

3.3.3.11 DAFF agricultural inspectorate – arrangements for the application of horizontal legislation across different sectors/sub-sectors

The arrangements in place for each sector are implemented directly by the competent authority responsible (DAFF).

3.3.3.12 DAFF agricultural inspectorate – specific control plans

The control plans in place are those specified or required under the relevant community legislation. Individual plans deal with the relevant legislative requirements.

3.3.3.13 DAFF agricultural inspectorate – efficient and effective cooperation

Within DAFF: Annual review and liaison meetings within DAFF to ensure that there is efficient and effective co-operation within DAFF. On the basis of the meeting outputs, the operation of the control programmes are continued or modified as required.

Between competent authorities: Annual review and liaison meetings take place where relevant, between DAFF and the FSAI to manage the contract. On the basis of the meeting outputs, the operation of the control programmes is continued or modified as required.

3.3.3.14 DAFF agricultural inspectorate – training arrangements

Identification of training needs

Senior DAFF management at divisional and MAC levels identify strategic staff training needs to enable DAFF deliver on its legislative commitments.

In addition, individual training needs for DAFF staff are identified following their assignment and are reviewed in the context of the preparation and twice yearly reviews of individual role profiles.

Implementing training plan(s)

Training is provided:

- on the job, under supervision of an experienced officer
- specialist training needs identified by managers during reviews of role profiles are generally organised through the training unit of DAFF
- specific area training can be outsourced and provided in-house or at a remote location.

Recording and evaluating training

Training needs are recorded for all staff in their personal development plans and at annual review meetings. Those plans are reviewed twice each year at which time training provided is also assessed.

The success of training provided is assessed during audit and is related to the capacity of the DAFF to deliver its responsibilities in the multi annual control plan.

3.3.3.15 DAFF agricultural inspectorate – contingency plans and mutual assistance

3.3.3.15.1 Contingency plans

Contingency plans - not applicable to plant health.

Contingency plans are in place for the animal feed and dairying areas of control. Plans are being developed in the pesticide control and horticultural areas of control.

When all plans are finalised, arrangements will be made for specific training of the staff involved including use of simulation exercises.

3.3.3.15.2 Arrangements for mutual assistance

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food will provide the administrative assistance and cooperation in relation to the controls referred to in Articles 34 – 39 of Regulation 882/2004 where appropriate.

3.3.3.16 DAFF agricultural inspectorate – arrangements for audit

(not applicable to plant health)

3.3.3.16.1 DAFF agricultural inspectorate – internal audits

For the purpose of meeting the audit requirements of Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004, an independent internal audit unit (agricultural inspectorate audit unit – AIAU) has been established to conduct internal audits on the effectiveness and suitability of official controls performed under the management of the Chief Inspector.

The AIAU puts in place, an annual programme of internal audits to be carried out by auditors who will be independent from the functions being audited. The conduct of audits will take account of the guidelines provided by the European Commission laying down the criteria for the conduct of audits under Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004 (Commission Decision 2006/677/EC).

In addition, and where required by accreditation, divisional specific elements of the plan will also be audited to ensure compliance with stated plans and operating procedures. These audits will be carried out as part of an annual pre-arranged audit schedule that will be available for inspection.

3.3.3.16.2 DAFF agricultural inspectorate – ensuring appropriate measures in the light of results of internal audits

All audits will be documented. Records will be maintained detailing audit outcomes and corrective actions. Audit reports will be submitted to heads of divisions. Where findings outlined in the audit report indicate the need for corrective, preventive or improvement action as applicable, the AIAU will request management in the audited area to put a plan of action in place by a specific date to deal with the findings raised and to record the outcome of the action plan. The completion and effectiveness of the action plan may be verified as part of a subsequent audit carried out by AIAU.

Divisional management is responsible for ensuring that findings identified during internal auditing are addressed. Where a serious food/feed safety finding is highlighted during an audit this issue will be immediately brought to the attention of the appropriate senior management responsible.

An annual review meeting will discuss the findings of all audits conducted in relation to the current plan and will report progress in resolving issues raised at audit. The report of the annual review meeting will be forwarded to DAFF management responsible for the implementation of the plan and to the audit monitoring body (AMB) to highlight issues raised against the operation of the control plans in place and to show what actions have been put in place to resolve these issues.

3.3.3.16.3 DAFF agricultural inspectorate – ensuring that audits are subject to independent scrutiny and are carried out in a transparent manner

Independent scrutiny of these audits will be carried out by an AMB composed of experts from outside DAFF. The AMB shall be independent in the performance of its functions and its members will be appointed by top management within DAFF by virtue of their experience in the work areas under audit.

In order to preserve its independence, the AIAU does not engage in the functions of the DAFF divisions responsible for implementing the control plans. The AIAU will submit reports to the AMB and to senior management in the divisions responsible for the implementation of the plan. These reports shall cover all aspects of the Unit's work and key findings of the audits undertaken.

3.3.3.17 DAFF agricultural inspectorate – measures to ensure compliance with the operational criteria of Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004

(Not applicable to plant health)

The arrangements to ensure the following:

- **Impartiality, quality and consistency of controls**
The controls in place are implemented directly by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food on behalf of the Minister, with minimal recourse to the use of external or contract staff. Work is subject to audit and analytical results are from either accredited or officially designated laboratories.
- **Staff are free from conflict of interest**
Each member of staff is required to declare any conflicts of interest they have on an annual basis. Where conflicts of interests are identified, management ensures that the staff concerned have neither access to files concerning areas of conflict identified nor any involvement in work arising in the area of conflict identified.
- **Adequate laboratory capacity**
The laboratory capacity required to deliver the MANCP is subject to periodic review. Inadequacies in laboratory capacity will be highlighted as part of these reviews and will be addressed by DAFF.
- **Sufficient number of suitably qualified and experienced staff**
Staff recruited to work within DAFF are required to have qualifications appropriate to the work being undertaken. The system in place for review of business plans (twice yearly) includes a review of the resources, competencies and training requirements for staff working in the area.
- **Adequate facilities and equipment**
The system in place for review of business plans (twice yearly) includes a review of the resources, including laboratory facilities and equipment available. The current facilities and equipment available to DAFF is considered to be adequate to meet the needs of the multi-annual control plan.
- **Adequate legal powers**
See Reference (7) which outlines the legislation controlling the work for which DAFF is the competent authority and which is managed by the Chief Inspector.
- **Food and feed business operators co-operate with staff performing official controls**
See provisions of legislation listed in Reference 9.
- **Documented procedures are available**
All laboratory documentation is in place as required by ISO 17025.
Procedure manuals for inspection, sampling and auditing under the legislation being enforced are developed as required.
- **Records are maintained**

All:

- inspection visits
- sample results
- audit reports
- registers

are documented and maintained in specific work areas.

3.3.4 DAFF ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISIONS

A significant responsibility for the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food in ensuring maximum safety within the food and feed chains relates to its compliance verification functions. While DAFF has a crucial role in ensuring that all food and feed business operators are aware of their legal obligations under EU and national legislation, it also has an obligation to have in place, the necessary inspection and control mechanisms to ensure maximum compliance with this legislation.

DAFF ensures compliance through a combination of its professional and administrative resources. The professional resources focus on verification, inspection, audit, sampling and analysis, monitoring and surveillance while the administrative resources focus on formal communications with the business operator, data retention and compilation, collection of fees and follow through on penalties and litigation in cases of breaches.

Administrative support

The two principal verification streams within DAFF are the veterinary divisions and the agriculture inspectorate divisions. The supporting administrative divisions – Animal Health and Welfare Division, Meat Hygiene and Animal By Products Division, Dairying Division, Poultry Division, Food Safety Division, Veterinary Medicines Division and Crop Production and Safety Division focus for the most part, on formal communications with the food and feed business operators in the areas of registration, licensing, the appointment of authorised officers; the setting and collection of fees, dissemination of relevant trade information, issuing of sampling results and notification of breaches; as well as the transposition of EU legislation into national legislation and the creation of new national legislation. Other responsibilities of the administrative divisions include addressing all political, Ombudsman and freedom of information (FOI) requests; and purchasing and supplying all equipment as required by the field officers.

In general, all administrative staff are centrally based at the department headquarters or one of its decentralised offices. Depending on the entry level, administrative staff must possess either a third level or second level state education qualification. Initially, administrative staff benefit from ‘on the job’ training which is then complimented by internal courses on topics such as legislation, effective communications, computer skills, etc. More specialised training needs (policy evaluation, Government financial accounting, risk management, etc) as identified in the individual personal development plans (as part of DAFF’s performance management and development system) are organised by DAFF’s Staff Training Unit.

Staff at certain levels in these divisions (PO, APO, HEO and EO) are generally authorised officers under the relevant legislation and are empowered, inter alia, to direct the **CSO** to initiate legal proceedings against a non compliant food or feed business operator, following receipt of a recommendation from the inspectorate or Veterinary Divisions. Other functions of these authorised officers would be to issue licences, collect fees etc.

3.4 DAFF OFFICIAL CONTROLS

3.4.1 DAFF FOOD SAFETY CONTROLS

3.4.1.1 DAFF food safety controls in the area of veterinary public health

3.4.1.1.1 Strategic objectives for the DAFF veterinary public health inspection service

- To ensure that the highest standards of food safety are achieved for the products for which the service is responsible, through the implementation of effective inspection and auditing systems at all the establishments under its control.
- To ensure that the highest standards of animal welfare are in place at all slaughter premises under its control.
- To ensure EU legislation on Zoonotic diseases is given effect in Irish legislation and fully implemented.
- To coordinate DAFF implementation of Zoonosis controls at both farm and slaughterhouse levels and to prepare an annual report for EFSA.
- To ensure Zoonoses control and surveillance programmes are fully implemented in establishments supervised by VPHIS of DAFF.
- To implement National and EU legislation in all approved plants where DAFF exercises official controls.
- To implement National and EU legislation on residues and operate residue sampling and testing programmes.
- To service DAFF commitments in the field of VPH and Zoonosis Controls at EU commission and council level and at various international organisations, e.g. Codex.
- To meet the requirements of the service contract with the FSAI.

3.4.1.1.2 DAFF veterinary public health inspection service - delegation of control tasks to control bodies

There is no delegation of control tasks to control bodies in areas where VPH exercises official controls.

3.4.1.1.3 DAFF veterinary public health inspection service - national reference laboratories (NRLs)

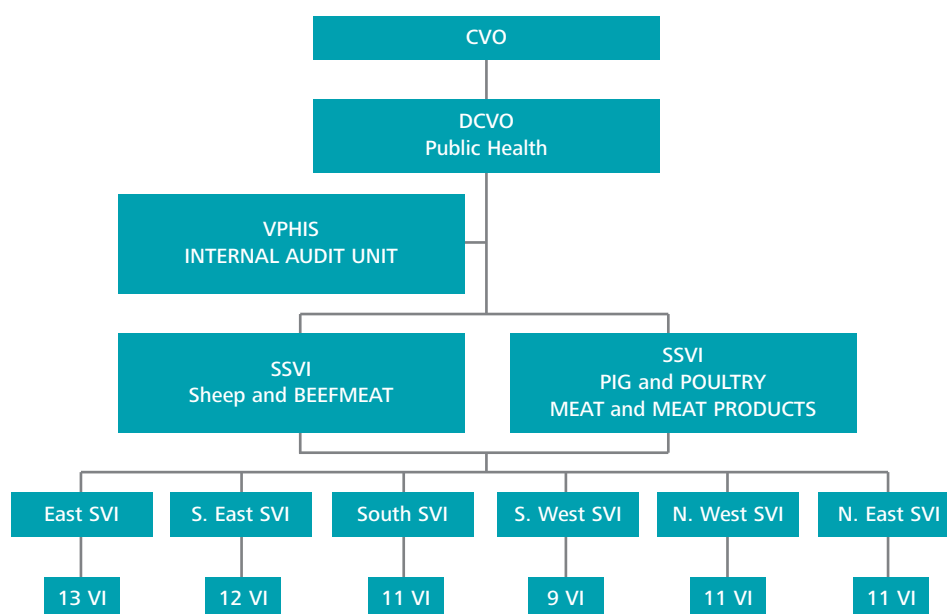
The NRLs supporting the work of the veterinary public health inspection service are referred earlier in this chapter under the “DAFF Laboratory Services” and are also listed in Appendix 3.

3.4.1.1.4 DAFF veterinary public health inspection service – organisational structure

Central organisation

The Chief Veterinary Officer and a management team of senior veterinary officers are based in DAFF headquarters in Agriculture House, Kildare Street, Dublin 2.

FIGURE 21: ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE DAFF VETERINARY PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE



Regional organisation

Six regional veterinary public health inspectorate regions (East, South East, South, South West, North West and North East) each under the supervision of a Superintending Veterinary Inspector (RSVI).

Local organisation

1. Veterinary offices at meat establishments

In Ireland, the larger slaughterhouses and meat processing establishment are supervised by Veterinary Inspectors of the Veterinary Public Health Inspection Service of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food. Smaller, formerly non-exporting, establishments are supervised by the local authority veterinary services. Eighty veterinary inspectors are permanently located in all the larger meat and poultry slaughtering and processing establishments and are responsible for the provision inter alia, of the ante and post-mortem inspection service, checks on hygiene standards, food business operator SOPs, audits of HACCP programmes, inspections of structural and operational hygiene standards and controls on animal welfare, animal identification and residues. Other establishments are visited and inspected regularly on a risk basis for compliance with health and hygiene regulations.

309 Technical Agricultural Officers assist the Veterinary Inspectors in carrying out some of these supervision tasks.

2. Private veterinary practitioners

There are approximately 705 private veterinary practitioners employed part-time by DAFF as temporary veterinary inspector (TVIs) to carry out meat inspection duties in approved slaughterhouses. TVIs are considered as official veterinarians with a defined area of responsibility

3.4.1.1.5 DAFF veterinary public health inspection service – organisation of official controls (control methods and techniques)

The Veterinary Public Health Service (VPHIS) contributes to a number of DAFF's goals, including the achievement of the highest possible standards of food safety and animal welfare through the operational delivery of effective monitoring, surveillance and inspection programmes at meat processing establishments. Priority is given to meeting the commitments in the service contract between the DAFF and the FSAI. The VPHIS also contributes to the food safety actions in the Agri Food 2015 initiative.

The service currently works to documented procedures called Veterinary Procedural Notices but given the introduction of new revised legislation (Hygiene Package) in the area of veterinary public health (VPH), a Steering Committee was established to review the existing documented procedures of VPHIS. This committee has met on a regular basis and has begun to put in place new documented procedures in line with what is envisaged in the hygiene package.

A number of working groups have been established under a steering committee to deal with the review of specific areas of work within VPHIS. These working groups have already agreed and put in place a number of documented procedures for Official Controls and other procedures are actively being developed. It is envisaged that new documented procedures covering all aspects of the work of VPHIS will be in place by late 2007 or early 2008.

Central level

The Inspectorate staff at central level (two senior Superintending Veterinary Inspectors, four Superintending Veterinary Inspectors, one veterinary Inspector, one **DS**, four **SAOs**) are authorised under relevant EU legislation to carry out designated functions, including the inspection of premises and the sampling of produce of imported and domestic origin for analysis. Authorised officers are empowered to inspect all premises where foods of animal origin are manufactured, imported, stored or used and to seize and detain products where they have reasonable grounds for believing that a contravention of the Regulations has occurred.

The general responsibilities of the inspectorate staff include the following:

- participation at Commission and Council meetings relating to products of animal origin
- assisting in the transposition of legislation
- drawing up an annual control plan
- coordination and implementation of the control plan
- dealing with infringements of the legislation
- advising and liaising with administrative colleagues on various issues
- preparation of a report on the outcome of controls in the field of veterinary public health
- carrying out inspections at all stages of the production, storage and distribution food of animal origin for which DAFF is responsible.
- reviewing the outcome of inspections and carry out/coordinate the relevant follow-up actions
- training of regional inspection staff
- monitoring developments in the industry
- advising and liaising with the industry on various issues.

At regional level

At regional level, the six Regional Superintending Veterinary Officers carry out certain designated functions, according to documented procedures. These include:

- conducting inspections of existing and new establishments and making recommendations relating to approval of these establishments as required by Regulation (EC) No. 853/2004. These inspections are conducted following documented procedures
- carrying out audits and inspections in the region for which each is responsible of the food business establishments supervised by DAFF. Production, storage and distribution food of animal origin for which DAFF is responsible
- reviewing the outcome of inspections and carrying out/coordinating the relevant follow-up actions
- assisting in the training of inspection staff
- conducting audits/inspections on animal welfare
- conducting assessment of inspection staff.

Control methods and techniques at local level and how specific control plans required by Community legislation are integrated into these control systems

Slaughterhouses and meat processing establishment are supervised by veterinary inspectors of the VPHIS of DAFF. Veterinary inspectors are permanently located in all the larger meat and poultry slaughtering and processing establishment and are responsible for the following:

Identity checks and ante-mortem inspection

Each animal presented for slaughter is subjected to an ante-mortem examination by the Veterinary inspector in accordance with Regulation (EC) No. 854/2004 to assess their fitness for slaughter for human consumption. (Cf section on TSE for the control of BSE suspects when identified at ante-mortem examination). To ensure that the origin of the animals can be established, the owner or person in charge of the abattoir is responsible for checking that each animal is correctly identified and is accompanied by correct documentation. On arrival at the abattoir, in the case of bovine animals, the animal and herd details are checked by DAFF personnel against the Computer Movement Monitoring System (CMMS) database, in the case of pigs, food business operator checks are carried out against the National Pigs Identification and Tracing System (NPITS) and in the case of sheep, food business operator checks are carried out against the National Sheep Identification System (NSIS). Only animals which pass the CMMS and other checks may proceed to slaughter. Identity checks are carried out on a sample of the animals by DAFF officers. Any irregularities are followed up; animals may be detained and, if the identity and origin cannot be established to the satisfaction of the Veterinary Inspector, the animals are seized and destroyed.

Post-mortem inspection

All animals must be subjected to post-mortem inspection by a Veterinary Inspector in accordance with Regulation (EC) No. 854/2004 to ensure that the meat is fit for human consumption. (Cf TSE section for surveillance for TSEs at post-mortem) The Veterinary Inspector may detain meat for further inspections and tests. On completion of the post-mortem inspection (including any further tests if required), the Veterinary Inspector declares that the meat is either fit for human consumption, or unfit for human consumption, in which case, the meat is removed from the food chain after been suitable denatured.

Post-mortem examination is carried out by Temporary Veterinary Inspectors (who act as official veterinarians) in all species and official auxiliaries assist the official veterinarian in some poultry meat slaughter plants. Temporary Veterinary Inspectors also take brain stem samples for TSE testing as part of the TSE surveillance programmes. (Cf TSE section below for further details).

Checks on hygiene rules and establishment operations

The Veterinary Inspector, assisted by technical staff, where appropriate, carries out checks on all aspects of establishment hygiene and operations including, inter alia, slaughtering, carcase dressing, handling of edible and inedible offals, handling of detained and unfit meat, cutting and further processing, wrapping, packing, storage and transport. The results of these checks are recorded and, in the case of non-compliance, appropriate enforcement action is initiated. Similar checks are carried out by VPH officials in milk pasteurising establishments.

Monitoring of own checks and HACCP programmes

The operators of milk and meat processing establishments are required to regularly carry out their own checks on the general hygiene of conditions of production, including microbiological checks, checks on the utensils, fittings and machinery at all stages of production and checks on products. These checks are carried out on a risk basis. The Veterinary Inspector regularly analyses the results of the checks carried out by the operator of the establishment and notifies the conclusions and recommendation of the analyses to the operator in a written report. The establishment documents examined include records on sanitation of premises and equipment, water supply, product recall procedures, temperature control, vermin control, maintenance programme, SRM checks (where applicable), staff training programme, and microbiological checks on equipment and products. In processing and slaughter establishments where the implementation of HACCP programmes are required, the Veterinary Inspector undertakes checks and verification activities in respect of these programmes and the findings are recorded.

SRM controls

Certain parts of bovine, ovine and caprine animals have been designated as Specified Risk Materials (SRM) which must be removed at the slaughter establishment, stained, segregated and transported to designated Category 1 rendering establishments for destruction. Auditing of compliance with the requirements of the SRM legislation is carried out at DAFF approved slaughter establishments by headquarters, regional and local Veterinary Inspectors. Daily checks on compliance with the SRM legislation are carried out by the permanent DAFF Veterinary Inspector responsible for each export slaughter establishment and recorded on a standard form. The analysis of the results of the "Own Checks" (SOP1) includes an assessment of the SRM checks carried out by the establishment operator. The handling and staining of SRM at slaughter establishments has been deemed a Category 1 risk and is subject to the procedures provided for under Commission Regulation (EC) No.1974/2005 and under Regulation 1774/2002.

In cases of non-compliance the powers under Regulation S.I. No.910/2005 Section 11 (i) are invoked.

Enforcement at meat and milk establishments

Veterinary Inspectors have been given the necessary powers under national legislation to take appropriate enforcement actions in the case of non-compliances or breaches of the regulations.

Non-compliances are categorised according to the risk to the consumer

Major non compliances are those which constitute a serious and immediate threat to public health: in these cases the Veterinary Inspector may suspend production or prohibit the use of all or part of the establishment or equipment until the risk has been eliminated.

Minor Category 2 non compliances are defects deemed to pose a potential threat to public health: in these cases the Veterinary Inspector serves a notice requiring the owner or person in charge of the establishment to correct the defects within a specified time scale.

Minor Category 3 non compliances are minor defects deemed not to pose a threat to public health.

Animal welfare checks

Veterinary Inspectors are responsible for ensuring that the highest standards of animal welfare apply at all DAFF approved slaughtering establishments. This includes monitoring compliance with the Protection of Animals at Time of Slaughter Regulations, 1995 and also the Transport of Animals Regulations, 1995 and 1997. Checks are carried out daily by the Veterinary Inspector on transport vehicles, livestock unloading procedures, intake procedures, lairage facilities and handling, movement to stunning area, stunning procedures and ritual slaughter. In the event that welfare is compromised, enforcement action is initiated including if necessary suspension of slaughter.

Verification of animal welfare compliance is carried out and recorded by DAFF staff at the slaughter establishments.

SAMPLING PROGRAMMES

Residue sampling

DAFF has overall responsibility for the co-ordination of the Residue Plan for Ireland (drawn up in compliance with Council Directive 96/23/EC). The Veterinary Inspector at slaughtering establishments takes random and targeted samples of specified tissues for residue analysis at the Central Meat Control Laboratory, the State Laboratory and other participating laboratories. In addition to sampling for the National Residue Plan, the Veterinary Inspector may take samples from any meat where there is a suspicion that such meat contains residues above the legal limits. In these cases, the sampled meat is detained until the results are received. Any meat found to contain residues exceeding the maximum residue level (MRL) is condemned and removed from the food chain.

BSE sampling

It has been a requirement since 1st January 2001, that all animals over 30 months, which are destined for human consumption be screened for BSE using a rapid test approved by the EU Commission. Animals over 24 months of age which:

- present with casualty certificates
- are deemed emergency slaughter animals by the VI at the lairage
- fail ante-mortem inspection

are also routinely sampled. The sampling is carried out at slaughtering establishments by Veterinary Inspectors. All parts of tested animals are detained under official control until the test results are received.

Microbiological sampling

Veterinary Inspectors take official samples of meat and meat products for microbiological sampling at the Central Meat Control Laboratory.

Milk samples are sent to the Dairy Science Laboratories and Veterinary Public Health Laboratories.

Trichinella sampling

Veterinary Inspectors take official samples of meat in all pig and horse slaughter plants for Trichinella analysis. The analysis is carried out at the Central Meat Control Laboratory in accordance with EU Regulation 2075/2005.

Certification

The Veterinary Inspector is required to provide certification of meat, and meat and dairy products being exported to Third Countries.

Certification of meat for the Russian Federation

The European Union has agreed 14 standard commodity certificates with the Russian Federation and meat intended for export to Russia complies with the requirements of the certificates.

To achieve compliance with the regulations, DAFF has drawn up a list of approved premises in agreement with the Russian authorities for the slaughter, cutting, wrapping and packaging of Russian eligible meat.

Establishment management at the approved premises shall have a written plan or SOP detailing the systems and procedures that they have in place to ensure compliance with the requirements.

The SOP must include details of the systems and procedures for the:

- identification of Russian eligible animals and carcasses
- segregation of carcasses and carcase quarters
- segregation of wrapped and packaged boned meat
- labelling requirements that include CR3 labels and the identification mark
- segregation and identification of meat during storage.

Russian eligible meat moving between approved premises in Ireland is accompanied by a White Pre-export Certificate.

Russian eligible meat moving between Member States is accompanied by a Green Pre-export Certificate.

3.4.1.1.6 DAFF veterinary public health inspection service – control priorities, resource allocation and how they relate to risk categorisation

An annual programme (business plans), is drawn up by both divisions of VPHIS for premises and activities under its control. It includes the control activities undertaken to ensure compliance with the relevant legislation.

The programme includes inspection, sampling and analysis activities in relation to all levels of food production. In particular it covers the following broad areas:

- new food hygiene legislation
- animal welfare legislation including transport
- EU and national residues legislation
- animal by-products legislation
- TSE legislation
- health and safety legislation.

The business plans are drawn up after consultation with control staff and other relevant areas within DAFF.

The day to day organisation and implementation of the control activities is driven by these annual business plans with each officer assigned to carry out the required tasks in his/her designated areas.

The business plans for VPHIS run from 1st January to the 31st December annually. The plans contain information on the scope, key targets and performance indicators for the service and details how these performance indicators will be delivered in terms of inspections, training, etc. The plans are approved by senior veterinary management. The plan provides information on the following:

- strategies to achieve the goals of the service
- specific objectives of the service
- actions to achieve those objectives
- performance indicators
- type and number of inspections, where necessary
- priority.

When drawing up the inspection programme each year, a detailed risk assessment is carried out to determine how resources should be used. Once this is determined, the number of inspections and analysis completed for each operator within each segment of the industry is determined using risk based criteria, which takes into account the following:

- the outcome of previous inspections
- compliance history
- nature of risk to public health in terms of type of product produced
- effective food safety management systems
- self-monitoring programmes operated by the food business operator.

Progress on the plan is formally reviewed bi-annually and adjustments are made to the priorities and/or resources as required.

3.4.1.1.7 DAFF veterinary public health inspection service – supervision and verification of planned arrangements including reporting arrangements

- The plan is subject to on-going supervision by staff at central level and as indicated above, progress on the plan is formally reviewed bi-annually.
- The management of the VPHIS meet quarterly to evaluate progress in all areas of service delivery and to review progress to date.
- VPHIS hold twice-yearly meetings with the laboratory service to plan and review delivery in areas that impact on complying with its commitments under the plan.
- In terms of zoonoses, an annual report is submitted to EU Commission, under EU legislation.
- On-going supervision of the inspecting officers is carried out by regional managers in accordance with a minimum schedule of frequencies laid down in the plan. The schedule aims to ensure that each inspection officer is subject to at least one annual supervisory visit by a supervising officer. Some inspection tasks may be the subject of more than one supervisory visit during the year depending on the perceived need for an additional supervisory visit covering any particular inspection task, e.g. extra duties because of new legislation) or the outcome of previous supervisory visits.
- Supervisory visits covering tasks additional to those indicated in the schedule may be carried out at the discretion of the supervisory inspecting officer. Reports of these supervisory inspections are completed and retained on regional and headquarter files. A copy of the supervisory inspection report is given to the officer subject to the supervisory inspection. The supervisory inspection report will indicate whether, in the opinion of the supervisory officer, the officer being assessed is carrying out their duties in an appropriate manner and in compliance with instructions issued from headquarters. Recommendations are made where there are identified shortcomings in the inspection tasks which may range from the provision of additional training or a follow-up supervisory inspection where required.

VERIFICATION OF PLANNED PROGRAMMES

HQ/regional audits

DAFF regional and headquarters veterinary officers carry out a risk-based programme of regular audits at all DAFF approved slaughtering, cutting establishments and milk pasteurising establishments. To determine the frequency of the audits, a risk assessment is carried out by the SVIs using compliance history, carcase hygiene evaluations and effectiveness of own checks programmes as criteria. Other criteria may be used including ongoing upgrading programmes or the requirements of certain importing countries, e.g. USDA. All aspects of establishment operations are inspected (including operational hygiene, equipment and structures, maintenance and sanitation, management checks and records). Any non-compliance is notified to establishment management and appropriate enforcement actions are initiated.

3.4.1.1.8 DAFF veterinary public health inspection service – checks on the effectiveness of official controls

Veterinary procedures at the establishments are also assessed (including ante-mortem and post-mortem inspections, veterinary supervision and control and veterinary office checks and records).

3.4.1.1.9 DAFF veterinary public health inspection service – resources supporting official control actions

Central Meat Control Laboratory (CMCL)

The CMCL is an accredited laboratory. It is located in Backweston and forms part of DAFF's Public Health Inspection Service. It was opened in 1985 for the specific purpose of providing laboratory support to the veterinary inspectorate based in meat establishments in assuring compliance with national and international standards of food safety and hygiene. The scientific staff of the laboratory consists of a Superintending Veterinary Inspector, who is the officer in charge, assisted by a Veterinary Research Officer and a team of chemists and technicians.

The microbiology section of the laboratory tests products from meat processing establishments throughout the country on a rotational basis, and samples are taken on a random basis from production lines and storage by authorised DAFF officials. The laboratory undertakes audits of private laboratories to assess their suitability for inclusion on the list of laboratories approved for microbiological and Trichinella testing. The laboratory plays a pivotal role in the delivery of the National Residue Monitoring Plan together with the Irish equine centre in organising the sampling programmes and in carrying out over 90% of the analyses. It is also the National Reference Laboratory for a number of substance groups. All laboratory procedures at the CMCL (analytical methods, sample control, documentation, and result reporting) are currently under review and are being up-graded where necessary to meet the requirements of the National Accreditation Board (NAB). All sections of the laboratory are involved in collaborative studies, and proficiency tests with other laboratories, and with the European Community Reference Laboratories.

Veterinary research laboratory service

The Accredited Central Veterinary Research Laboratory in Backweston.

Regional Veterinary Research Laboratories (Sligo, Athlone, Kilkenny, Limerick and Cork) each under the supervision of a Superintending Research Officer.

The State Laboratory

The State Laboratory has operated for a number of years as a National Reference Laboratory and undertakes residue analysis in particular in respect of live animals; it is now involved in the programme of random sampling for certain compound groups.

National Food Centre-Ashtown Food Research Centre

The National Food Centre at Dunsinea is a newly designated National Reference Laboratory for anthelmintics, carbamates and pyrethroids and is now involved in random sample analysis under the National Residue Testing Plan.

The Irish Equine Centre, Johnstown, Naas, Co. Kildare is used from time to time by DAFF to undertake the following:

- *Salmonella* monitoring in poultry meat
- antibiotic residue screening in pig meat
- BSE analysis.

Other resources/infrastructure as applicable

The VPHIS division headquarters is located at the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food offices in Agriculture House, Kildare Street, Dublin 2.

At regional level, field staff and field supervisory staff, are located at DAFF local offices and at meat processing plants.

In the case of both the local offices and offices situated in meat processing there are general office, IT and storage facilities available.

Officers carrying out inspections are supplied with appropriate protective clothing and footwear and necessary equipment to enable sampling where required. Staff are trained in the correct use of this equipment in taking samples.

DAFF's Information Systems Division is responsible for the maintenance and security of databases used by VPHIS. These databases facilitate data storage and report processing in respect of the inspection and sampling programmes. Computer equipment is maintained in order to ensure proper functioning.

The Meat Hygiene and TSE/ABP Veterinary Division of DAFF provides the administrative assistance and cooperation envisaged under Articles 34 – 39 of Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004 in relation to controls on foods of animal origin for which VPHIS is responsible.

Meat Hygiene/ABP Admin Division is responsible for policy formulation and transposition of legislation on meat hygiene issues. It has responsibility for the approval in the meat sector of the major slaughter, cutting and processing plants; and the effective implementation of relevant legislation to ensure that the highest standards of food safety are observed. This section also administers the preparation and issue of veterinary health certificates for the marketing of meat and meat products to the EU and to Third Countries; and coordinates supplies of protective equipment for VPHIS.

Meat plants are approved on the basis of inspection reports from VPHIS, who verify compliance by the food business operator with the requirements of EU and national legislation. A list of approved plants is available on the DAFF's website.

The section has a staff of seven and reports via Principal Officer and Assistant Secretary-General to the Secretary-General.

3.4.1.1.10 DAFF veterinary public health inspection service – arrangements for the application of horizontal legislation across different sectors/sub-sectors

The VPHIS inspectorate implements the inspection and sampling programme for product of animal origin. There is close co-operation with other areas of DAFF as follows:

- Animal Health Division
- Central Veterinary Research Laboratory
- Central Meat Control Laboratory
- Veterinary Medicines Division
- Meat Policy Division
- EU Division
- Animal By-products (BSE controls)

and external bodies such as:

- Food Safety Authority of Ireland
- Department of the Marine
- Bord Bia
- Irish Equine Centre
- National Food Centre
- Health Service Executive
- Health Protection Surveillance Centre
- National Zoonoses Forum.

There is consultation with each of these divisions and outside bodies, as necessary, when drawing up control measures that have a cross sectoral impact.

3.4.1.1.11 DAFF veterinary public health inspection service – specific control plans

- The control plans in place are those specified or required under the relevant community legislation for which the service is responsible and form part of the annual plan.
- The annual plan includes, where appropriate, inspections and analyses undertaken in respect of Commission recommendations.

3.4.1.1.12 DAFF veterinary public health inspection service – co-ordination and co-operation

In relation to co-ordination between competent authorities with related responsibilities, VPHIS liaise closely with staff of other bodies such as:

- Food Safety Authority of Ireland
- Department of Health and Children
- Bord Bia
- Local Authority Veterinary Officers.

The principal function of the FSAI is to take all reasonable steps to ensure that food produced, distributed or marketed in the State meets the highest standards of food safety and hygiene, and to ensure that food complies with legal requirements and, where appropriate, with recognised codes of good practice.

The Department of Health and Children and the FSAI are involved in aspects of zoonoses monitoring and surveillance for which DAFF is the competent authority.

To ensure efficient and effective cooperation within DAFF, VPHIS management routinely monitor control activities specified in the plan and hold meeting with other divisions within DAFF as necessary. Progress on the annual programme is formally reviewed on a bi-annual basis.

To ensure efficient and effective cooperation between competent authorities, regular interagency meetings are held at the FSAI between DAFF, the local authority veterinary services and DoHC to ensure the consistent application of the Hygiene Regulations and also other matters of mutual interest.

3.4.1.1.13 DAFF veterinary public health inspection service – training arrangements

- **Identification of training needs**

The training procedure is intended to include all aspects of both technical and administrative duties with regard to conducting inspections, carrying out audits and sampling. Each year, both technical and administrative staff complete a role profile. As part of this exercise, officers identify their training needs for the year ahead. These training requests are examined by division management and the Training Division of DAFF and where possible, appropriate training is organised.

- **Implementing training plan(s)**

Training and supervision of inspection staff is carried out at the following stages:

- induction (for new staff)
- supervised working period with experienced officers
- continuation training to keep pace with developing legislation and technology
- supervision.

A continuation training record is placed on the officers training file, together with details (agenda and dates) of the training.

- **Recording and evaluating training**

In relation to professional staff, a programme of continuous professional development exists and again all records in relation to this are maintained centrally.

Training needs are recorded for all staff in their personal development plans and at annual review meetings. Those plans are reviewed twice each year, at which time, the training provided is also assessed.

The success of training provided is assessed during audit and is based on the capacity of VPHIS division to deliver on business plan commitments.

Full-time Veterinary Inspectors and Temporary Veterinary Inspectors are registered university graduates.

Full time veterinary inspectors

On entering state employment, Veterinary Inspectors (VI) undergo induction training and on-the-job training; this is supplemented by ongoing training involving specific technical and management courses throughout the officer's employment. There is ongoing supervision and on-the-job training of the Veterinary Inspector; this has been supplemented by seminars and refresher courses given by DAFF and on occasion, in conjunction with the FSAI.

In 2005, training included a particular focus on the Hygiene Package:

Preparation for the hygiene package - VPHIS staff attended a Spring and Autumn training and information session. The hygiene package was introduced with particular emphasis on changes from existing legislation.

An auditing course was provided for all regional SVI and VI staff.

A microbiology training course was held. This course has now been provided to all VI staff.

Additional training included:

Labelling and traceability training was provided for VPHIS staff by the FSAI. This dealt with a range of labelling legislation, including compulsory beef labelling and general labelling.

Welfare training is being provided for all staff incrementally. Courses have been held for all poultry VIs, some red meat VIs and this will be followed up by additional courses in the future.

VPHIS training for staff on the implementation of the veterinary checks Directive.

Newly recruited veterinary inspectors

A mentoring programme is in place for VIs. On being recruited, VIs will commence on the job training under the supervision of an experienced VI. The recruit will visit a variety of slaughter, cutting and processing plants in the meat and milk sector as necessary. This mentoring programme of on the job training is currently being formalised to meet the requirements of the Hygiene Package.

Temporary veterinary inspectors

Temporary Veterinary Inspectors (TVIs), before being engaged, must undergo a period of on-the-job practical training under the supervision of the full-time Veterinary Inspector. For the TVI, there is ongoing supervision and on-the-job training by the Veterinary Inspector.

DAFF, in liaison with the FSAI, have met with the representatives of the Temporary Veterinary Inspectors to discuss means of providing ongoing continuing professional development for TVI staff. A draft programme of CPD includes provision of a theoretical and practical training for TVI staff. It is planned that the theoretical component may commence in Autumn, 2006.

Technical agricultural officers

Technical Agricultural Officers engaged to assist the official veterinarian at meat establishments (on duties other than ante-mortem and post-mortem inspections) are required to have a third level qualification in agriculture-related studies to national certificate level or equivalent.

On recruitment, the appointed officers undertake induction courses involving classroom and on-the-job training. On-the-job training continues under the supervision of the Veterinary Inspector, and supervisory, regional and HQ Agricultural Officers.

DAFF has contracted the National Food Centre (a section of Teagasc: the Agriculture and Food Development Authority) to provide training for Technical Agricultural Officers to the specification of the Food Hygiene Regulations. The training will be delivered in modular form to all Technical Agricultural Officers over a period of five years. All staff have undertaken a module of 24 hours duration involving classroom and laboratory tuition on hygiene, microbiology and HACCP. The training is continuing with a module, comprising 24 hours of theoretical tuition and 24 hours of practical demonstrations, on aspects of animal welfare, livestock production, disease control, animal identification, ante-mortem inspection and slaughtering techniques and procedures.

An examination (written and practical) is held at the end of each module and certification is provided through the National Council of Vocational Awards procedure.

Supervisory agricultural officers

Supervisory Agricultural Officers who are full-time employees of the competent authority working in poultry meat establishments, have received training (six weeks course) delivered by the Veterinary Faculty at University College, Dublin (with the assistance of veterinary staff of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food). The course covered microbiological aspects of poultry rearing and processing, basic anatomy and physiology of slaughtered poultry, basic pathology and recognition of post-mortem conditions, hygiene principles in food production premises including slaughter, cutting and further processing, legislation, and practical application at establishment level. Each course participant was required to undergo a written and oral examination conducted by the University and the competent authority. The National Food Centre has now been engaged to deliver similar training to recent recruits.

Training is being organised to comply with the provisions of Regulation (EC) No. 854/2004

3.4.1.1.14 DAFF veterinary public health inspection service – contingency plans and mutual assistance

Contingency plans

The VPHIS division of DAFF has put a contingency plan in place for products of animal origin, setting out the procedures to be followed and the measures to be taken in the event of a serious food incident. Hazards requiring consideration and possible management may be identified following DAFF's routine controls on food production or may be notified by an external source, for example, through the EU Rapid Alert System for food and feed. The plan outlines the responsibilities of officers involved in any food incident.

Scope of each plan:

The contingency plan covers the following activities:

- it describes the crisis planning measures which have been put in place to ensure that DAFF officials are ready to respond effectively and in a timely, coordinated and coherent manner to a food safety crisis
- it describes the crisis management procedures which are followed when DAFF is notified of or detects a serious food safety hazard involving live animals or food products of animal origin
- it specifies the responsibilities of DAFF officers and the legal basis with regard to the actions to be taken.

The plan covers the following parts of the food chain:

- primary production of food of animal origin
- importation of food animals and products of animal origin
- slaughtering of animals
- processing of products of animal origin
- transport, storage and distribution of products of animal origin.

The plan describes:

- how DAFF ensures that appropriate preparatory arrangements, through the establishment of a crisis planning team, have been undertaken to ensure that there will be a rapid and effective response to a food safety crisis
- how a crisis response team is assembled and directs the response to a crisis
- the operational procedures to be taken to respond to the crisis
- how communication with the media are handled
- the ongoing maintenance and review of the plan
- body responsible.

Arrangements for dissemination and training to ensure effective implementation including simulation exercises

The plan is reviewed by the crisis planning team, which meets at least annually for this purpose. In addition, if necessary, the team meets following an incident to conduct a post-crisis review of the plan. The annual and post crisis reviews examine the operational procedures in the plan in the light of experience. The completeness of contact details and other data are reviewed. The review meeting(s) of the crisis planning team also undertakes simulations or scenario modelling of potential incidents. Crisis planning team members also review for their areas of responsibility, the status of DAFF and food business operator systems including registers of importers, dealers and distributors, industry traceability and recall systems, and import/export recording systems.

The plan is updated as follows:

- details of staff and other contact details are updated every six months
- details of legislative provisions are updated every six months
- lists of laboratories are updated annually
- stakeholder contact details are updated annually.

Arrangements for mutual assistance

The Meat Hygiene and Animal By-products Division of DAFF will provide the administrative assistance and cooperation envisaged under Articles 34 – 39 of Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004 in relation to controls on foods of animal origin for which VPHIS is responsible.

3.4.1.1.15 DAFF veterinary public health inspection service – measures to ensure compliance with the operational criteria of Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004

- Impartiality, quality and consistency of controls

VPHIS management are committed to ensure all staff have the appropriate qualifications and training commensurate with official duties assigned to them. Its aim is to ensure that inspection staff have the necessary skills and competence to carry out inspections effectively and efficiently. In addition, on-going supervision ensures that inspections continue to be carried out in a competent and uniform manner by all inspection staff.

- Staff are free from conflict of interest

All staff working in VPHIS must complete a form each year declaring that they are free from any conflict of interest when completing their official duties. This is monitored by line management.

- Adequate laboratory capacity

VPHIS meet with relevant laboratories to outline their analytical requirements for the year. A further two meetings are held annually to monitor progress and to inform the laboratory of any additional analytical requirements. DAFF meet with other laboratories on an ad hoc basis. Following these meetings, management in the relevant laboratory is aware of the analytical requirements of the group.

- Sufficient number of suitably qualified and experienced staff

The Superintending Veterinary Inspectors identify any areas where additional staff are required and inform the Deputy Chief Veterinary Officer through the heads of division.

3.4.1.1.16 DAFF veterinary public health inspection service – internal audit

Internal audit arrangements

In 2005, a VPHIS internal audit unit (IAU) was established. This unit operates according to the guidelines contained in Commission Decision 2006/677/EC, on the conduct of internal audits as required by Article 4.6 of Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004.

The audit unit consists of a Superintending Veterinary Inspector (SVI), a Veterinary Inspector (VI) and Senior Agricultural Officers (SAOs). Each of these officers has wide technical knowledge and experience of Veterinary Public Health. The unit has taken a course in internal auditing at the Institute of Public Administration (IPA) and a course in internal auditing in the food industry, which was tailored to the specific needs of this unit by a private training company (the Registered Board of Assessors in Ireland (RBAI)). The unit is not involved in the day to day operations of the VPHIS and reports directly to the Deputy Chief Veterinary Officer.

An audit charter has been produced, which demonstrates how the audit unit will meet the requirement for transparency in the manner in which it functions.

The IAU puts in place an annual programme of internal audits to be carried by the unit. This should consist of at least three audits of specific areas of the controls implemented by the VPHIS. The audit programme is approved in advance by the Audit Monitoring Body (cf. below).

The objective of the IAU is to ensure that the implementation of the official controls for the VPHIS inspection programme is achieving the objectives of the relevant EU legislation.

The strategy of the IAU is to ensure that all major aspects of implementation of DAFF's VPHIS inspection programme are fully reviewed at an appropriate risk-based frequency over a period not exceeding five years.

Arrangements to ensure appropriate measures in the light of results of these audits are taken

The IAU will make the results of these audits available to the head of division responsible for the implementation of the VPHIS inspection programme and when non-compliances have been identified, will request that an action plan be produced by the division responsible. This action plan will be examined for approval by the IAU and will give rise to a close out audit some time after it has been put in place.

When recommendations for changes are made, follow-up checks are carried out by IAU within 12 months of the original final audit report. Implementation of audit recommendations is the responsibility of line management within the VPHIS inspection division. Where a serious food safety issue is discovered during an audit, this evidence will immediately be brought to the attention of senior management in VPHIS.

Arrangements to ensure that these audits are subject to independent scrutiny and are carried out in a transparent manner

The audit arrangements of the IAU are overseen by an Audit Monitoring Body (AMB) composed of experts from outside DAFF. The AMB has its own Charter which clarifies its independence. The AMB examines the operations of the Internal Audit Unit and reports to the Chief Veterinary Officer when it is satisfied the IAU is properly resourced, trained and is operating within the requirements of Commission Decision 2006/667. The AMB is independent in the performance of its functions. The Committee and its members are not subject to the direction of any other persons in the performance of their duties and are by top management within DAFF by virtue of their experience in the area of veterinary public health.

The head of the IAU will report on a quarterly basis to the AMB and on a regular basis to senior VPHIS management. These reports shall cover all aspects of the unit's work and key findings of the audits undertaken.

3.4.1.1.17 External audits

The IAU will cooperate with the FVO and the USDA in any external audits, which these bodies may undertake.

3.4.1.2 DAFF food safety controls with respect to dairy products

Controls at milk processing establishments are exercised by the agricultural inspectorate and at establishments which process liquid milk for drinking by the veterinary inspectorate.

Controls are exercised at primary producers producing milk for drinking by the local authority veterinary inspectorate.

The role of the veterinary public health inspection service in milk pasteurisation establishments and the certification of dairy products for export

The VPHIS has the responsibility for official controls at milk pasteurisation establishments producing liquid milk for human consumption. Official controls are organised centrally at DAFF headquarters, one Superintending Veterinary Inspector (SVI) reporting to a Senior Superintending Veterinary Inspector (SSVI) as head of the division. Official controls are implemented by six regional VPHIS divisional units. Veterinary inspectors (VIs), are headquartered in meat establishments reporting to six regional superintending veterinary inspectors (RSVIs). Milk plants are inspected by 16 such VIs. The veterinary service is supported by three official Dairy Science Laboratories.

Twenty-two milk pasteurisation plants are distributed throughout Ireland. Inspections are carried out on a risk basis. A risk assessment of each plant is done annually by the regional veterinary service and the resulting risk-based inspection frequency is reviewed throughout the year, as necessary. Plants are inspected monthly on average. Some plants are attributed a higher frequency.

The purpose of official controls at milk plants is (a) to evaluate the plant's compliance with the legislation, (b) to monitor and verify the plant food safety management systems, (c) to take any enforcement action necessary to ensure compliance and (d) to verify the corrective action (and preventative action) taken by the plant.

Official controls at milk plants are outlined in documented procedures issued to veterinary staff by HQ which explain the control methods and techniques to be used. Compliance may be evaluated and verified in a number of ways. These include inspections, audits, monitoring, surveillance, sampling and testing. Audits cover the plant's documented food safety management systems and their implementation at floor level. During inspections, VIs monitor operational hygiene practices and the hygiene and maintenance of plant structures and equipment. The adequacy of the plant's milk sampling and testing schemes for both process hygiene and food safety criteria are monitored by audits of test records and by official sampling of milk products.

The verification of planned arrangements (i.e. the scheduled inspection frequency and its effectiveness) is overseen by the RSVI and by HQ. Quarterly reports are sent by the VI to the RSVI for review. These reports are compiled for each region and ultimately sent and reviewed by HQ. The reports are finally compiled by the FSAI as part of the service contract with DAFF.

Furthermore, the RSVI audit each milk plant annually, at a minimum. HQ audits, where necessary, serve further to verify official controls at milk plants.

Training for the veterinary inspectorate conducting official controls at milk plants is provided through seminars organised by HQ.

New milk pasteurising plants are approved by the VPHIS. Similarly, new activities within existing plants must first go through the approval process before manufacturing and marketing a new product.

The dairy produce inspectorate of DAFF conduct the official controls at milk product manufacturing plants, e.g. cheese, butter, yoghurt, casein, whey etc. The documented procedures for both inspectorates outline the communication arrangements, where necessary, for the application of horizontal legislation across the two sectors. Similarly, there may be communication with the local authority veterinary service where hygiene non-compliances at farm level impinge at cross-sector level.

The VPHIS provides a certification service in conjunction with the dairy produce inspectorate, in a dual certification process, for the export of milk products destined for third countries. The VPHIS certifies the animal health aspects of the dairy products. Certification of a general nature is provided by the VPHIS at HQ, while specific certification is provided by the regional veterinary inspectorate. The dairy produce inspectorate certify the human health aspects of dairy product manufacture.

Records are maintained.

- All inspection visits are documented and the records are maintained.
- All laboratory sample results are recorded and maintained. Cross reporting of results is carried out as required by the current service contract between DAFF and the FSAI.

Official controls in dairy production holdings

Competent authorities: Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food and the local authorities.

Local: Each local authority is responsible for the statutory functions relating to veterinary inspections and hygiene in dairy production holdings supplying raw milk for liquid processing and consumption. Each local authority has a minimum of one Veterinary Inspector reporting to a Director of Service/County Manager, who is required to carry out the statutory functions outlined in S.I. No. 910/2005 – previously enshrined in S.I. No. 9/1996.

Regulation (EC) No. 178/2002 lays down the general principles and requirements of food law and defines milk as a food and the milking of animals as primary production. Dairy production holdings supplying milk for liquid consumption are also food businesses under Regulation 852/2004/EC.

These holdings represent a very important sector of food production in Ireland in the context of public health, animal health and for socioeconomic considerations.

Untreated milk from apparently healthy cows, sheep and goats that are deemed to be tuberculosis and brucellosis free cannot be guaranteed free from other pathogens.

These zoonotic agents may be present in the milk even when produced under hygienic conditions as a result of environmental contamination or direct secretion from the udder. It is essential that milk for human consumption should not contain microorganisms and/or toxins in quantities such as to affect the health of consumers.

Control system for milk production holding

Historically, local authorities were required to inspect dairy production holdings supplying liquid milk for the protection of public health with reference to the Public Health Act, 1878, Local Government Act, 1925 and Milk and Dairies Acts, 1935 and 57.

The local authority veterinary service carries out existing arrangements for official controls as previously defined under S.I. No. 9/96 (European Communities hygienic production and placing on the market of raw milk, heat treated milk and milk-based products) Regulations 1996) Sections 8 and 9.

There is a requirement under Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004 for official controls to be carried out on all food businesses.

It is proposed that a significant number of these holdings will be inspected annually, in each local authority area.

These official controls shall be carried out by the local authority veterinary service in accordance with documented procedures, with due regard to Article 10 Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004 and with due regard to the requirement for food business operators to comply with the provisions of Regulation (EC) No. 852/2004 and Section IX Annex III of Regulation (EC) No.853/2004.

The local authority veterinary service Dairy Sub-committee have drawn up a checklist to ensure a standardised approach to inspections on the relevant holdings.

3.4.1.3 DAFF food safety controls with respect to the production of eggs

The controls for eggs are described in the section on the 'agricultural inspectorate', Section 3.3.3.

There is one egg products establishment in the State, which is supervised by the veterinary public health inspection service. The establishment receives weekly visits by a Senior Agricultural Officer, monthly visits by a veterinary inspector and less frequent visits by a Regional Superintending Veterinary Inspector, all on the basis of risk analysis. Controls are as for milk pasteurising establishments (see above).

As there is no export of egg products, certification is not an issue.

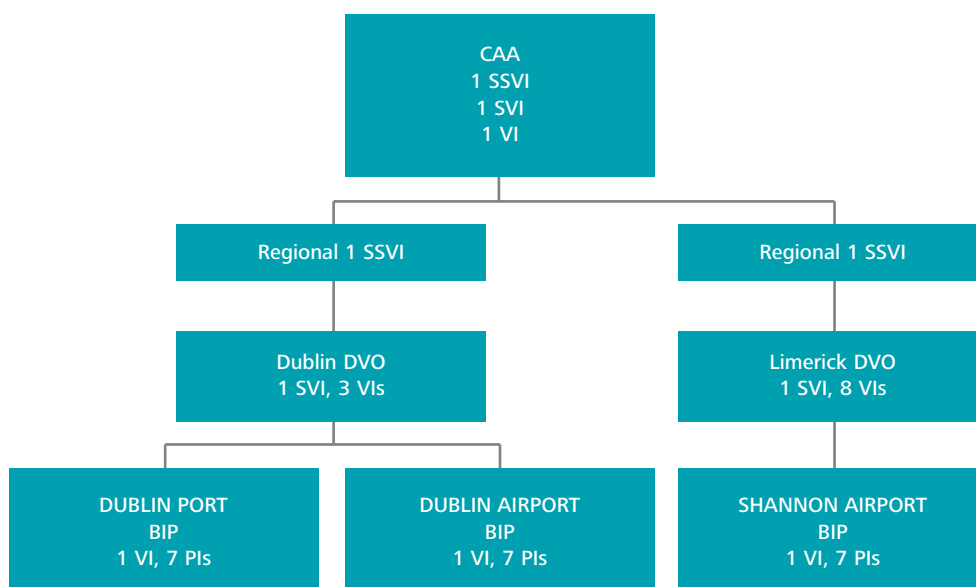
3.4.1.3 DAFF food safety controls with respect to honey

The controls for the production of honey are described in the section on the 'Agricultural Inspectorate', Section 3.3.3.

3.4.1.4 DAFF food safety controls with respect at border inspection posts (BIPs) - import controls

3.4.1.4.1 BIPs organisational structure

FIGURE 22: BIPS - LOCAL STRUCTURE



3.4.1.4.2 BIPs - control methods and techniques used and where and when applied

There are two competent authorities involved in the operation of BIPs in Ireland, namely the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food (DAFF) and the Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources (DCMNR). DCMNR is responsible for the import of live fish and fish products, and DAFF is responsible for the import of other live animals and other products of animal origin. DAFF and DCMNR are responsible for the legislation, supervision etc. for BIPs.

Procedures are set out in a detailed BIP Manual of Operations or in circulars. These are supplemented by local procedures. Any queries on procedures are addressed by HQ staff on a daily basis

3.4.1.4.3 BIPs - control priorities, resource allocation and how they relate to risk categorisation

Resources are allocated according to control priorities. Priorities are determined taking account of obligations under community legislation, and areas identified as highest risk under DAFF's Risk Management System, which is reviewed every three months. Priorities are reviewed every six months under the Strategic Management Initiative.

Normally, each BIP is supervised by DAFF staff on a full-time basis. Sea Fisheries Officers (SFO) of DCMNR provide advice and assistance in relation to imports of fish and fish products. The veterinary inspector employed by DAFF at each BIP is the person who makes the final decision on consignments. DAFF staff are authorised under DCMNR legislation for the purposes of veterinary checks on fish.

3.4.1.4.4 BIPs – co-ordination

Co-ordination between headquarters, the Regional SSVI, DVO and border inspection post VI is by way of meetings at local BIPs, and occasionally, central level, and by telephone, e-mail or fax. The BIP VIs are in daily contact with the headquarters in regard to decisions on consignments. BIP reports are sent by the local office to headquarters.

3.4.1.4.5 BIPs – resources

DAFF - central

There are five veterinarians (one SSVI, two SVIs and three VIs) and 15 administrative staff involved (partially or wholly) in BIP and import controls on live animals and animal products at headquarters. These are all full-time employees of DAFF. One VI is involved solely with the imports of animal products (third country and intra-community) and BIPs. One SSVI spends 75% of his time on BIP and import related duties.

DAFF local

There are three VIs and 17 Portal Inspectors (PIs) involved in BIP duties at local level.

	Veterinary	Technical/Administrative
Dublin Port	1	7
Dublin Airport	1 part-time	7
Shannon Airport	1	3

3.4.1.4.6 BIPs – verification of planned arrangements including reporting arrangements

A checklist for carrying out the checks is included in the BIP Manual of Operations

Checks by PIs are audited by the BIP VI on a regular basis.

HQ staff audit the BIPs (approximately twice per year). These audits may concentrate on certain BIP duties or on all BIP duties.

FSAI audit DAFF controls

A range of reports are produced including monthly sampling, quarterly to the FSAI, six monthly to the Commission, annual for both DAFF and the FSAI.

3.4.1.4.7 BIPs – arrangements for the application of horizontal legislation across different sectors/sub-sectors

DAFF officials involved with imports controls have access to the BIP Manual and BIPs have a copy of the current EU import legislation on file which is updated as required.

The BIP Manual includes the responsibilities and procedures for different sectors and sub-sectors. These are drafted in consultation with such sectors. In addition, liaison with and training for such sectors is provided.

DCMNR and the FSAI also have access to the BIP Manual.

3.4.1.4.8 BIPs – specific control plans

How specific control plans or programmes required by community legislation are integrated into the control systems for the relevant sectors or sub-sectors as appropriate.

The BIP Manual has been drafted with the requirements of EU legislation in mind, e.g., it contains the import section of the national annual Residue Control Plan.

Circulars are drafted as required and also take into account relevant legislation.

3.4.1.4.9 BIPs – coordination between competent authorities and other bodies

DAFF and the FSAI

As part of the contractual arrangements, an annual programme of liaison meetings is agreed between the FSAI and senior management in official agencies. These meetings are a forum at which issues relating to the enforcement of the relevant food safety legislation are addressed. The programme of service contract liaison meetings with the official agencies involved in import controls includes:

DAFF Border Inspection Post Division - three bilateral liaison meetings per annum.

DAFF takes part in an FSAI arranged "Import Control Working Group" which meets approx three to four times a year and consists of staff from the various agencies involved in import issues – DAFF, Veterinary Officers from local authorities, DCMNR, Health Services Executive, Office of the Revenue Commissioners (Customs and Excise) and the FSAI.

Reports to the FSAI on import control activity – these are included in the service contracts under schedule 4 and are sent to FSAI on a quarterly or monthly basis. These include reports on numbers of consignments inspected, numbers of rejected consignments and follow-up action taken.

Annual reports to the FSAI on enforcement activity, inspections etc.

Regular contacts also take place by meetings, phone, e-mail etc as required on a case by case basis.

DAFF and DCMNR

Two bilateral meetings per annum.

Co-operation with DCMNR Sea Fisheries Officers takes place locally when consignments of fish and fish products are received. The relevant public or animal health officers are consulted by telephone and the checks carried out by DAFF officials in collaboration with the SFO.

Regular contact also takes place by meetings, phone, e-mail etc as required on a case by case basis.

DAFF and Customs

Two bilateral meetings per annum.

Regular contacts also take place by meetings, phone, e-mail etc as required on a case by case basis.

DAFF and HSE

Co-operation also takes place with environmental health officers (EHOs) employed by the Department of Health and Children, in relation to mixed consignments of animal products and food of non-animal origin.

3.4.1.4.10 BIPs – training

In addition to individual training needs that are identified by all staff through the role profile under PMDS, import training is also identified by HQ in response to specific situations as these emerge, e.g. new legislation or testing procedures, Training programmes are then arranged as required.

Each individual officer keeps a record of the training that they receive in their own “training file”. An overall record of training is kept by HQ.

3.4.2 DAFF CONTROLS – ANIMAL FEED

The controls for animal feed are described in the section on the ‘Agricultural Inspectorate’, Section 3.3.3.

3.4.3 DAFF CONTROLS – PLANT HEALTH

The controls for plant health are described in the section on the ‘Agricultural Inspectorate’, Section 3.3.3.

3.4.4 DAFF CONTROLS – ANIMAL HEALTH

DAFF is the competent authority with responsibility for the development and enforcement of Ireland’s animal health and animal welfare rules and ensures verification of compliance with official controls. As already stated in the introduction to the NCP, DAFF’s management is made up of nine Assistant Secretary Generals, the Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO), the Director of Laboratories, and the Chief Agriculture Inspector (CAI) each reporting directly to the Secretary General. An organisation chart describing the management roles in DAFF can be viewed on page 46 in the **DAFF Statement of Strategy 2005 – 2007** which can be located at DAFF’s web site: <http://www.agriculture.gov.ie>.

The CVO heads up the State Veterinary Service (SVS), a division within DAFF with responsibility for maintaining and improving animal health and welfare in the national herd. It also has the responsibility to ensure through its controls and verification procedures, that the impact of animal health issues on public health is minimized. Sector specific plans under the relevant Community legislation fall within the role and responsibility of the SVS in conjunction with the ASG of DAFF. This Chapter gives a general view of the structures and also the general organisation and management of official controls planned and delivered in respect of Animal Health Programmes subject to Community legislation and in particular, the provisions of Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004.

As outlined in the earlier chapter, the SVS has the responsibility for planning and developing specific control plans in respect of all stages of animal health and disease eradication programmes and in particular, those with a public health remit. In addition to the foregoing, the SVS manages the implementation aspects of these controls and verifies compliance through a system of checks carried out locally and supported by its special investigation unit (SIU). The unit is limited in its role and audit capacity and accordingly the CVO has committed to the establishment of an internal audit unit (IAU) to meet the obligations imposed by Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004.

Ireland’s high animal health status underpins food safety and remains central to the viability of our livestock based industry and exports. A comprehensive programme is in place to deal with threats to this status and includes strengthened measures to deal with the threat from the introduction of diseases (dealt with in each of Sector specific plans) i.e. list A diseases, FMD, Swine Fever, Avian Influenza as well as new emerging diseases.

Sector specific plans such as the FMD - Foot and Mouth Disease - Operations Manual and Contingency Plan, the Avian Influenza contingency plan, can be accessed on the DAFF animal health and welfare page – <http://www.agriculture.gov.ie>

Article 41 of Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004 requires Member States to prepare and submit a single, integrated ‘Multi-annual’ National Control Plan (NCP) concerning the implementation, verification and enforcement of the rules applicable to these programmes. As already stated, DAFF is the competent authority and the SVS, in conjunction with Animal Health Division, has been delegated competence for the purposes of all the activities related to animal health subject to the provisions of Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004 and relevant Community legislation. An organisation chart setting out the reporting channels is listed in an earlier chapter: 3.3.1.2.

Five Senior Superintending Veterinary Inspectors (SSVIs) reporting to two Deputy CVOs, are each responsible for the planning and development of Sector specific plans. The Sectors are set out in the 1 – 5 list hereunder. Service delivery is organised through the regional management structure comprised of four Regional SSVI each in charge of a geographical division - NW, NE, SW, SE.

In each of the four divisions, there are seven District Veterinary Offices, each managed by an SVI who reports directly through the regional structure to the five heads of division.

1. Class A Diseases including import/export controls
2. Class B Diseases - subject to eradication programmes – see <http://www.agriculture.gov.ie> and disease eradication schemes
3. Zoonoses Division, (Salmonella Control programme, etc.)
4. TSEs/ABPs – detailed SOPs for operational tasks available on intranet.
5. Animal Remedies/Residue Monitoring –<http://www.agriculture.gov.ie>.

The four Regional Veterinary Managers (RSSVI) meet regularly with the DCVO and heads of division (monthly). Monthly meetings are held with the local SVIs to manage programmes, review targets and performance indicators. Upward feedback from local managers facilitates continuing programme development and supports policy on implementation strategy.

The strategic objectives are different in respect of the two main diseases subject to eradication measures. The Brucellosis eradication programme differs from the TB programme because of the different disease dynamics. The Brucellosis accelerated eradication programmes has yielded a real dividend under the intensive measures applied while TB eradication is a slower process and has a significant residual source of disease in wildlife thereby facilitating the annual seeding infection into the national herd. Accordingly, the strategies employed while meeting the objectives of Community legislation, nonetheless, reflect this constraint and lower targets in the performance indicators to achieve eradication.

With regard to the former OIE list A diseases, detailed arrangements are in place to achieve the rapid eradication of these (Class A) diseases such as HCPI Avian influenza, should that disease emerge in Ireland. All resources would immediately be made available to implement the measures set out in the relevant Community legislation. Enhanced laboratory capability has been brought on stream. Documentary procedures are in place and available on the E-zone. Relevant staff have been given access to training programmes including the use of PPE and how to deal with 'real time' alerts.

The competent authority in HQ, in addition to formulating the official controls, sets the objectives, strategies and priorities for all the activities described in the plan. These strategies are organised for the purposes of the relevant Community legislation and to ensure the effective enforcement of animal health rules under Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004. They are reflected in the overall objectives, goals and the higher level performance indicators of DAFF which can be accessed on DAFF's website at <http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/publications>, while the more detailed business plans, listing task priorities and resource allocation, are available on the (e-zone) internal IT system.

Through its regional structure, management has developed systems to facilitate regular monitoring, verification and compliance checks in accordance with animal health rules. To support these arrangements and underpin their effectiveness, the five divisions have a range of effective IT systems capable of supporting the management of all the disease programmes subject to the provision of this Regulation.

The management of the TB and Brucellosis Eradication is supported by the 'AHCS' IT system, which in turn is also supported by the system to manage the cattle movements system CMMS/AIM. In addition, there is a separate IT Identification/Registration management system (BTR) to meet the requirements of cattle identification/registration legislation.

Official controls in respect of the five divisions are delivered through the veterinary field inspectorate supported by technical officers.

Documentary procedures and training modules are provided for all staff implementing controls. SOPs and Circulars are available on the intranet (e-zone).

Risk categorisation strategies are applied where relevant. TB/Brucellosis eradication programmes are resource intensive and accordingly, risk strategies are employed to maximise the effort regarding a number of activities.

- (a) TB Reactor herds with confirmed infection - require detailed field epidemiological investigation by VIs due to higher risk categorisation. Criteria are reviewed in the light of appropriateness and effectiveness and revised from time to time.
- (b) The performance of private veterinary practitioners carrying out routine tuberculin testing under contract to DAFF is subject to ongoing evaluation under various administrative procedures. Risk can be assigned for follow-up field inspections and a procedural protocol is available to field staff in the event of non compliances disclosures. Upwards of 50 per cent of the DVO Veterinary Inspector resource is assigned to TB eradication activities.

Surveillance programmes to confirm official disease free status such as the Brucella Meletensis, Scrapie in sheep, EC Reg 820/97 compliance checks in cattle all have a disease, target or random component and accordingly are also subject to the risk categorisation procedure.

3.4.4.1.1 Compliance verification and audit arrangements

Verification procedures to ensure the quality, consistency, impartiality of official controls are applied. AHCS is used to monitor programme delivery, performance in relation to official controls and risk categorisation. Field staff carry out verification of compliance by operators. As stated, an internal audit unit will be set up and operational in 2007 to meet the objectives and for the purposes of Regulation (EC) 882/2004.

3.4.4.1.2 General organisation and management

DAFF and the FSAI have been assigned the competent authority role. DAFF has responsibility for almost all of the functions relating to disease programmes. The Local Authority Veterinary Inspectorate has a role in relation to post-mortem examination of cattle/sheep in small abattoirs. The numbers are small and account for a small percentage of the national slaughter programme. Local meetings take place annually to ensure cooperation, communication and integration of all relevant activities.

As described earlier there are similar control activities, general organisation and programme management in respect of all five sectors.

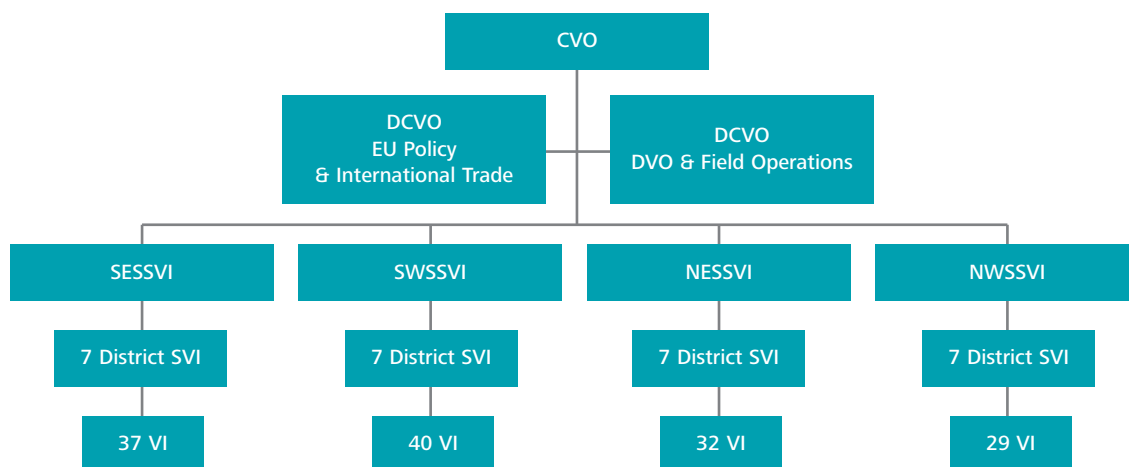
3.3.4.1.3 Legislative framework for animal health programmes

To help underpin the effective implementation of the official controls under the various animal health programmes, a legislative framework has been put in place. DAFF has set up a permanent legal unit - Legal Services Division - for this purpose. In addition, the unit supports management at all levels, not only in supporting the effective transposition of Community legislation into national law but also advises on the instigation of legal proceedings where non compliances have been identified.

3.3.4.1.4 Organisational structure and reporting arrangements

In Ireland, the field inspectorate is responsible for enforcement activity and report to the CVO through line management as set out in the chart. A separate communication link exists with the local competent authorities and the laboratory structure in relation to disease surveillance at LA abattoirs.

FIGURE 22: ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE OF DAFF ANIMAL HEALTH INSPECTORATE



As stated in the introduction, the regional veterinary service responsible for implementation aspects of the various programmes is organised as follows: four Regional Animal Health and Welfare Inspectorates (North East, North West, South East, South West) each under the supervision of a Senior Superintending Veterinary Inspector (SSVI).

There are 28 District Veterinary Offices, each of which is under the supervision of a Superintending Veterinary Inspector (SVI) and staffed by Veterinary Inspectors, Agricultural Officers and administrative staff. The District Veterinary Offices are responsible for animal health and welfare, and for the implementation of controls on residues in live animals.

Sector: Dairy Production Holdings

Competent authority: Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food

Local: Each local authority is responsible for the statutory functions relating to veterinary inspections and hygiene in dairy production holdings supplying raw milk for liquid processing and consumption. Each local authority has a minimum of one Veterinary Inspector reporting to a Director of Service/County Manager, who is required to carry out the statutory functions outlined in S.I. 910/2005 – previously enshrined in S.I. 9/1996.

Regulation (EC) No. 178/2002 lays down the general principles and requirements of food law and defines milk as a food and the milking of animals as primary production. Dairy production holdings supplying milk for liquid consumption are also food businesses under Regulation (EC) 852/2004.

These holdings represent a very important sector of food production in Ireland in the context of public health, animal health and for socioeconomic considerations.

Untreated milk from apparently healthy cows, sheep and goats that are deemed to be tuberculosis and brucellosis free cannot be guaranteed free from other pathogens.

These zoonotic agents may be present in the milk even when produced under hygienic conditions as a result of environmental contamination or direct secretion from the udder. It is essential that milk for human consumption should not contain microorganisms and/or toxins in quantities such as to affect the health of consumers.

Control system for milk production holding

Historically, local authorities were required to inspect dairy production holdings supplying liquid milk for the protection of public health with reference to the Public Health Act 1878, Local Government Act 1925 and Milk and Dairies Acts 1935 and 57.

The Local Authority Veterinary Service carries out existing arrangements for Official Controls as previously defined under S.I. 9/96 (European Communities hygienic production and placing on the market of raw milk, heat treated milk and milk-based products) Regulations, 1996) Sections 8 and 9.

There is a requirement under Regulation (EC) 882/2004 for official controls to be carried out on all food businesses.

It is proposed that a significant number of these holdings will be inspected annually, in each local authority area.

These official controls shall be carried out by the Local Authority Veterinary Service in accordance with documented procedures, with due regard to Article 10 Regulation (EC) 882/2004 and with due regard to the requirement for food business operators to comply with the provisions of Regulation (EC) 853/2004 and Section IX Annex III of Regulation (EC) 853/2004.

The Local Authority Veterinary Service Dairy Sub-committee has drawn up a checklist to ensure a standardised approach to inspections on the relevant holdings.

3.4.4.2 TB and Brucellosis eradication

3.4.4.2.1 Introduction ERAD (*Eradication of Animal Disease*) Division

DAFF is the competent authority with responsibility for the development of Ireland's animal health and animal welfare rules and the application of official controls to ensure compliance with domestic and community legislation. An organisation chart describing the management roles in DAFF can be viewed in the overview chapter. Sector specific plans under the relevant community legislation fall within the role and responsibility of the State Veterinary Service (SVS) in conjunction with the relevant Assistant Secretary General (ASG) of DAFF. This component of the plan deals with the organisation and management of the official controls in respect of two diseases – **Bovine Tuberculosis and Brucellosis**.

Ireland's high animal health status underpins food safety and remains central to the viability of our livestock based industry and exports. A comprehensive programme is in place to deal with threats to this status and includes strengthened measures to deal with the threat from the introduction of diseases (dealt with in other Sector plans) i.e. list A Diseases, FMD, Swine Fever, Avian Influenza as well as new emerging diseases.

ERAD (Eradication of Animal Disease) Division has responsibility for the eradication of both TB and brucellosis and has a separate management structure within the DAFF Animal Health Stream. ERAD has prepared the TB and Brucellosis sector plan in accordance with the requirements of the European Regulation 882/2004 on official controls. In preparing the plan, the Division has, in addition to formulating the official controls, also set the objectives and priorities for all the activities described in the plan. The DAFF objectives, goals and the higher level performance indicators can be viewed on DAFF's website at Statement of Strategy 2005-2007, while the more detailed business plans, listing task priorities and resource allocation, are available on the (intranet) internal IT system.

Through its regional structure - see organisation chart in the overview chapter - the SVS of DAFF provides for regular monitoring, verification and compliance checks in accordance with animal health rules. To support these arrangements and underpin their effectiveness, the Division has available, DAFF's Legal Services Division. For the purposes of Regulation (EC) 882/2004, the division advises on the transposition of European Community legislation in respect of animal health rules.

DAFF already has detailed sector specific control plans, in particular, the TB and Brucellosis eradication programmes. These can be accessed on the DAFF internal IT network. Only a general overview of planned activities and their priorities during the period of the NCP together with the procedures for monitoring and reporting the progress of implementation will be described in this part NCP.

3.4.4.2.2 Strategic objectives for the division (ERAD)

The strategic objectives include the eradication of both TB and Brucellosis. The planned control activities are based on the principles of effective surveillance, restriction of holdings and animal movements following disclosure, follow-up epidemiological investigations which includes the identification of 'source' and 'spread' risks and finally disease eradication and restoration of trading status.

The incidence of **Brucellosis** has reached levels where the disease has been almost totally eradicated following the application of an intensive programme commencing in 1998. Only two herds had confirmed disease in 2006. The current historically low incidence following the 2006 surveillance programme will ensure DAFF will continue its current aggressive policy to ensure Ireland reaches officially brucellosis free status within the next two years. The accelerated programme has resulted in not only a quality product for trade with domestic and external clients but has also guaranteed a major reduction in the risk of disease transmission to the human population/food chain.

TB eradication progresses at a much slower pace. The presence of Bovine Tuberculosis in wildlife, and the role of the badger in the spread of Bovine Tuberculosis, has impeded effective progress. As a consequence, in 2004, DAFF created a Wildlife Unit within the ERAD structure, setting it clear objectives and priorities. Measures are now being implemented in the high incidence areas throughout the country to mitigate the risk of disease transfer from badgers to bovines, pending the development of a vaccine for use in badgers.

Objectives:

- to implement an efficient programme of test surveillance, disease eradication and risk reduction in the food chain and national herd in accordance with relevant Community law and the provisions of European Community legislation 882/2004. This arrangement will also support the Health Certification arrangements for live animal/animal product exports to our trading partners within Member States
- to implement EU legislative provisions on disease control and eradication activities to provide for harmonisation of the rules on animal health. This arrangement will support the Health Certification arrangements for live animal/animal product exports to our trading partners within the Member States
- to ensure the sustained reduction in the incidence of bovine tuberculosis coupled with the total eradication of brucellosis from the national herd thereby creating a quality 'farm to fork' product that would help maximise consumer protection and opportunities for producers
- to further ensure all registered keepers comply with the statutory requirements concerning identification/registration of farm animals and verify compliance with rules and official controls with horizontal legislation. The strategy will facilitate verification of product regarding source and tracing activities.

3.4.4.2.3 Areas of competence/scope of responsibility

In Ireland, DAFF is the competent authority with responsibility for the transposition and enforcement of EU legislation in relation to animal health and welfare activities. It is responsible for the effective implementation and verification of compliance with the rules of all the relevant legislation regarding animal health and also the provisions set out in Regulation (EC) 882/2004. During the period of the plan, DAFF through the SVS will continue to operate its statutory surveillance programme. A separate management structure was established in DAFF to manage the eradication programme and ensure its implementation in accordance with the official controls and rules. Overall responsibility rests with an ASG (Assistant Secretary General) in DAFF and the DCVO (Deputy Chief Veterinary Officer). To facilitate effective reporting through the professional and administrative arms, a separate division exists for the SVS (State Veterinary Service) and the administrative organisation. That division - ERAD - is responsible for the formulation of policy and in addition, coordinates the financial arrangements to ensure implementation of policy. The management team in the SVS perform additional roles in the Animal Welfare and Class B Diseases Sector. The SVS field inspectorate operating through the regional structure is given responsibility to ensure the effective implementation of the objectives, verification and enforcement of the rules. Presently, an independent audit unit is not operational, however, provision is being made for the establishment of an internal audit unit within the next twelve months to meet the provisions of this Regulation and its reporting mechanism.

Annual contracts with private veterinary practitioners are agreed and these arrangements provide for the operation and implementation of agreed procedures in relation to the annual surveillance plan through the monitor test of the national herd. Other follow-up activities as a consequence of the surveillance programme are also dealt with in the contract and the annual instructions (ER05/07) are available on the internal intranet site also ER 03/07, which includes form ER 4 dealing with the operational instructions set out in document

Disease surveillance in local abattoirs, with small throughputs, is under the official control of the local authorities and in each of the 26 counties, the LA has been delegated the competence to carry out this function and accordingly is therefore the competent authority for this purpose.

3.4.4.2.4 Reporting and communication channels

In Ireland, the field inspectorate is responsible for enforcement activity and report to the CVO through line management as set out in Figure 17b. A separate communication link exists with the local authorities as competent authorities with responsibility for specific activities and the laboratory structure in relation to disease surveillance at LA abattoirs.

3.4.4.2.5 Roles and responsibilities

The policy unit of the division (ERAD) is responsible for the development of the core objectives and priorities in relation to both eradication programmes. Official controls are underpinned by a legislative framework consisting of all relevant EC Regulation and domestic law. The Diseases of Animals Act, 1966, 2001 as amended, is the key primary legislation underpinning both eradication schemes and secondary legislation gives effect to the requirements of the relevant Community legislation. These EU provisions have been transposed into National legislation to ensure compliance with the various provisions thereof.

Community Legislation	Irish Domestic Legislation
Council Directive 64/432	Diseases of Animals Act 1966, 2001 as amended.
Council Directive 77/391	Bovine Tuberculosis (Attestation of the State and General Provisions) Order, 2007
Council Directive 78/52	S.I. No. 114/1991: Brucellosis in Cattle (General Provisions) Order, 1991 (as amended)
Council Directive 96/93	S.I. No. 308: Bovine Tuberculosis (Attestation of the State and General Provisions) Order of 1989 and various amendments
Council Directive 92/102	
Council Directive 89/662	
Council Directive 90/425	
Council Directive 82/849	
Council Directive 820/97	

Commission Decisions	Irish Domestic Legislation
CD 2002/677	Bovine Tuberculosis (Attestation of the State and General Provisions) Order 2007
CD 90/638	S.I. No. 114/1991: Brucellosis in Cattle (General Provisions) Order, 1991. as amended
CD 98/139	S.I. No. 308: Bovine Tuberculosis (Attestation of the State and General Provisions) Order of 1989 and various amendments
CD 2628/97	S.I. No. 276/1999: European Communities (Identification and Registration of Bovine Animals) Regulations, 1999
CD2629/97	S.I. No. 277/1999: Bovine Tuberculosis (Attestation of the State and General Provisions) Order, 1999
	Amended identification and registration legislation will be introduced in 2007

EC Regulations	Irish Domestic Legislation
853/2004	S.I. No.2/2000: National Beef Assurance Scheme Act, 2000
854/2004	S.I. No. 276/1999: European Communities (Identification and Registration of Bovine Animals) Regulations, 1999
882/2004	S.I. No. 277/1999: Bovine Tuberculosis (Attestation of the State and General Provisions) Order, 1999
599/2004	
494/98	
1760/2000	

The TB programme see E-zone – TB programme - continues to show a reduction in disease levels year on year. Insofar as the Brucellosis programme is concerned, DAFF has now almost achieved its long term objective to eradicate this disease from the national herd. Only two herds had confirmed disease in 2006 and the continued control and maintenance of Ireland's disease free status is the key policy objective. Programme development and implementation is shaped to ensure service delivery and enforcement of the rules. The annual surveillance programme runs in parallel with the TB eradication programme - test preparation, listing and delivery – both carried out on the same day by approved PVPs. The section has key linkages with the other sections and divisions and includes the laboratory service both centrally and regionally. In addition, there are also key linkages with other sectors, for example, SWS (Mullinahone and Bandon) these agencies are not termed 'control bodies' as they act as agents of DAFF, and are not independent. They deliver a service on behalf of DAFF, supporting farmers/keepers to meet the requirements and deadlines of the identification and registration of farm animals. Under NBAS legislation, there are a number of national schemes in place to ensure traceability of animals/meat/product. These schemes provide consumers with additional assurances on safety of Irish meat/products while also supplementing the official controls in terms of disease monitoring.

Examples include:

- Cattle Movement Monitoring System (CMMS)
- AIM (Animal Identification and Movement system),
- Bovine tagging and Registration System (BTR)
- National Sheep Identification System (NSIS)
- National Pig Identification and Tracing System (NPITS)
- National Goat Identification System (NGIS).

Other areas where there are key linkages include CVERA (Centre for Veterinary Epidemiology and Risk Analysis) in UCD and other DAFF organisations responsible for trade issues, import and export of animal product.

3.4.4.2.6 National Testing Laboratories

Laboratory	Activity
Blood Testing Laboratory, Model farm Road, Cork	Testing and reporting on surveillance tests
Regional Veterinary Laboratories	Culture and histopathological examination serology, Support tests – Interferon
Central Veterinary Research Laboratory	Culture and histopathological examination of tissues, research tasks - strain typing ELISA
UCD - private laboratory	Interferon supplementary assay under the TB programme

3.4.4.2.7 Organisation, management and resources

ERAD Division (competent authority) is jointly headed by a Head of Division (HOD) on the administrative side and by a HOD on the SVS. It operates alongside DAFF's Animal Health and Welfare Division but reports directly through its administrative and SVS stream to the CVO and the ASG. The two streams (professional and administrative) operate under the joint authority of a management board/team jointly chaired by an Assistant Secretary General and the Deputy Chief Veterinary Officer. Further details of the structure and organisation can be found in the overview Chapter.

DAFF's regional management structure has been delegated the authority to carry out the implementation and verification of the official controls. The Regional Senior Superintending Veterinary Inspector is the HOD and the four HODs reports directly to the central ERAD Division on a formal basis each month. A separate BP (Business Plan) has been formulated for each of the four divisions and resources and priorities are set out therein. The more detailed organisation charts can be viewed in each of the four Divisional Business Plans on the internal IT network:

- North West
- North East
- South West
- South East.

Each division is further subdivided into seven operational units or District Veterinary Offices (DVO), each managed by a Superintending Veterinary Inspector (SVI). The latter heads up the local teams in each of the 28 District Veterinary Offices. With regard to staff resources, each of the four regional Heads of Division has adequate personnel/resources available to ensure delivery of the agreed annual programme.

3.4.4.2.8 Control activities for TB and Brucellosis sector

The official controls in place in respect of both programmes are quite similar and while tuberculosis has a significant wildlife component, the three components of effective disease management are applied:

- (i) surveillance
- (ii) containment
- (iii) eradication.

Control activities – the planned official control activities of the competent authority are set out in the DAFF business plan and are available on the intranet site: tuberculosis@Margaret Good and for brucellosis@Garry O'Hagen. The multi-annual element may be adjusted as a consequence of a revision to the DAFF's Statement of Strategy. Each activity has been allocated a resource priority in the plan. Detailed documented procedures for monitoring, verification and reporting the progress of implementation of this sector plan and are described in various circulars: ER08/2005 and ER 03/2007.

Communicating service delivery and operational targets is achieved through the monthly reporting system 'Events' and issues regarding non – delivery and resource reallocation are dealt with at each of the follow-up quarterly regional meetings.

3.4.4.2.9 Official controls in relation to Brucellosis

Note 1: Ireland is officially free of Brucellosis in sheep and goats (*B. melitensis*) (Commission decision 93/52/EEC). Since that time, Ireland has fulfilled the conditions necessary to retain such status. An annual serological survey is conducted on approximately 1300 sheep and goats flocks selected at random.

Note 2: *Brucella suis* (pigs) has never been recorded in Ireland.

The control methods and techniques used - where and when applied:

Main measures

The measures in place in the current comprehensive Bovine Brucellosis (*B. abortus*) eradication programme include the following:

Annual herd blood test:

An annual blood test is carried out on the national herd involving all eligible animals in every herd.

Pre-movement test:

Since February 1998, all female cattle over 12 months of age and bulls over 12 months of age being moved into or out of holdings (other than direct to a slaughter premises) must legally have passed a blood test within 30 days preceding the date of movement (compulsory 30 day pre-movement test).

Since then, also by legislation, bulls over 12 months and female cattle over 18 months of age may not be sold more than once, whether by public or private sale on foot of a brucellosis test and such cattle being sold must be moved from the holding where tests are undertaken direct to either the purchaser's holding or direct to a mart and from there direct to the purchaser's holding.

Monthly bulk milk test:

A bulk milk test is carried out each month on a milk sample from each herd supplying milk. Samples are tested centrally in DAFF's Brucellosis Laboratory in Cork. Samples are tested using the Milk Elisa Test, which has replaced the Milk Ring Test. Any positive result leads to the holding being restricted and the eligible animals in the herd subjected to a blood test.

Random blood testing of cows in slaughter plants (“Cull cow monitoring”):

A national programme for the random blood testing of cows in meat factories is in place. Approximately 75% of all cows slaughtered are sampled. This initiative resulted from a pilot programme, which was undertaken during 1999 which demonstrated the usefulness of this measure as a programme element. The primary aim of this aspect of the programme is to curtail the spread of infection by dealers and to identify unreported abortions in “clear herds”.

Awareness campaigns:

An awareness/advisory campaign to update farmers and others on farm husbandry and management practices to curtail the spread of brucellosis is ongoing. Leaflets were distributed to all farmers in 2002. A series of video adverts continues to run in livestock marts in relation to brucellosis. When a new breakdown occurs, information and advice on measures to take is given to all contiguous farmers. Regular meetings between the farmer representative groups both at national and local levels on brucellosis also maintain a high level of awareness.

Contiguous testing:

A comprehensive contiguous testing programme is in place. All herds contiguous to a restricted holding are tested immediately and then subsequently tested a minimum of three times per year. A software mapping programme, developed by DAFF, is available to each office to assist staff to immediately identify herds that are possibly at risk. The software allows maps to be printed from DAFF’s mapping database (developed as part of the integrated administrative controls under the livestock and cereals schemes) of holdings that are contiguous to a brucellosis breakdown at a specified distance (i.e. 200 meters, 500 meters, 1 kilometre etc.) from the index herd and the parcel(s) owned by a farmer if they occur in a wider county location. In addition to contiguous herds, the holdings of any herds associated with an index herd, e.g. shared labour or machinery, are also restricted and eligible animals tested.

Epidemiology:

A standardised epidemiological investigation and reporting format is in use for infected and non-infected herds. This facilitates disease investigation, data analysis, and help to inform policy decisions in relation to the eradication programme.

Rapid depopulation policy:

A policy of rapid depopulation of herds with confirmed infection is in place since 2000. This aims to limit the spread of the disease to the contiguous herds as epidemiological investigations showed that this was the main source of infection in 1999. This depopulation policy is considered an essential part of the eradication programme and the policy has been endorsed by the FVO missions in 1999 and 2002 and by the DG Sanco Task Force visit in 2002.

Extended rest periods:

After depopulation, a holding is rested for a four-month period. Since 2000, provision was made for extending the rest period of holdings following depopulation for up to ten months in certain situations (in particular, if there is evidence that infection may still be present in the area) and, where necessary, even longer periods subject to keeper agreement. During this period, the holding must remain free of eligible animals.

Brucellin skin test:

The brucellin skin test is used as an additional test, in addition to blood testing, in certain herds and in certain areas.

Slurry treatment:

Since 2000, a scheme has been in place whereby slurry on all infected holdings is treated with liquid lime to “sterilise” the slurry and prevent the spread of infection via contaminated slurry. This treatment is arranged and paid for by DAFF. Where treatment is not possible, manure/slurry is subjected to long term storage (12 months).

Forward and back-tracing:

In all brucellosis breakdowns, a comprehensive forward and back-tracing exercise is carried out by DAFF and any at-risk animals are removed. A new computerised system is now in place (since 2004) to assist in this procedure and increase delivery efficiency levels.

Vaccination:

Vaccination for brucellosis is not allowed in Ireland.

3.4.4.2.10 Official controls in relation to Tuberculosis

The TB sector programme provides for an annual surveillance test of the national herd and following disclosure of disease, organises the official controls in relation to the management of the outbreak. It also provides for the implementation of post mortem surveillance examination at registered meat plants on bovine carcasses. DAFF is the competent authority and the local authority inspectorate is the competent authority for small county abattoirs.

The role and contribution of wildlife to the spread of tuberculosis to bovines is well documented. To organise and implement controls in respect of this activity, a special Wildlife Unit was set up in 2004. The programme involves the identification of badger locations and badger treatment activities in 30% of the arable land in the country. The special activities applicable to the programme are detailed in relevant Circulars 2006 – particularly ER03/2006 and in the TB Handbook which can be viewed at the following site:

http://ezone/vetzone/Tuberculosis/Manual2006/HANDBOOK_2006_FINAL.pdf

The main elements of the TB eradication programme include:

- preparation of business plan and prioritisation of activities
- implement an annual monitor testing programme using the SICCT
- carry out disease surveillance at slaughter plants, local abattoirs and the Regional Laboratory Service
- implement a risk analysis programme and apply risk categorisation to herds for special follow-up activities
- restriction of herds/holdings following disclosure of disease or failure to meet testing deadlines and consequent movement control on animals
- detailed epidemiological investigation of all 'H' type breakdowns (high risk herds) and the preparation of lists for follow-up investigation of 'at risk' animals exposed to disease prior to their onward movement to other holdings. Assign risk to index herd and identify fragments of adjoining herds/holdings, or other herds and holdings with epidemiological links, for follow-up tests
- implement wildlife protocol where appropriate
- consequential tests of diseased herds and related activities to restore disease status
- quality control of Private veterinary Practitioner (PVP) testing, including field supervision, analysis of reports on testing statistics giving an indication of overall testing performance
- reactor collection service organised by the competent authority for removal from holdings of all diseased animals
- monthly reporting of the activities to management through the regional structure.

3.4.4.2.11 Control priorities, resource allocation and how they relate to risk categorisation

Brucellosis

Considerable progress has been made since 1998, towards the eradication of Bovine Brucellosis. Eradication remains a high priority for the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food.

Resource allocation is based on the high priority given to Brucellosis eradication. A team of three veterinarians based in Headquarters currently deal with Brucellosis. The implementation aspects are handled through the four regional SSVIs (HOD). There are seven District Veterinary Offices (DVOs) reporting to each Regional Head. In most DVOs a specialist Veterinary Inspector is allocated the principal operational role under the brucellosis programme. Risk categorisation is used when assessing any positive serological results. There is both a central and local decision making process involved in all cases where test positives are disclosed. As the number of positive test results is now very low, all positive results are assessed both by the Headquarters team in conjunction with the local Veterinary Inspectorate.

Training courses (Brucellosis) for veterinary staff are held every two years.

Tuberculosis

The control plan runs from 1st January to the 31st December annually. When drawing up the Annual Programme each year, a detailed risk assessment is carried out to determine how resources should be used. It provides for and contains information on the scope of the tests and inspections to be carried out and on the organisational structure and systems required for the implementation of the control activities. These instructions can be accessed on DAFF's intranet (E-zone site) ER03/06 - 2006 TB and Brucellosis Testing Programmes , 2007 TB handbook etc.

The annual plan is approved by the Heads of Division and a management team/board as early as possible in the year of operation and no later than 31st January of that year. The plan provides information on the following:

- overview of the testing programme and the staff/resources involved
- budget allocation and high level performance targets
- risk assessment for determining control activities supported by CVERA
- type and number of epidemiological investigations
- Quality Assurance of all the activities carried out at farm level
- reporting on delivery targets, verification of compliance and enforcement of rules
- mid-term reviews of resources, targets and changed priorities.

Progress on the plan is formally reviewed on a quarterly basis through the regional structure. Priorities are adjusted where appropriate and any changes are included in the business plan.

Under PMDS measures, there is provision for a formal review of the business plan at the mid year review and any adjustments agreed will be communicated to the Management Services Division for recording on the DAFF Web Page – E-Zone.

3.4.4.2.12 Verification of planned arrangements including reporting arrangements

Brucellosis: All positive results are reported to Headquarters and to the local District Veterinary Offices. The programme is supported by the AHCS computer system which handles the scheduling of all tests, also the listing to PVPs, the processing of reports and results and finally the payments for tests and grants for reactor animals etc. The overall policy and strategy of the programme is reviewed and discussed at a monthly meeting in Headquarters of all the relevant Veterinary and administrative staff. The implementation of the programme is monitored on an ongoing basis by the Headquarters Section and in a more formal way at regional meetings held four times per year involving Headquarters and DVO management

TB programme: 95% of all individual animal tuberculin test results are electronically uploaded into the Animal Health Computer System (AHCS). Discrepancies reports are printed in respect of all herd tests to verify all animals on the herd profile are tested. Test outcomes are certified by the testing PVP and interpreted by an official veterinary inspector of the competent authority. Both at local and central level, data are captured to assess the overall quality of service delivery. Testing performance by PVPs is managed according to the new protocol/arrangements agreed with Veterinary Ireland in 2007. Progress on all aspects of the annual programme is subject to review by the management board at each monthly meeting.

Monthly liaison meetings take place between the ERAD Division and the regional divisions to plan the annual work programmes and to review progress. In addition, quarterly reports on implementation target are presented to these meetings.

3.4.4.2.13 Arrangements for the application of horizontal legislation across different sectors/sub-sectors

The sampling of cows in slaughter plants is carried out under the supervision of the Veterinary Public Health Inspectorate. They also supervise the taking of gland samples from reactor animals for submission for culturing.

NBAS Division provides documented procedures in relation to tagging and registration of bovine animals and employs the services of two agencies – not control bodies – to support the delivery of objectives and operational targets. ERAD implements operational programmes under the provisions of EC Directive and notes the horizontal relationships applicable to this role. Both Divisions report to the same management team in HQ.

3.4.4.2.14 Specific control plans

Ireland's Brucellosis eradication programme is currently co-funded by the EU, and the relevant applications and reporting arrangements required are fully complied with each year. The AHCS computer facility is DAFF's main software application for managing the surveillance programme. The provisions of the various Directives and national legislation are programmed into the software thereby integrating the control systems in full. There is an audit facility whereby verification and compliance with community legislation can be checked. In addition to the aforementioned facility, a Tuberculosis Handbook is also available on the DAFF intranet (E-Zone). This includes documented procedures on all official controls and has relevant linkages.

1. The documented procedures/SOPs support the legislative provisions of the relevant Community Directives and Domestic legislation:
2. Diseases of Animals Act 1966, 2002, as amended, and relevant Orders - Bovine Tuberculosis, (Attestation of the State and General Provisions) Order 2007 and S.I. No. 114/1991: Brucellosis in Cattle (General Provisions) Order, 1991.

3.4.4.2.15 Co-ordination and co-operation

Coordination between competent authorities with related responsibilities

As previously stated DAFF is the competent authority and there are very few competent authorities with related functions and responsibilities. DAFF staff in ERAD liaise closely with those of other DAFF divisions - laboratories – and external bodies such as:

1. Food Safety Authority of Ireland
2. Zoonoses Committees and the HSE
3. CVERA – not a 'control body' within the meaning of Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004
4. Equine Laboratory Service, Identigen etc. - not a 'control body'.

Bovine Tagging and Registration 'Agency' - (Mullinahone and Bandon).

They are not a 'Control Body' within the meaning of Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004 as they do not function independently of DAFF.

CVERA supports the eradication programme analysing risk and contributing to policy formulation. It also supports the Quality Assurance Programme using data from the AHCS to verify the effectiveness of delivery and compliance with the rules. Regular meetings are held throughout the year to discuss relevant matters and programme adjustments.

DAFF has delegated specific tasks to SWS – South Western Services – located in Bandon and Mullinahone to deliver some of the Identification and Registration of functions in relation to bovines. This is not an independent unit. DAFF engages in regular formal and informal meetings through its regional organisation - Assistant Principal Officer in Tralee.

Ensuring efficient and effective co-operation within DAFF

Management in ERAD Division and the regional management team monitor routine control activities. Progress on the annual programme is formally reviewed and targets prioritised at the quarterly management meetings. The competence to carry out official controls has been delegated from the central level to the regional level, accordingly. Monthly management meetings are held at central and regional locations to ensure efficient cooperation within the service.

Ensuring efficient and effective co-operation between competent authorities

Meetings are held on an ad hoc basis between the competent authority and other competent authorities (HSE) to address issues as they arise. There is a local consultation each year prior to the launch of the annual programme to ensure all the activities are clearly focused with roles and procedures defined.

Local meetings are held once a year with the competent authority from the Local Authority Veterinary Service to communicate policy and procedures in relation to activities in abattoir with small annual throughputs.

3.4.4.2.16 Training arrangements

- Identification of training needs

The training procedure is intended to include all aspects of professional, management and organisation skills with particular emphasis on epidemiological investigation methodology and harmonisation of procedures. Each year, the division organises a training conference and all relevant professional and Administrative staff are requested to attend. Additionally, professional, administrative and technical staff complete a role profile under the PMDS programme. As part of this exercise, officers identify their training needs for the year ahead. These training requests are reviewed by the divisional managers and requests are then forwarded to the Training Division of DAFF. Management have assigned a Senior Veterinary Inspector in the SVS to deal with all the training functions. A review is carried out to identify weaknesses in the follow arrangements with a view to ensuring all staff have fulfilled formal courses leading to CPD points. Once a year dedicated veterinary training programme is organised by the officer for TB and Brucellosis activities and priorities.

- Implementing training plan(s)

Training and supervision of administrative, technical and administrative staff is carried out at the following stages:

- induction (for new staff)
- supervised working period with experienced officers
- continuation training to keep pace with developing legislation and technology
- supervision.

A training record is maintained by the Training Unit detailing modules attended, and dates. Also CPD points are awarded on completion. Each professional officer is notified of accumulation points.

- Recording and evaluating training

All training records are maintained on file at central level. Records are kept for at least five years after an officer ceases to work in the ERAD Division.

Under the PMDS module, training needs are recorded for all staff in their Personal Development Plans and at annual review meetings. These plans are reviewed twice each year at which time any training provided is also assessed.

3.4.4.2.17 Contingency plans and mutual assistance

Article 13 of Council Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004 on official controls performed to ensure the verification of compliance with feed and food law, animal health and animal welfare rules, outlines that Member States shall draw up operational contingency plans setting out measures to be implemented without delay when feed and food is found to pose a serious risk to humans or animals either directly or through the environment.

ERAD Division (Brucellosis Section) of DAFF has an operational routine plan in place which in effect meets all the requirements of this provision. The brucellosis contingency plan is also the annual operational plan located on the E-zone at: <http://ezone/vetzone/Brucellosis/brucindex.htm>.

The TB Division also has an operational plan with documented procedures and is also available on the intranet or E-zone - Tuberculosis Handbook.

Procedures to be followed and the measures to be taken in the event of a serious outbreak of TB or brucellosis being disclosed have been agreed with staff performing official controls. Hazards such as disease transmission into the food chain, sale of contamination milk and exposure of personnel to infective material have been identified and action procedures have been implemented in this regard.

Scope of each plan

The TB plan and the annual instructions are also available on the E-zone.

Simulation exercises are not required as all field staff have engaged in 'real time' exercises in the past few years.

3.4.4.2.18 Arrangement for audit

In relation to internal audits and to fulfil the legislative requirements of Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004, the ERAD Division of DAFF will establish an Internal Audit Unit (Veterinary Inspectorate) to conduct internal audits on the effectiveness and suitability of official controls performed by DAFF personnel in the central and also in the four regional divisions during 2007. The Unit's operations will ensure verification of compliance with EU Animal Health. DAFF may consider external audit arrangements in the light of results from internal audits to ensure the objectives of Regulation 4 are complied with.

3.4.4.2.19 Measures to ensure compliance with the operational criteria of Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004

The matters referred to in the guidelines document are dealt with under the central component of the plan.

- To ensure staff are free from a conflict of interest, the provisions of the Ethics in Public Office Act, 1995 apply.
- The electronic Risk Management facility enables HODs signal concerns regarding insufficient laboratory capacity etc.
- External audit arrangements, routine court proceedings to test legislative powers, Legal Services Division supporting all DAFF activities, all these elements, together with routine and FVO audits, ensure adequate legal provisions apply for relevant activities.
- Documented procedures are in place to support all staff and help with the implementation of the new AHCS software package.
- Records – both electronic and hard copies - are maintained by the competent authority at all levels of operation.

3.4.4.3 Trade, former List A Diseases and EU affairs

3.4.4.3.1 Control methods and techniques used and when and where applied

The competent authority has overall responsibility for both preparation of legislation and also application of legislation, both national and EU-level. Guidance and instructions to DVOs/BIPS in the relevant work areas are formulated following analysis and consideration of evolving requirements of national and EU legislation. This process takes place at HQ level, and in the case of EU legislation, beginning with active participation at EU-level meetings. In arriving at concrete guidance and instructions for implementation of measures, it may later continue with the assistance of certain regional staff with expert experience or knowledge as required.

When guidance and instruction is finalised, this is disseminated using a variety of means including instruction manuals, DAFF intranet, veterinary circular, email, conventional mail, and directly through meetings organised regionally or at DAFF headquarters. Regional meetings involving all DVOs and their regional SSVIs take place each quarter whilst regular meetings are held within the CCA as required. This information dissemination may extend beyond the DAFF boundary according to the issue being addressed.

The organigram for Trade, Former List A Diseases and EU Affairs section is listed in Annex 1.

In the case of contingency planning responsibility for the control of OIE former List A Diseases rests with the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food, who delegates the direction of control strategies for exotic diseases to the Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO).

The CVO has, in turn, delegated contingency planning for exotic disease to the officer in charge of the **National Disease Control Centre** (NDCC) – see Figs1 and 2. In the event of an outbreak, of disease the centre will co-ordinate the national strategy under the overall direction of the CVO. The 28 District Veterinary Offices (DVOs) are responsible for disease control measures (infected premises and area restrictions) at local level, and are responsible for setting up **Local Disease Control Centres** (LDCCs) in their area. The head of the NDCC is responsible for directing the disease emergency strategies at local level.

A Central Decision Making Unit (CDU) will co-ordinate all activities relating to the national response of DAFF.

The CDU will comprise the CVO, DCVOs (NDCC Manager, Logistics and Public Health), Assistant Secretary responsible for Animal Health and Public Health, the Principal Officer responsible for the former OIE List A diseases in Animal Health and Welfare Division and the NDCC Policy Co-ordinator (see Figure 3).

In the BIP area, the DAFF is the main competent authority involved. The Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources (DCMNR) have responsibility for the import of live fish and fish products. The control procedures are set out in a detailed BIP Manual of Operations or in Circulars. These are supplemented by local procedures.

Please see earlier chapter on BIPs (ref 3.3.5.4).

3.4.4.3.2 Control priorities, resource allocation and how they relate to risk categorisation

Control priorities are orientated towards achieving uniformity and consistency both in the application of procedures and instructions, and in coordination of a rapid response to emerging animal disease and trade issues. The focus of priority and resource is consistently directed towards addressing a constantly shifting scene regarding emerging and evolving risks, particularly as regards changes in the animal health situation. A considerable proportion of resource goes towards prioritisation of tasks associated with developments at international level, in particular EU-level, and areas identified as the highest risk under the Department Risk Management System. Priorities are reviewed under the Risk Management System quarterly.

In the contingency planning area, the top priority is to ensure that DAFF staff and other authorities are well prepared to respond to a suspect/confirmed outbreak.

3.4.4.3.3 Verification of planned arrangements including reporting arrangements

In the live animal certification area, the verification of planned arrangements is visible through the quality and accuracy of health certificates issued and the addressing of any problems raised by international trading partners, as and when they should arise. TRACES is monitored for the accuracy in which it is used by DAFF staff. Feedback on the effectiveness of planned arrangements is also obtained through the regional management meetings, and by direct and frequent discussion with local officers through telephone contact. Development is underway on the adoption of software tailored to capture reporting requirements under the Pet Passport System.

In the contingency planning area, reports form part of the Manuals of Operation. These reports must be faxed to the NDCC on completion. The NDCC checks that the required forms are properly completed and received. Following each significant exotic disease incident, a debriefing meeting is held to identify the lessons learned. Officers from all affected sub-sectors, e.g. NDCC, DVO, RVL, CVRL, attend these meetings.

In the BIP area, a checklist for carrying out the checks is included in the BIP Manual of Operations. Checks by PIs are audited by the BIP VI on a regular basis.

HQ staff audit the BIPs (approximately twice per year). These audits may concentrate on certain BIP duties or on all BIP duties.

The FSAI audits DAFF controls.

A range of reports are produced including monthly sampling, quarterly FSAI, six monthly Commission, annual FSAI and annual DAFF.

FVO audits in all areas identify such aspects of planning and reporting.

Arrangements for the application of horizontal legislation across different sectors/sub-sectors

All manuals and instructions (circulars) issued by the division are available on the DAFF intranet and are also subject hard-copy distribution. The manuals distributed include the Live Animal Trade Manual, Poultry Trade manual, two versions of TRACES manuals (DVOs and BIPs), the Pet Passport System Manual, Contingency Plans and Manuals of Instruction for FMD, CSF, AI, and ND, and the BIP Operational Manual. All officers have access to this material through the intranet.

3.4.4.3.4 Specific control plans

Contingency plans and disease control programmes and BIP operational manual required under community legislation are drafted by staff from the division. Contingency plans and manuals listed above are published on DAFF's E-zone. DVOs are updated on contingency measures/control plans and programmes at regional meetings.

3.4.4.3.5 Coordination and cooperation

Coordination with other competent authorities takes place through mail/email, telephone contact, or direct meetings according to the issue concerned. Detailed protocols or MOUs are in place with these authorities. In the event of an outbreak of a former List A Disease, a Government Task Force (including representatives from all relevant Government departments and agencies) will be set up to coordinate the response – see Figure 3.

Close liaison is maintained with EU Commission, Council Secretariat, and competent authorities of Member States through mail/email, telephone contact, or meetings.

International coordination further afield is effected through liaison with agricultural attachés and Irish embassies abroad.

Measures to ensure efficient and effective cooperation within the competent authority include clear identification of staff with responsibilities and acting in a prompt and timely manner on issues and priorities.

These include prioritisation and ranking of issues and fostering and identifying good contacts in appropriate areas of responsibility.

In the three areas of the division, FVO mission reports identify these aspects. In the BIP area, FSAI audits do so also.

Measures to ensure that all areas where coordination and cooperation are required both within and between competent authorities are addressed.

In the three areas of the Division FVO mission reports identify these aspects. In the BIP area, FSAI audits do so also.

In the area of contingency planning, testing of procedures takes place through simulation exercises. The lessons learned from such exercises are used to identify any gaps in procedures.

In the BIP area, biannual meetings are held with the relevant authorities to review and address control procedures and cooperation.

3.4.4.3.6 Training arrangements

Arrangements for identification of training needs

Identification of training needs is influenced by both development of new DAFF or EU-wide requirements based on the complexity of such requirements. Also taken into account are the characteristics of staff movements within DAFF, in particular, the movement of untrained staff into areas requiring specific training.

Cognisance is taken of any direct feedback given by field staff directly or through their managers.

In addition to individual training needs that are identified by all staff through the role profile under PMDS, the NDCC and rest of division identifies specific training needs relating to disease control, as these emerge. The NDCC/rest of division organises training sessions in these areas as required.

The arrangements for implementing of training plan(s) involve preparation of training material and update information, arrangement of training location and equipment, and short listing of appropriate attendees.

Training is recorded through maintenance of records of attendees and copies of relevant material falling within the scope of the particular training.

3.4.4.3.7 Organisational structure

FIGURE 24: ORGANISATIONAL CHART FOR TRADE, FORMER LIST A DISEASES AND EU AFFAIRS DIVISION

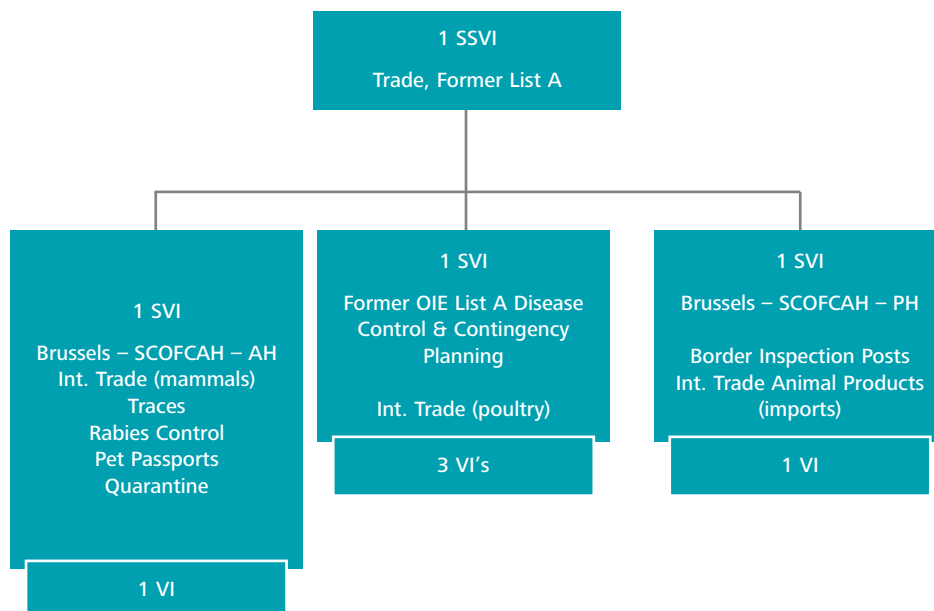


FIGURE 25: NDCC IN “PEACE-TIME”

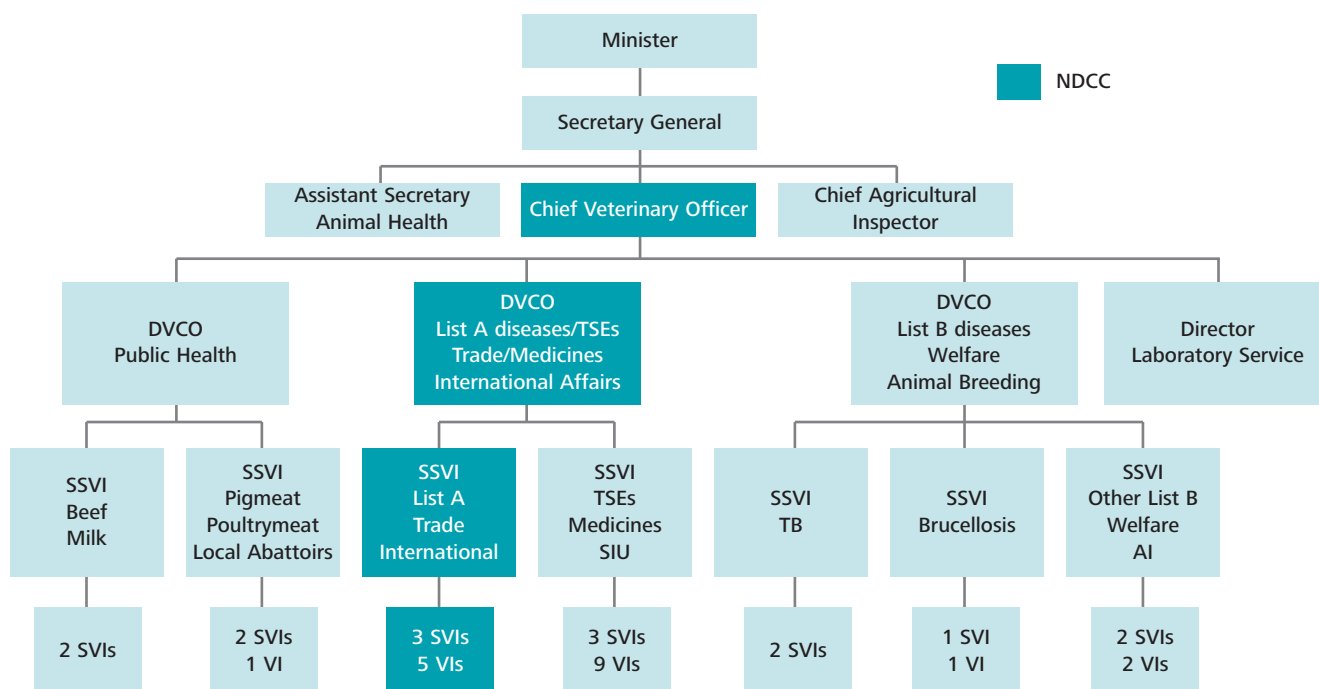
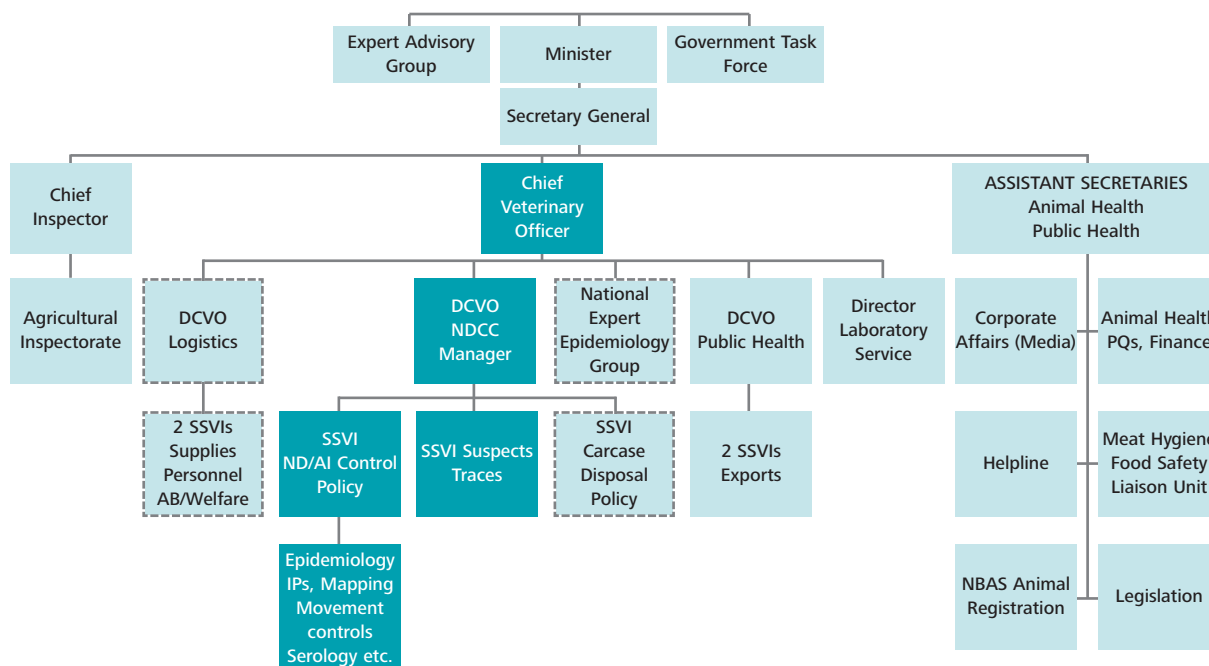


FIGURE 26: NDCC IN CRISIS



3.4.4.4 Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSEs)

3.4.4.4.1 TSEs in cattle

TSE controls

National legislation stipulates that any person who has under their care or any veterinary surgeon who has observed an animal showing clinical signs consistent with BSE must report this fact to their local District Veterinary Office (DVO). DAFF Veterinary Inspectors are responsible for ensuring compliance with the provisions of Regulation 999/2001 as amended in relation to BSE suspects, BSE positive herds and BSE related tracing. When the BSE suspect animal is located on a farm, a VI from the relevant DVO will visit the animal reported as a BSE suspect as soon as possible. If the VI forms the opinion that BSE cannot be ruled out, the VI will restrict the suspect animal and the holding and will collect all cattle identity passports relating to the herd number in which the suspect animal is located. If on the basis of the first or subsequent examinations, the VI is of the opinion that BSE cannot be ruled out in the suspect animal, the VI will arrange for the euthanasia of the animal and removal of the head to the local Regional Veterinary Laboratory. When the BSE suspect animal is detected in a slaughterhouse, the DAFF VI responsible will make arrangements for the euthanasia and removal of the suspect carcass. The VI will also notify the local DVO who will make arrangements to restrict the holding in compliance with the legislation.

The result of confirmatory testing at the National Reference Laboratory is notified to the VI responsible for the index herd and to the VI located at the meat plant (if applicable) via the BSE Section in DAFF HQ. If the result of confirmatory testing is negative for BSE, a notice removing the restriction on the suspect holding is issued by the DVO VI. If the result of confirmatory testing is positive for BSE, the DVO VI will complete an epidemiological investigation form for all holdings in which the positive animal was located during its life. This epidemiological form includes information relating to the source of feed used on the holding. The DVO VI will also begin the process of cohort and progeny tracing in compliance with the Regulation.

A list of progeny registered to each animal can be obtained from the DAFF Animal Health Computer System. A list of cohort animals is obtained either from the Computerised Movement and Monitoring System (CMMS) if the case animal was born after 1996 or from the DVO herdfile. A computerised tool called the Tracing Onward Tracking System (TOTs) is used to manage the process of cohort and progeny tracing. Staff at DVOs enter the details of each cohort and progeny animal in the system. The last known location of the animal is entered using details obtained from CMMS, which contains records of all bovine animal movements (including calf registrations) since 2000. If the animal is located in another DVO area then a notification is electronically transmitted to the other DVO area for follow-up.

Once the location of the cohort or progeny animal has been identified, if this is a location other than the index herd, the VI will visit the holding where the cohort or progeny animal is located to serve a notice on the keeper restricting its movement. The VI will arrange to have the animal valued by the DAFF Valuation Unit. Once the valuation has been agreed by the keeper, the VI will arrange for the animal to be transported from the farm to the DAFF designated slaughterhouse. The VI at the DAFF designated slaughterhouse will arrange for the animal to be tested for BSE if the animal is over 30 months of age. The VI at the DAFF designated slaughterhouse will ensure that all parts of the cohort or progeny animal are disposed of as Category 1 material in compliance with Regulation 1774 as amended. Once all cohort and progeny animals have been removed from the index herd, the VI will issue a notice removing the restriction placed on the holding at the time the suspect was first notified.

Training

Training for VIs dealing with BSE suspect and positive herds is provided by the issuing of Standard Operating Procedures by the BSE Section in HQ. SOPs are sent electronically to DVOs and are updated when required either due to a change in legislation or a change in DAFF policy in relation to how legislation will be implemented. BSE SOPs are also put up on the DAFF official website so that they can be easily accessed by all staff involved. On the job training is also provided by telephone to individual Veterinary Inspectors by Veterinary Inspectors in HQ who are available to answer questions during normal office hours Monday to Friday. Issues relating to the SOPs or the implementation of the procedures are discussed at bi-annual management meetings held between Superintending Veterinary Inspectors from DVOs and relevant staff from DAFF HQ.

Verification

Compliance with DAFF SOPs is monitored by Veterinary Inspectors in HQ for each BSE suspect. Monitoring is focussed on the key tasks to be performed in relation to each BSE suspect notably initial notification and follow up, epidemiological investigation and cohort/progeny tracing. This is done principally by the transmission of certain forms from the VI in the DVO to the VI in HQ recording actions taken in key areas but also via TOTs. Feedback on delivery in the key areas is provided by the issuing of reports from HQ to DVOs at least on a quarterly basis. Compliance with DAFF SOPs is also checked by audit of DVOs by veterinary staff from HQ. The target for 2007-2010 will be to check 33% of DVOs on an annual basis such that all DVOs will have been audited by the end of the three year cycle. The slaughterhouse responsible for the slaughter of BSE cohort and progeny animals is audited on an annual basis by veterinary staff at HQ. Audits of BSE procedures are also carried out by the Food and Veterinary Office.

Clinical surveillance for BSE

Veterinary staff at DVOs are responsible for maintaining awareness of keepers and private veterinary practitioners (PVPs) regarding the clinical signs of BSE. DVOs circulate all veterinary practises in their DVO area with a leaflet reminding PVPs of the importance of notifying and the clinical signs of BSE on a bi-annual basis. In addition, veterinary staff who are in regular contact with the veterinary practises in their area because of other disease eradication programmes, are asked to discuss the issue of BSE with the practice at least once on an annual basis.

Training

Training of VI staff in HQ, in DVOs and in slaughterhouses has been provided in the form of a DAFF video describing the clinical signs of BSE. On the job training is also provided by telephone to individual Veterinary Inspectors by Veterinary Inspectors in HQ who are available to answer questions during normal office hours Monday to Friday. Training is also provided during meetings held with field staff.

Verification

Monitoring of clinical surveillance is carried out by veterinary staff in HQ. All epidemiological investigation forms for BSE cases detected by the active surveillance programme are checked to see if the animal was treated by a PVP. If the animal was treated by a PVP the DVO is asked by HQ to contact the PVP involved to discuss the outcome. Monitoring of the spatial pattern of suspect notification by HQ is also carried out and feedback to DVOs is provided where necessary.

Active surveillance for BSE

Sampling in slaughterhouses as required by Regulation 999 as amended, is carried out by Temporary Veterinary Inspectors (TVIs) supervised by DAFF veterinary staff at each large capacity slaughter plant. Records from the Computerised Movement and Monitoring System are used to decide eligibility of animals for testing. Samples are placed in pre-numbered jars. A tag containing the same number is placed in the animal's ear to ensure traceability of the carcase in the event of a positive or inconclusive result. All parts of the animal must be retained until the result of the rapid test is available. A

protocol to ensure that this happens must be agreed with the DAFF VI responsible for the plant before the slaughter of cattle over 30 months of age can take place. In the event of a positive or inconclusive result, DAFF staff at the plant will ensure that all parts of the positive or inconclusive animal can be identified and will ensure that each part is disposed of in accordance with the legislation and with national rules.

DVO veterinary staff are responsible for sampling the vast majority of fallen stock required to be tested for BSE in compliance with Regulation 999/2001. Fallen bovine animals of all ages are collected by fallen animal collectors who operate Category 1 or Category 2 Intermediate premises in compliance with Regulation 1774. A VI from the local DVO visits the premises of the fallen animal collector on a daily basis Monday to Saturday to sample all animals collected over 24 months of age. Samples are accompanied by a form, which records the details of the animal sampled. The samples are collected by a courier operating on behalf of DAFF who delivers them to an approved private rapid testing laboratory as instructed by DAFF HQ. The rapid testing laboratory tests the sample overnight and reports the results of the rapid test on the sampling form by fax to the relevant DVO by 9am on the morning following sampling. The VI checks the results and then informs the fallen animal collector whether the carcass can be processed in compliance with Regulation 1774. If the result of the rapid test is positive or inconclusive the fallen animal collector must put the carcass aside pending a visit by the VI. The VI will arrange for the positive or inconclusive carcass to be collected by the DAFF BSE Suspect Collection Service. Before issuing a movement permit, which travels with the carcass to the storage facility, the VI will check that the correct carcass has been put aside and that all parts of the carcass are present. Arrival at the storage facility is confirmed by the return of a signed and stamped movement permit from the person responsible for the storage facility to the relevant DVO. The VI will also check that cleaning and disinfection has been carried out at the premises of the fallen animal collector.

A very small number of fallen stock located in areas where collection of the carcass is not possible are sampled either by a VI from the local DVO or by a PVP operating on behalf of DAFF. VI sampling is done in the same way as described above for sampling at the premises of fallen animal collectors. PVP sampling is controlled by the DVO who train the staff involved, arrange for collection of the samples and receive a fax of the result from the rapid testing laboratory.

Training

Training for both slaughterhouse and DVO VIs is provided by the issuing of Standard Operating Procedures by HQ. SOPs are sent electronically to slaughterhouses and DVOs and are updated when required either due to a change in legislation or a change in the policy as to how legislation will be implemented. SOPs are also put up on the DAFF official website so that they can be easily accessed by all staff involved.

A video describing the correct way to take a sample from a fallen animal has been prepared by veterinary staff in HQ. Training is also provided by veterinary staff in HQ to VIs during visits to the premises of fallen animal collectors. On-the-job training is provided by telephone to individual Veterinary Inspectors by Veterinary Inspectors in HQ who are available to answer questions during normal office hours Monday to Friday. Issues relating to the SOPs or the implementation of the procedures are discussed at bi-annual management meetings held between Superintending Veterinary Inspectors from DVOs and relevant staff from DAFF HQ.

Verification

Compliance with SOPs in the area of the sampling of fallen animals is verified principally by audit of DVO records by Veterinary Inspectors from HQ. The target for auditing in 2007-2010 will be 33% of DVOs such that all DVOs will have been audited by the time the three year cycle is up. Monitoring of key areas most notably follow up action in relation to rapid test positives and inconclusives is carried out by HQ veterinary staff for each positive or inconclusive result. Monitoring of issues relating to sample quality and to ensuring that all eligible animals have been tested will also be carried out by staff in HQ from 2007 to 2010. Audits of BSE sampling procedures are also carried out by the Food and Veterinary Office.

Horizontal arrangements

Implementation of the TSE Regulation requires close co-operation between several different Divisions within DAFF HQ; DVO and slaughterhouse staff, laboratory services (both official and private) and the Food Safety authority of Ireland (FSAI).

This co-operation is ensured via both formal processes such as pre-arranged meetings and informal communication, which takes place on a regular basis.

HQ and NRL staff also maintain close contact with experts in other Member States through active participation at EU meetings and conferences.

3.4.4.4.2 TSEs in sheep and goats

Surveillance and monitoring

Active surveillance is carried out on an ongoing basis in export slaughter plants (healthy slaughtered animals) and category 1 intermediate plants (fallen animals).

In addition surveillance is carried out on scrapie positive flocks (healthy slaughtered animals >18mths, fallen animals >18mths and culls >12mths). Surveillance is also carried out on scrapie monitored animals (fallen animals >18mths).

Passive surveillance is carried out on an ongoing basis. Scrapie clinical suspects are reported by farmers, private veterinary surgeons and state veterinary surgeons.

Control measures on scrapie positive farms

A standard operating procedure is in place to standardise control measures on scrapie positive flocks in accordance with Regulation (EC) No. 999/2001 as amended.

National Genotyping Programme (NGP)

The National Genotype Programme (NGP) commenced in May 2004. Each sheep genotyped under the NGP without a VRQ allele is issued with a National Genotype Certificate generated electronically by the competent authority. All records are maintained on a central database which retains the following details: flock owner's name and address, flock number, sheep identification number, breed, age, sex, NGP certificate number. The animals are sampled by the farmer's private veterinary surgeon. The genotyping tests are performed in an approved laboratory.

In 2006, Ireland introduced further measures worth up to ?1.5 million to encourage greater participation in the NGP. The NGP and its compensatory elements are available to both pedigree and commercial flocks. The initiative involves the payment by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food (DAFF) of a contribution towards laboratory testing costs together with compensation to those farmers where genotyped rams which are identified as the most susceptible to Scrapie are slaughtered.

National Sheep Identification System (NSIS)

The National Sheep Identification System (NSIS) was introduced in Ireland in June 2001. Given the experience at that time it was decided that the new identification system would be as comprehensive as possible and would be based on both flock and on **recorded** individual identification for all sheep.

The system is designed to be multi-functional and to allow for full traceability of sheep through all movements. It is also designed to meet all of the requirements of disease control, disease eradication and public health.

Under NSIS farmers are required to tag **all** sheep either on movement off the farm or within nine months of birth, whichever date is first. A tag containing the flock identifier **and** an individual number is placed in the left ear of the sheep. As sheep are tagged the full identification details, including individual identification, must be written into the **holding register** held on farm.

All movements of sheep must be accompanied by a **movement document** recording the flock identifier **and** the individual identification of all the sheep in the consignment. A copy of this movement document is retained by both buyer and seller **and** all movements on or off the farm must be recorded in the holding register, which must include the individual identification of each sheep bought/sold.

Where farmers buy in sheep from another holding they must put their own tag (i.e. their own flock identifier and an individual number) in the right ear of the sheep and record the numbers of their own tags in the register, cross-referenced to the farm of origin.

Where farmers buy in sheep which have already been on two or more other holdings, they must replace the right ear tags with their own and correlate these with the numbers they remove. Very few sheep in Ireland are moved this often – it is estimated 5% at most.

Where a tag is lost which relates to the holding the sheep is on, it is replaced with the next tag in that farmer's sequence and this is entered into the holding register as a replacement tag – correlated to the original tag if it is a bought in sheep. Where the tag of the farm of origin is lost on a bought in sheep, it is replaced with a yellow replacement tag, and correlated in the register with the relevant sheep/lost tag.

Lamb processors are required to:

- satisfy themselves as to the provenance of all sheep accepted for slaughter at the plant
- ensure that all sheep accepted for slaughter are properly tagged and documented
- record the flock identifier of the flock from which the sheep have come
- record the individual number of every sheep processed through the factory
- ensure that every carcass carries a label containing the country of origin code IE, the relevant flock identifier and the individual animal identifier.

Marts are required to:

- ensure that no sheep are accepted for sale which are not identified in accordance with NSIS
- ensure that no sheep are accepted for sale which are not accompanied by a completed movement document
- following sale, complete the movement document with the relevant sale details – i.e. mart number, lot number, stamp and date
- supply the purchaser of the sheep with a copy of the fully completed movement document
- retain a copy of the completed movement document.

Farmers are required to do a reconciliation of their flock annually.

The issue of tag numbers is centrally controlled. Farmers are free to buy tags from any approved supplier, but batches of tag numbers are issued to the tag supplier by DAFF via an immediate internet based system. Thus, DAFF has full information on all tag purchasers (who must be registered flock owners) and on purchases made.

All requirements are grounded in National legislation – S.I. No. 281 – Diseases of Animals Act, 1966 (National Sheep Identification System) Order, 2001.

Commission Decision of 2 August, 2005 (2005/597/EC) recognised the system for the identification and registration of ovine animals provided for under Article 4(2)(C) of Regulation No.21/2004 implemented by Ireland as fully operational as of (July, 2004).

National Goat Identification System (NGIS)

NGIS was introduced in Ireland in 2005 to provide for a national system of goat identification vital for disease control, traceability and consumer assurance. The system is based on:

- double tagging of all goats by the age of six months or on movement from a holding, whichever comes first
- use of herd registers to record details of numbers of goats on a holding and details of movements
- use of dispatch documents to record movements.

Tagging

All goats moved from a holding must be double tagged (i.e. a tag in each ear) on movement with tags (white) showing the goat designator and an individual number. All movements must be accompanied by a dispatch document.

If goats are purchased from another keeper the herd owner must ensure that the goats have been tagged and that they receive a dispatch document for their records. No further tagging is required except in the event of tag loss.

All goats on a holding over the age of six months must be double tagged. Goats must thereafter be tagged by the age of six months or on movement, whichever comes first.

Tags are issued to a flock owner with a goat designator and an individual number, starting at 1. There is no requirement to record the individual numbers on dispatch documents or in flock registers unless the herd owner wishes to do so.

Tag loss

Where a goat has lost a tag the herd owner is required to replace the lost tag with a replacement tag bearing the **same designator and individual number** as the tag lost as soon as is practicable. This replacement (which is yellow) must be ordered from a tag supplier, specifying the number required to be on the tag.

Where a goat has lost both tags, a herd owner should similarly replace with two tags bearing the same designator and individual number as the tags lost. All details regarding tag replacements must be recorded in the flock register. Full instructions on how to do this are contained in the flock register.

Dispatch documents

A dispatch document will have to be completed for every movement of live goats from a holding, regardless of destination. A herd owner must retain a copy of this document for their records and a copy will also be retained by the buyer, abattoir or mart.

The details to be completed on the dispatch document include keepers name, address and herd number, the number of goats in the consignment and destination and transporter details.

Herd register

The herd register must contain details, on a batch basis (i.e. not on an individual basis) of all movements of goats on and off a holding. The herd register must contain details, on a batch basis, of all goats on a holding over the age of six months.

Details of all tag replacements must also be recorded in the register.

Imports

Goats imported from another Member State will be double tagged and no further tagging is required. Existing veterinary requirements continue to apply. Imports from a country outside of the EU must be tagged with red import tags.

All requirements are grounded in national legislation – S.I. No. 792 of 2005 – European Communities (Goat Identification) Regulations, 2005.

Verification of planned arrangements including reporting arrangements

Regular inspections of District Veterinary Offices (DVOs) are conducted to monitor progress in dealing with TSE positive flocks. Currently all administration work pertaining to daily management of scrapie positive flocks is being decentralised and will be entirely conducted at local level in the near future. Annual audits are conducted by the DVOs on positive flocks to ensure ongoing compliance with EU legislation. All reports and forms relating to scrapie positive flocks are logged in and reviewed at central level.

Arrangements for the application of horizontal legislation across different sectors/sub-sectors

There are established communication channels between the TSEs in sheep and goats sector and the Animal By-products and Veterinary Public Health sectors allowing for successful implementation of TSE surveillance and monitoring programmes. In addition, DAFF interacts closely with the FSAI on TSE surveillance in local authority meat plants.

Specific control plans

EU community legislation relating to surveillance and monitoring of TSEs in sheep and goats are integrated into the Animal By-products sector (Category 1 intermediate plants) and the Veterinary Public Health sector (export meat plants) by close consultation with the TSEs in sheep and goats sector. Any legislation that comes into force is incorporated into all standard operating procedures (SOPs), and extensive countrywide training programmes are instigated for all staff involved in the TSEs in sheep and goats sector. Compliance with community legislation is monitored on an on-going basis and regular seminars are conducted to educate and identify what areas are problematic.

3.4.4.5 Sheep scab

Control system

The control of Sheep Scab is governed by the Diseases of Animals Act (Notification and Control of Animal Diseases) Order, 2006. This legislation is implemented by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food. The disease itself is notifiable. A person who has, in his or her possession, or under his or her control, an animal affected by sheep scab is obliged to notify this fact to DAFF and DAFF investigates each report. Flocks have movement restrictions imposed while treatment takes place and these restrictions are only lifted when the flock has been re-inspected and confirmed free.

The priority in implementing the legislation is to ensure all reported cases are treated and flocks cleared of the disease thus minimising further spread. The welfare aspects of the disease and the effects it has on sheep are also an important factor and are subject to the relevant welfare legislation.

3.4.4.6 Animal by-products

3.4.4.6.1 Controls in category 2 intermediate plants (including meat sellers-knackery, final feeders-knackery)

Category 2 intermediate plants are premises in which category 2 material (in this case carcasses) is handled and/or stored temporarily for the purpose of further transportation to its final destination. Activities such as the removal of hides, meat and performing of post-mortem examinations and sampling for TSEs may also take place in these plants. All plants are approved by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food (DAFF) in accordance with Regulation 1774/2002. The approval conditions for category two intermediate plants are constructed under the following headings:

Premises

Premises must be suitably located with a covered space to receive and handle animal by-products. They should ensure, where applicable, the separation and appropriate storage of different categories of material within the plant. Basic hygiene requirements must be met regarding buildings, equipment, receptacles, vehicles and amenities.

Procedures

Procedures within the plant should ensure separate handling and storage of different categories of material. Material must be processed as soon as possible after arrival at the plant. In accordance with EU Regulation 999/2001, as amended, all bovine animals over the age of 24 months and a specified number of adult sheep over the age of 18 months, must be presented to the VI attending the plant for BSE and scrapie sampling. Bovine carcasses and ovine heads must not be processed or disposed of until the results of the test are made available to the plant owner.

Collection of category 2 material (carcasses)

All hauliers of category 2 material must be registered by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food. Receptacles/vehicles used must be dedicated to the transport of category 2 material only, labelled appropriately, covered and maintained in a clean condition.

Records and documentation

Holders of a category 2 intermediate plant approval must keep records of all animal by-products (carcasses in this case) delivered to and dispatched from the plant in order to ensure traceability of the product. The required records are as follows:

- all incoming category 2 material must be accompanied by a commercial document, e.g. form NBAS 31D in the case of bovine animals, as well as valid ID documents in the case of bovine animals
- an intake register must be maintained pertaining to all incoming material
- all material dispatched from the premises must be accompanied by a commercial document
- a meat sales register must be completed for all meat sold/supplied from the premises where applicable
- a meat feeding register should be kept for all meat fed to hounds on the premises where applicable.

Safety statement and HACCP plan

Plants must have in place a suitable safety statement to which all employees have access. Plants must also have in place, implement and maintain a permanent procedure developed in accordance with the principles of hazard analysis and critical control points (HACCP).

Supervision of controls

In order to ensure compliance with the above conditions all approved category 2 intermediate plants are supervised by DAFF. Supervision takes place on two levels:

(a) Supervision by the District Veterinary Office (DVO)

Each DVO is responsible for the supervision of all category 2 intermediate plants in the DVO area. Generally, this responsibility is allocated to a particular Veterinary Inspector (VI). The Protocol for the Supervision of Category 2 Intermediate Plants was prepared by staff from HQ in January 2005 and updated again in May 2006. It has been circulated to all DVO staff with responsibility for supervising these plants. It outlines in detail the approval conditions for the plants. Section 4 of the protocol also outlines the requirements regarding DVO supervision of approved plants, which are as follows:

- **Daily visits:** The primary purpose of these visits is to carry out TSE sampling in accordance with the TSE Regulation 999/2001 as amended. The visits also provide an opportunity to observe the day to day running of the plant. If non-compliances are noted a form is issued to the plant owner. This form details the non-compliance, grades it according to seriousness (level 1-3), and indicates a timescale for correction. The VI is then required to certify when the non-compliance is addressed.
- **Monthly inspection:** This consists of an unannounced inspection of the plant and plant procedures by the VI responsible. All areas of the plant operation are examined during this inspection. A form (Cat 2 Intermediate Plant Monthly Inspection Form, KnK 7) is completed for the following headings:

Work procedures, e.g. general procedures for handling carcasses, TSE testing procedures, storage of category 1 material, storage of category 2 material, storage of category 3 material, staining of meat (if applicable), packaging and labelling of meat (if applicable), records and documentation for all materials entering and leaving the plant. This inspection form is placed on the knackery file in the DVO. If a non-compliance is identified a non-compliance form is issued as described above. Non-compliance forms are also copied to HQ where they are entered on a database.
- **Quarterly inspection:** This consists of an unannounced inspection of the plant and plant procedures by the VI responsible during which a form (Cat 2 Intermediate Plant Quarterly Inspection Form –KnK 8) is completed. This form is similar to the monthly inspection described above. However, it also requires an examination of the physical structure of the plant to ensure compliance with the relevant regulations. This form is placed on the knackery file in the DVO and copied to HQ. If a non-compliance is identified, a non compliance form is again issued to the plant owner as above.
- **Collection vehicle inspection and licensing:** All vehicles involved in the collection of fallen animals must be inspected at least annually by the local VI. A form is completed for each vehicle inspected (Fallen Animal Collection Vehicle Inspection Form KnK 9) and the VI is required to recommend whether the vehicle is suitable for use. These forms are kept on file in the DVO.

(b) Supervision by DAFF Headquarters

A file is maintained in HQ for each approved category 2 intermediate plant. An electronic database of quarterly reports received at HQ is maintained which includes any non-compliances identified for the relevant quarter. Therefore, the overall performance of plants can be monitored.

In addition to the DVO inspections, staff from HQ also carry out an annual inspection of each plant. A report is compiled on foot of this inspection, recommendations are made, non-compliances noted and non-compliance forms are issued to plant management. These are subsequently followed up by the local VI who, in turn, reports back to HQ.

Verification of planned arrangements including reporting arrangements

The SVI in the DVO is required to sign and comment on (if appropriate) the monthly inspection report compiled by the VI responsible for the category 2 intermediate plant/plants in that DVO area. VIs are also required to bring copies of the monthly inspection reports to the plant during the annual inspection by HQ staff for reference. SVIs are also required to sign and comment on (if appropriate) the quarterly inspection report. This is also copied to HQ as described above, where a database of the same is maintained. The local VI must also sign off on any non-compliance forms issued to certify that the relevant issue/issues have been addressed and these are copied to HQ.

Arrangements for the application of horizontal legislation across different sectors/sub-sectors

There is established communication channels between the Animal By-products Section of the division and the TSE section to allow the implementation of the TSE Regulation (999/2001 as amended) in category 2 intermediate plants as the majority of the active surveillance program for BSE and Scrapie regarding the surveillance of fallen stock occurs in these plants. There is also communication between other relevant sections such as ERAD for example regarding the appropriate disposal of fallen bovine animals and their notification to CMMS.

Specific control plans

The EU legislation regarding the operation of category 2 intermediate plants is constantly being updated and amended. For that reason, the approval conditions for category 2 intermediate plants must be updated in order to keep in line with the relevant legislation. These updated approval conditions must then be integrated into the existing Supervision Protocol and circulated to the relevant sectors, e.g. Protocol for the Supervision of Category 2 Intermediate Plants updated in May 2006 and circulated to DVOs, approval conditions for category 2 intermediate plants updated and circulated to all plant owners in July 2006.

3.4.4.6.2 Controls in Category 1 and Category 3 processing plants

Approval of processing plants

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food (DAFF) in accordance with Regulation 1774/2002, approve all processing plants. The approval conditions and conditions of operation are laid down in detail in DAFF's Processing Manual". There is permanent DAFF staff present in all processing plants.

Control methods in processing plants

Sterilisation parameters

In Ireland all animal by-products are processed to method 1 criterion as specified in Chapter 111, Annex V of Regulation 1774/2002. These parameters are recorded on real time graphs and data loggers and summary details are recorded by department in "The plant processing records book". The competent authority receives weekly and monthly reports, which are of a qualitative nature. Details of non-compliances are also forwarded to the competent authority.

Representative sampling

Microbiological testing of processed animal protein is performed by plant staff on a composite basis. Insoluble impurities testing of all categories of tallow is performed on a per batch basis by plant staff. DAFF staff take monthly samples of PAP and tallow/rendered fats to determine compliance with the regulation.

VERIFICATION ARRANGEMENTS FOR PROCESSING PLANTS

Local DAFF presence

There is permanent DAFF staff present in all processing plants.

Validation

Each processing plant is validated once per year by a veterinary inspector from the competent authority. In addition to this, the veterinary inspector will make at least two other inspections to each plant.

Reports

The competent authority receives weekly and monthly reports, which are of a qualitative nature. Details of non-compliances are also forwarded to the competent authority.

HACCP plan in processing plants

Plants must have in place a suitable safety statement to which all employees have access. Plants must also have in place, implement and maintain a permanent procedure developed in accordance with the principles of hazard analysis and critical control points (HACCP).

Approval of steam raising thermal boiler facilities

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food (DAFF) in accordance with Regulation 2067/2005, approve all steam raising thermal boilers that combust rendered animal fats. The approval conditions and conditions of operation are laid down in detail in DAFF's Standard Operating Procedure "TSE SOP 04/2006". Approval to combust all categories of rendered fats is issued on a case-by-case basis. A list of approved users will be posted on the department's web site.

CONTROL METHODS IN THERMAL BOILER FACILITIES

Combustion parameters

All facilities that combust rendered animal fats must have in place a system whereby the combustion temperatures in accordance with the Regulation are recorded continuously with a data logger system and that this is converted to a real time graph.

VERIFICATION ARRANGEMENTS FOR THERMAL BOILER FACILITIES

Local DAFF presence

DAFF staff periodically inspect premises that combust rendered animal fats to determine compliance with the regulation.

Validation

Each premises that combust rendered animal fats is validated once per year by a local DAFF officer.

Reports

The competent authority receives weekly and monthly reports. Details of non-compliances are also forwarded to the competent authority.

Procedures manual

Plants must also have in place a procedure that details all operational and control criteria in relation to the combustion of rendered animal fats in accordance with the Regulation.

Approval of meat and bone meal (MBM) stores

DAFF, in accordance with Regulation 1774/2002, approves all storage facilities where MBM, processed animal proteins or rendered fats are stored pending final use or disposal. The approval conditions and conditions of operation are laid down in detail in DAFF's Standard Operating Procedure "TSE SOP 06/2005".

Control methods in MBM stores

All facilities that store MBM, processed animal proteins or rendered fats pending final use or disposal are sealed by DAFF officers when not in use. Records are maintained of all seals applied.

VERIFICATION ARRANGEMENTS FOR MBM STORES

Local DAFF presence

DAFF veterinary inspectors periodically inspect storage facilities to determine compliance with the Regulation.

Reports

The competent authority receives weekly and monthly reports. Details of non-compliances are also forwarded to the competent authority.

DAFF, in accordance with Regulation 1774/2002 register all hauliers of animal by-products. The registration conditions and conditions of operation are laid down in detail in DAFF's Standard Operating Procedure "TSE SOP 09/2006".

Receptacles/vehicles used must be dedicated to the extent necessary to prevent cross contamination, labelled appropriately in accordance with Chapter 1, Annex 11 of Regulation 1774/2002.

VERIFICATION ARRANGEMENTS FOR HAULIERS OF ABP

Processing plant inspections

DAFF staff at processing plants inspect 20% of all incoming loads to determine compliance with the guidelines and the regulation. A record of this inspection is maintained in "The Intake Records Book" at processing plants. Details of non-compliances are forwarded to the competent authority.

Local DAFF inspections

DAFF veterinary inspectors periodically inspect haulier facilities to determine compliance with the regulation.

Reports

Details of non-compliances are forwarded to the competent authority.

Approval of low capacity incinerators

DAFF, in accordance with Regulation 1774/2002 approve low capacity incinerators for the disposal of animal by-products. At present there is only one such facility approved in Ireland.

Control methods for low capacity incinerators

All facilities that use low capacity incinerators for the disposal of animal by-products must maintain real time graphs and data loggers in accordance with the Regulation.

VERIFICATION ARRANGEMENTS FOR LOW CAPACITY INCINERATORS

Local DAFF presence

A local authority veterinary inspector periodically inspects the low capacity incinerator facility to determine compliance with the regulation.

Validation

The above-mentioned facility is validated once per year by an SVI from the Animal By-products Division of the competent authority.

Arrangements for the application of horizontal legislation across different sectors/sub-sectors

There are established communication channels between the Animal By-products Section of the division and the following bodies:

- FSAI
- Wexford Division
- Feed Division
- Veterinary Public Health

to allow the implementation of the Animal By-products Regulation (1774/2002 as amended).

Specific control plans

The EU legislation regarding the operation of facilities that handle, process, store, and dispatch animal by-products are constantly being updated and amended. For that reason the approval and operational conditions of such facilities must be updated in order to keep in line with the relevant legislation. These updated conditions must then be integrated into the existing procedures and circulated to the relevant sectors.

COMPOSTING AND BIOGAS PLANTS

Introduction:

Regulation (EC) No. 1774/2002 of 3rd October 2002, lays down health rules concerning animal by-products (ABP) not intended for human consumption. The ABP Regulation came into force on 30th October 2002 and has applied since the 30th April 2003. S.I. No. 248 of 2003 transposes it into Irish legislation.

The TSE/ABP Veterinary Division in conjunction with the Meat Hygiene/ABP Administrative Divisions was delegated the task of developing policy and drawing up guidelines and procedures for parties involved in all stages of the ABP industry.

Implementation of the Regulation in the composting and biogas sector was initiated in July 2004 and resources and personnel within the section were dedicated to this task.

A Veterinary Inspector (VI) based in Headquarters was made responsible for interpretation of the legislation and developing national policy. At the end of an 18-month period of consultation, in December 2005, the following documents were issued to the industry including all users of ABPs including catering waste as they were identified:

- *"Conditions for approval and operation of composting and biogas plants treating animal by-products in Ireland (version 3)"*
- *"Guidance for applicants wishing to treat animal by-products in composting and biogas plants in Ireland".*

This VI is also responsible for assessing all applications for approval. This involves assessing all information supplied as part of the applications and inspecting all facilities. Final recommendations on approval are made by the Superintending VI with responsibilities for animal by-products.

A condition of approval is that plant operators must take samples of material post-processing on a monthly basis for microbiological analysis in a DAFF approved Lab. Records of these results must be kept at the facility and available for inspection at all times. Once approved, the plants are subject to six monthly inspections. These inspections are done by four VIs situated in each region of the country (NW, SW, NE and SE). Inspection reports from these visits are sent to Headquarters.

For the initial period following approval, plants are subject to unannounced inspections from both the regional and HQ inspectors.

A number of other Government departments and agencies are also involved in the regulation of these industries, these include:

- other sections in the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food
- Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government
- Environmental Protection Agency.

Regular contact is kept with all interested parties through written correspondence and meetings.

The Headquarter VI receives training in a number of areas including:

- computer skills
- communication skills
- interpretation and implementation of legislation
- auditing
- HACCP.

The regional VIs also required training and annual training days will be held for them to ensure that an equal standard is applied over the whole country. Currently, it is envisaged that the Headquarter VI will accompany the regional VIs on some of the six monthly visits to provide advice and support.

3.4.4.7 Zoonoses and Class B Diseases

In Ireland, DAFF is the competent authority responsible for the transposition and implementation of European Community legislation concerning animal health. Article 41 of regulation (EC) No. 882/2004 of the European Parliament, requires Member States to transmit a single integrated multi-annual control plan concerning the implementation of their programmes. The following information on animal health, animal breeding and zoonoses controls is intended for incorporation into the single integrated multi-annual control plan.

3.4.4.7.1 Areas of competence/scope of responsibility

In Ireland, DAFF is the competent authority with responsibility for the transposition and enforcement of EU legislation in the areas of animal health, animal breeding and zoonoses. At central level, the animal health division implement operational policy with respect to the monitoring and control of animal diseases, the monitoring and control of animal breeding with respect to animal health, welfare and traceability issues and the monitoring and control of zoonoses pre farm gate. DAFF operates under service contract to the FSAI of Ireland in the area of zoonoses. Administrative functions in relation to animal diseases are dealt with by the Animal Health and Welfare Division. Administrative issues in relation to animal breeding are dealt with by Animal Breeding Division and zoonoses pre-farm gate is dealt with by the Pigmeat and Poultry Administrative Division. Zoonoses post farm gate is dealt with by Veterinary Public Health Division which is also supported by the Pigmeat and Poultry Division. The Veterinary Inspectorate cooperates with DAFF's inspectorate in the areas of medicines and controls on products of animal origin and DAFF's inspectorate in the areas of public health and welfare. It also cooperates with DAFF's inspectorate in the areas of zootechnics and egg marketing

3.4.4.7.2 Reporting and communication channels

Central authority

Animal Health Section in DAFF Headquarters consists of one SSVI one SVI and one VI. This section represents Ireland in the Commission. It advises on the way in which EU legislation is implemented in national legislation. It draws up controls, trains regional staff in the operation and implementation of these rules and evaluates the effectiveness of these controls. They are authorised under EU and national legislation to carry out monitoring and control for diseases including the inspection of holdings and premises including animal breeding premises and the taking of samples for diagnostic procedures across all species. They are involved in the development of management information systems for certification purposes for the facilitation of trade. They are involved in the rapid identification of diseases within their remit and in particular on identification of disease they develop and initiate and coordinate with HQ policy staff, VPHIS staff and veterinary laboratory staff appropriate surveillance sampling and control strategies as appropriate in relation to each animal disease. They set out surveillance and sampling strategies in specific target populations and initiate appropriate controls through the regional veterinary inspectorate for disease control and eradication programmes.

National reference laboratories

The national reference laboratory approved for the purpose of analysis of samples for the control of disease is the Central Veterinary Laboratory at Backweston, which supplies diagnostic support services in the areas of diagnostic pathology, clinical pathology, bacteriology and virology. Other laboratories are approved to carry out testing as prescribed. The regional laboratory structure provides diagnostic support services in the areas of diagnostic pathology, clinical pathology, bacteriology.

In summary

The general responsibilities of the Veterinary Inspectorate staff at central level include the following:

- participation at Commission and Council meetings relating to animal health animal breeding
- assisting in the transposition of legislation
- drawing up appropriate monitoring and control programmes for disease control and eradication
- coordination and implementation of the control plan at regional level
- coordination with the laboratory services.
- deal with infringements of the legislation
- training of regional veterinary inspectorate
- licensing, registration and supervision of animal health and welfare elements associated with animal breeding
- monitor developments in and liaise with industry.

At regional level

At regional level the veterinary inspectorate carry out certain designated functions in line with those pertaining to the inspectorate staff at central level. These include the monitoring and routine inspection of premises including taking of animal samples for diagnostic and routine monitoring purposes, the implementation of movement controls by means of restrictions and movement permits to prevent the spread of disease and the slaughter and appropriate disposal of animals and carcasses for disease control and eradication purposes. Veterinary Inspectors are empowered to inspect and enter all premises where animals are kept and to seize and detain them and implement movement controls where they suspect that a contravention of the legislation has occurred.

Veterinary Inspectors carrying out official duties are supplied with appropriate protective clothing and footwear and diagnostic equipment and are trained appropriately in respect to the various tasks that they have to perform. There is regular ongoing communication with the field and there are regular structured regional meetings, which are attended by both central and regional staff where the annual work plan is discussed. This also provides a forum for feedback from the field with regard to progress reports and any problems arising as a result. The Information Systems Division of DAFF is responsible for the maintenance and security of databases used by the veterinary inspectorate. These databases facilitate data storage and report processing in respect of the inspection and sampling programmes.

An annual divisional operational plan is drawn up for monitoring and controlling animal diseases and implementing animal health controls. This plan also covers the areas of animal breeding and monitoring and control of zoonoses pre-farm gate. In particular, it includes the implementation of control activities by way of specific and designated monitoring and surveillance control programmes and passive surveillance undertaken to ensure compliance with the relevant legislation for animal health and animal breeding. This programme includes inspection, sampling and analysis activities in relation to animal health. In particular it covers the following broad areas:

- active and passive surveillance for animal disease by way of monitoring and control programmes or through passive surveillance through the laboratory structures
- testing for specific diseases as part of the entry requirements for animals into animal breeding centres
- implementation of the sampling strategy for official eradication and control programmes as designated by EU legislation
- implementation of the sampling strategy for official eradication and control programmes for zoonotic agents as designated by EU legislation
- implementation of prevalence studies in farm animals and birds to determine baseline prevalence for zoonotic agents for community reference and to set reduction targets
- to contribute to and support to on farm elements of the veterinary public health
- to research and develop positions regarding environmental or animal health which may impact on food safety or human health.

The plan is drawn up where appropriate in consultation with other relevant areas within DAFF. The day-to-day organisation and implementation of the control activities is driven by the divisional operational plan with each officer assigned to carry out the required tasks in his/her designated areas. Management monitors routine control activities through the regional meeting structure.

3.4.4.7.3 Organisation of official controls

Specific control and monitoring programmes exist for the following diseases:

- Aujeszky's Disease (Diseases of Animal Act No 6. as amended by No. 3 of 2001, S.I. No. 359/2006 and S.I. No. 479 of 2002
- *Salmonella* in Broiler Breeders (S.I. No. 706/2006)
- *Salmonella* in table egg laying hens (Egg Quality Assurance Scheme).

Restriction and movement controls exist for the following diseases:

- Porcine Respiratory and Reproductive Syndrome (Diseases of Animal Act No. 6 as amended by No. 3 of 2001, S.I. No. 352 2002 and S.I. No. 359/2006)
- Equine Infectious Anaemia (Diseases of Animal Act No 6. as amended by No. 3 of 2001 and S.I. No. 359/2006)
- Equine Viral Arteritis (Diseases of Animal Act No 6. as amended by No. 3 of 2001 and S.I. No. 359/2006)
- Caseous Lymphadenitis (Diseases of Animal Act No 6. as amended by No. 3 2001 and S.I. No. 359/2006)
- BVD S.I. No. 112/1996
- IBR S.I. No. 112/1996
- *Campylobacter fetus* ssp. *Veneralis* S.I. No. 112/1996
- *Trichomonas foetus* S.I. No. 112/1996.

The division implements controls and restrictions on certain other diseases as they arise and develops and implements policy as appropriate.

The division reports to OIE as appropriate and ADNS through the administrative function.

The Irish Equine Centre, Johnstown, Naas Co. Kildare is used by DAFF to undertake analysis for Aujeszky's Disease, Equine Infectious Anaemia and *Salmonella*. DAFF approves private laboratories for the purpose of *Salmonella* testing on an annual basis.

3.4.4.7.4 Supervision and verification of planned arrangements including reporting arrangements

- The plan is subject to on-going supervision by staff at central level. As indicated above, progress on the plan is formally reviewed.
- Four times yearly regional meetings take place between the veterinary inspectorate at central level to review progress of operations.
- On-going supervision of the veterinary inspectors in the field is carried by the four regional Senior Superintending veterinary officers out according to the divisional operational plan drawn up at the beginning of the year in consultation with the appropriate officers. The schedule aims to ensure that the work programme is delivered as efficiently as possible. Each veterinary Inspector must submit to his supervisor his role profile for the year based on the plan in which he specifies the tasks to be undertaken, reports to be written, samples to be taken and he identifies any area in which he feels he needs training in. The veterinary inspector is subject to at least one annual meeting with a superior officer.
- Supervisory meetings will be prearranged with the inspecting officer and the role profile is signed off and retained on the officers training file. The role profile is signed off by the Supervisory Officer. The supervisor ensures that training needs identified are carried out as soon as possible.
- In addition, four times yearly liaison meetings are held with veterinary public health to review progress on the zoonoses side.
- An annual report is submitted to EU Commission, under existing legislation, on all aspects of approved control programmes in place i.e. Aujeszky's Monitoring and Control Programme and the Salmonella Control Programme in broiler breeders.

3.4.4.7.5 Specific control plans

- the control plans in place are those specified or required under the relevant community legislation relating to animal health, and zoonoses pre farm gate. The annual control plan includes, where appropriate, inspections and analyses undertaken in respect of Commission recommendations on coordinated monitoring programmes in the field of animal health with respect to Aujeszky's Disease and Salmonella monitoring in broiler breeders.

3.4.4.7.6 Co-ordination and co-operation

Coordination between competent authorities with related responsibilities

The Veterinary Inspectorate in animal health liaise closely with the FSAI. The FSAI is responsible for food safety. Meetings are held on an ad hoc basis between the groups to address issues as they arise

Co-operation within DAFF

The Veterinary Inspectorate responsible for animal health, animal breeding and zoonoses monitor routine control activities. Progress on the annual programme is formally reviewed on a quarterly basis through the regional meeting structure.

Co-operation between competent authorities

Meetings are held on an ad hoc basis between the relevant competent authorities to address issues as they arise. There is consultation each year prior to drawing up the control programme for the year to ensure the requirements of all relevant areas are met in the programme.

3.4.4.7.7 Training arrangements

Training of staff performing official controls

The competent authority has ensured that such suitably trained staff, i.e. Veterinary Inspectors and Superintending Veterinary Inspectors (SVIs) at Local DVO level and Regional Senior Superintending Veterinary Inspectors (RSSVIs) at Regional Level are available as required by point 2 of Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004.

Training needs for both technical and administrative staff are assessed and organised in the context of the Performance Management and Development System. Both staff centrally located and field staff engaged in on farm inspection and sampling procedures for the purpose of disease control and surveillance covering the areas of animal breeding, zoonoses and animal health receive on-going training in relation to these areas. Training can involve workshops, conferences, seminars, on the job training, etc. The competent authority also ensures that they have available such sufficient ancillary facilities as necessary to effect the implementation of the control methods as described.

The training involves:

- a brief introduction to animal disease control during an induction course when Veterinary Inspectors initially commence employment within the competent authority
- the annual attendance at training courses. At these training sessions the uniform application of the Control Methods is stressed. Training includes lectures and practical application of techniques. The delivered courses also detail any changes in legislation and outline new developing areas
- training courses have been given in the areas of animal breeding and disease control and zoonoses. Details of courses available nationally are available to all inspectors on the Veterinary Training page of the vet zone
- documented procedures/SOPs are provided to Veterinary Inspectors carrying out the various inspections to ensure the relevant legislation is implemented in a uniform accountable and prescribed manner as set out in Article 8 of Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004. Inspections forms are provided by the competent authority for Veterinary Inspectors at local DVO level in the area of animal breeding and guidelines for carrying out these inspections are available. All Veterinary Inspectors have a personal computer and have access to the vet zone system. This site accesses all the relevant animal health, breeding and zoonoses.

Arrangements for the identification of training needs

The training procedure includes all aspects of both technical and administrative duties with regard to conducting inspections concerning the areas covered by the division. Each year, staff complete a role profile. As part of this exercise, officers identify their training needs for the year ahead. Training requests are examined by line management and the Training Division of DAFF and where possible, appropriate training is organised. A continuation training record is placed on the officers training file, together with details (agenda and dates) of the training. Records are kept for at least five years after an officer ceases to work in the Animal health Division. Training needs are recorded for all staff in their Personal Development Plans and at annual review meetings. Those plans are reviewed twice each year at which time training provided is also assessed.

3.4.4.7.8 Control priorities, resource allocation and how they relate to risk categorisation

The divisional operational plan runs from 1st January to the 31st December annually. The plan contains information on the scope of the inspections and on the structure and systems of the control activities. The plan provides information on the following:

- overview of the inspection activities and the staff involved
- scope and criteria for controls
- type and number of inspections
- type and number of samples
- type and number of analyses
- type and number of interdepartmental and cross agency meetings
- type and number of reports written
- when drawing up the operational plan each year, an assessment is carried out to determine how resources should be used. Once this is determined, the number of inspections to be carried out, the number of samples to be taken, the number of meetings to be attended and the number of reports to be written is determined for each area. The outcome of the previous years work programme is also taken onto account.

Progress on the plan is formally reviewed on a quarterly basis and management makes adjustments in priorities and/or resources as required.

3.4.4.7.9 Verification of planned arrangements including reporting arrangements

The overall policy and strategy in relation to animal health, animal feeding and zoonoses is reviewed on an ongoing basis and discussed with all of the relevant veterinary and administrative staff. The implementation of policy is monitored on an ongoing basis by the Headquarters section and in a more formal way at regional meetings held four times per year involving Headquarters and DVO management.

3.4.4.7.10 Audit and control

The division is subject to FVO audit in the area of animal breeding and subject to audit by the FSAI in the area of Zoonoses. The division is required to report to OIE and ADNS as diseases arise. The manner in which the division deals with any particular notifiable disease is scrutinised by SCOFCAH. Generally, HQ monitor/audit inspections in the field carried out by regional staff in the area of animal breeding

3.4.4.8 Residues

3.4.4.8.1 Overall national strategic objectives

The overall objective of the National Residue Plan is to protect consumers of animal produce from illegal chemical residues. As such, the National Control Plan is designed to meet Ireland's legal obligations deriving from Council Directive 96/23/EC. The residue control plan is aimed at surveying and identifying the reasons for residue hazards in foods of animal origin on farms, slaughterhouses, dairies, fish processing plants, and egg collecting and packing stations. Thus the plan aims to ensure that farmers and primary processors meet their statutory obligations, in particular, to use only authorised veterinary medicinal products and to comply with specified withdrawal periods. The plan sets out specific targets designed to ensure that the requisite number of samples are taken and that these are analysed to a recognised standard and that appropriate follow-up action takes place.

3.4.4.8.2 Areas of competence/scope of responsibilities

Overall responsibility for co-ordination of the residue plan in Ireland rests with DAFF operating under service contract to the FSAI. DAFF is also responsible for drawing up and implementation of the major portion of the residue plan. However, a number of other agencies are also involved:

- the Department of Communication, Marine and Natural Resources - in relation to aquaculture animals
- Local Authorities (who have a direct service contract relationship with the FSAI) - in relation to slaughterings at domestic abattoirs
- the Garda Síochána (police) and the Customs and Excise Service of the Revenue Commissioners, where appropriate, in relation to some aspects of enforcement.

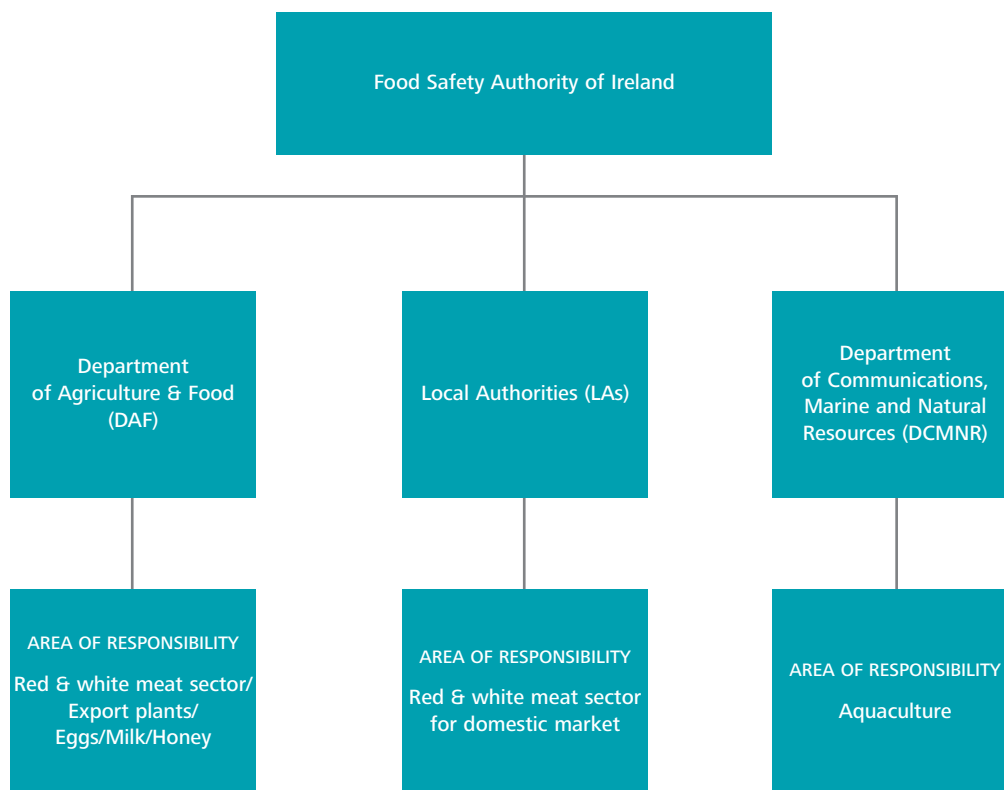
In relation to the live animal and meat sectors, DAFF directly manages the various measures connected with implementation of the National Residue Plan. DAFF veterinary staff, based in the export approved slaughtering plants, implement the controls (inspections, taking of samples) in relation to the plan in such plants. Controls at farm level are implemented by DAFF staff, who are based in its District Veterinary Offices, which are distributed throughout the entire country, usually on a county (local government administrative unit) basis. DAFF also has a centrally-based specialist unit which conducts focused investigations, in co-operation, as appropriate, with staff in the slaughtering plants and/or District Veterinary Offices and also the police and customs services. The total number of DAFF staff involved in the various elements referred to above is in the region of 500.

In respect of slaughter plants producing food for the home market, these are overseen by an inspectorate attached to local authorities (local government administrative units) who operate under service contract to the FSAI.

In respect of other areas (milk, eggs and honey), specialised inspectorates are responsible for taking samples at farm and at primary processing plants.

The aquaculture sector is overseen by inspectors from DCMNR who take samples on farm and at various stages of production.

3.4.4.8.3 Reporting and communication channels



3.4.4.8.4 Delegation of official control tasks to control bodies

This is not relevant to this area.

3.4.4.8.5 National Reference Laboratories (Residues)

National Reference Laboratories for residue monitoring are designated in accordance with Article 14 of Council Directive 96/23/EC. Reporting arrangements and procedures exist between DAFF, the National Reference Laboratories and the approved laboratories. In addition, under the service contract arrangements, the FSAI hosts cross agency meetings and seminars in order to foster and develop appropriate linkages between the laboratories. DAFF has established an audit team specifically to monitor the operations of all the laboratories and ensure compliance with the relevant legislation.

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The following table set out additional details relating to each National Reference Laboratory.

National Reference Laboratory (NRL)	Responsible competent authority	Quality control or management systems applied	Planning and conduct of proficiency/ring tests
State Laboratory (SL) Young 's Cross Celbridge Co. Kildare A1, A3, A4, A6 (nitromidazoles only), B2e, B2f (dexamethasone only), B3d	Department of Finance	Laboratory accredited to ISO 17025 standard	Three proficiency tests per year will be organised for screening laboratories Irish Equine Centre, Central Meat Control laboratory; State Laboratory will participate in regular PT schemes organised by the Community Reference Laboratories RIVM, Bilthoven and BVL, Berlin (usually two to three per year)
Central Meat Control Laboratory (CMCL) Young's Cross, Celbridge, Co Kildare A2, A5, A6, (excl. nitrofurans, nitromidazoles), B1, B2d, B2f (Carbadox only), B3c	Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food	Quality Management System in operation. Laboratory operates to ISO 17025. Staff training and record system in place.	Regular participation by technical staff in proficiency tests, ring trials, and Community reference laboratory workshops.
Ashtown Food Research Centre, Teagasc, (AFRC) A6 (only nitrofurans), B2a (anthelmintics except emamectin), B2b (anticoccidials), B2c	Teagasc	All methods are accredited to ISO 17025 which requires, inter alia, (a) routine quality control samples to be analysed – and acceptance criteria to be met - with each batch of test samples, and (b) participation in appropriate proficiency tests and ring tests	The laboratory will continue its programme of (a) participation in proficiency tests – currently the laboratory takes all appropriate FAPAS proficiency tests – and (b) participation in all appropriate CRL-organised ring tests

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National Reference Laboratory (NRL)	Responsible competent authority	Quality control or management systems applied	Planning and conduct of proficiency/ring tests
<p>Marine Institute Fisheries Research Centre Abbotstown, Dublin 15</p> <p>B2a, (only emamectin), B2f (only teflubenzuron and diflubenzuron), B3e (only MG + LMG)</p>	<p>Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources</p>	<p>-B2a, (only emamectin): Method validated and ISO 17025 accreditation obtained in 2002</p> <p>-B2f (only teflubenzuron and diflubenzuron): Method validated and ISO 17025 accreditation obtained in 2004</p> <p>-B3e (only MG + LMG): MG analysis is currently subcontracted to a UK laboratory, however, in 2005, Safefood jointly funded with the Marine Institute a 1-year MG project to develop an in-house method. The purchase of an LCMS for the analysis of MG will take place the end of 2006 and it is envisaged that the implementation of this method in-house will take place the end of 2007.</p>	<p>ORGANISING COMPARATIVE TESTS. No other laboratory in Ireland carry out this testing in Finfish</p>
<p>Pesticide Control Laboratory (PCL) Young's Cross, Celbridge, Co Kildare</p> <p>B3a (organochlorine pesticides and 7 PCBs only), B3b</p>	<p>Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food</p>	<p>The Pesticide Control Laboratory is the only laboratory responsible for the analysis of food for pesticide residue in Ireland. It operates to the ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation standard for multi residue test procedures in food. As part of the accreditation process, a management review is carried out annually.</p>	<p>PCS has participated in the 2006 proficiency test organised by the CRL responsible for the analysis of pesticides in food.</p> <p>In addition, PCS has participated in the FAPAS proficiency scheme for the analysis of pesticide residues in food.</p> <p>As PCS is the only official laboratory involved in the analysis of pesticide residues in food there is no requirement to organise activities with other laboratories.</p>

3.4.4.8.6 Organisation and management of official controls

The requirements for the National Residue Plan are specified in Council Directive 96/23/EC in particular Articles 5-8 and Annexes I – IV, and Commission Decisions 97/747/EC and 98/179/EC.

Risk categorisation

Current EU legislation in the area of residues (which is the subject of review) prescribes the minimum range of substances and level of sampling to be carried out on an annual basis, which itself derives from a risk categorisation process. In addition at national level, risk is assessed on the basis of data from previous years monitoring programmes, intelligence from inspectorate services, sales data of veterinary medicines and information on controls in other Member States or scientific findings.

General organisation and management

With the exception of aquaculture and domestic abattoirs, formulation and delivery of the National Control Plan is directly within the control of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food. This is achieved through a coordinating function in Veterinary Medicines Section (within ERAD Division), which has appropriate communication channels with DAFF veterinary and technical field staff located in primary processing plants and at District Veterinary Offices (the latter monitor on-farm activities).

As regards domestic abattoirs, responsibility in relation to formulation and delivery of the plan rests with the FSAI who have service contracts in place with local authorities (local Government administrative units).

In the aquaculture sector, the Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources is responsible for formulation and delivery of the plan through its inspectorate services.

Human resources

At regional level within DAFF, four full time equivalent technical officers carry out on farm residue sampling, six full time equivalent technical officers carry out sampling at slaughter plants and two full time equivalent technical officers engage in duties relating to residue sampling in the milk, honey and egg sectors. At central level, one technical officer and three administrative officers formulate and co-ordinate implementation of the plan.

Within the NRLs, 43 full time equivalent personnel (SL – five, AFRC – four, MI – six, CMCL – 26 and PL - two) are assigned duties relating to analysis of samples under the National Residue Plan.

Laboratories (other than NRLs)

It is the responsibility of the NRLs, in consultation with DAFF, to source laboratories to perform analysis that they themselves are not equipped to carry out. Approved laboratories operate under contract to the NRL and DAFF and are subject to audit by DAFF's internal audit team.

3.4.4.8.7 Compliance with operational criteria

Council Directive 96/23/EC specifies the location at which the official controls of residues are to take place i.e. on-farm and at slaughter plants (Annexes III and IV of Council Directive 96/23/EC).

DAFF, through its infrastructure of official veterinarians and inspectorates located in the primary processing plants and through structured sampling programmes carried out by staff in the District Veterinary Offices, ensures that the controls are carried out in the manner specified in Council Directive 96/23/EC.

The FSAI and DCMNR carry out a similar function in relation to the aquaculture and domestic abattoir sectors.

Section III of the National Residue Monitoring Plan outlines the laboratory network engaged in analysis for chemical residues. All laboratories operate to the standards set out in Commission Decision 2002/657/EC. All officers engaged in sampling and follow up inspections are supplied with dedicated sampling equipment and receive regular training (through seminars etc.) in the correct use of this equipment. The Central Meat Control Laboratory co-ordinates the distribution of this equipment. In addition, detailed SOPs are issued to sampling officers covering all aspects of sampling

3.4.4.8.8 Relevant legislation

EU Legislation	National Measure
Council Directive 96/22	Animal Remedies Act, 1993 (No. 23 of 1993) Control of Animal Remedies and their Residues Regulations, 1998 (SI No. 507/1998)
Council Directive 96/23	Animal Remedies Act, 1993 (No. 23 of 1993) Control of Animal Remedies and their Residues Regulations, 1998 (SI No. 507/1998)
Commission Decision 97/747/EC	Since this is an obligation placed on the competent authority, no specific legal instrument is necessary. The Decision is given effect by administrative action.
Commission Decision 98/179/EC	Since this is an obligation placed on the competent authority, no specific legal instrument is necessary. The Decision is given effect by administrative action.
Council Regulation 2377/90	The Regulation is directly applicable in national law – certain provisions given effect in the Animal Remedies Regulation, 1996 (S.I. No 179/1996); (Regulations 12, 19, 33, 41, 42) and the Control of animal Remedies and their Residues Regulations, 1998 (S.I. No. 507/1998) (Regulation 23)
Council Directive 90/167/EEC	European Communities (Animal Remedies and Medicated Feedingstuffs) Regulations 1994 (S.I. No. 176/1994)
Council Directive 70/524/EC	European Communities (Approval and Registration of Establishments and Intermediaries operating in the Animal Feed Sector) Regulations 199 (S.I. No. 88 of 1999) European Communities (Additives in Feedingstuffs) Regulations, 1999 (S.I. No. 398 of 1999)
Directive 2001/82/EC as amended by Directive 2004/28/EC	Animal Remedies Regulations, 2005 (S.I. No.734/2005)
Commission Decision 2002/657/EC	Since this is an obligation placed on the competent authority, no specific legal instrument is necessary. The Decision is given effect by administrative action.

Sections 11 and 12 of the Animal Remedies Act, 1993 provide the legal basis for official officers to carry out their duties in relation to the National Control Plan.

In the event of suspicion of non-compliance with relevant legislation or where a residue violation is detected under the Residue Plan, an investigation is initiated at the farm of origin. This investigation is carried out as appropriate by the Department's local staff (District Veterinary Offices) or by the Department's Special Investigation Unit (SIU). This investigation involves an interview with the farmer (including, where appropriate, provision of advice), examination of records (in particular the 'Animal Remedies Record'), search of premises and further sampling, where appropriate. A report on each follow-up investigation is submitted. The legal basis for such follow-up measures is Sections 11 and 12 of the Animal Remedies Act, 1993.

Further follow-measures stipulated in Articles 17 – 19 and 22 – 23 of Council Directive 96/23/EC (restriction of farm/animals, follow-up testing, destruction of animals) are provided for in the detailed national provisions contained in Regulations 16 – 19 and 22 of The Control of Animal Remedies and their Residues Regulations, 1998.

Sections 23, 24 and 25 of the Animal Remedies Act, 1993 set down the range of penalties which may be imposed under the judicial process:

- Section 23 provides for a range of penalties:
 - on summary conviction (i.e. District Court), a fine of up to €5,000 and/or 12 months imprisonment
 - on conviction on indictment (i.e. Circuit Court), a fine up to €150,000 (€350,000 2nd conviction) and/or 10 years imprisonment.
- Section 24 of the Animal Remedies Act, 1993 provides that a Court (on indictment may order that a person may be disqualified from keeping or dealing in animals for a period up to the life of that person
- Section 25 of the Animal Remedies Act, 1993 provides that a Court may order the forfeiture of anything (animal/animal remedy etc) to which offences relate.

In addition, Regulations 16 – 19 and 22 of the Animal Remedies and their Residues Regulations, 1998 provide for other enforcement sanctions (restriction of farm/animals, destruction of animals).

As regards medicated feedingstuffs, sanctions for breaches are laid down in Regulation 22 of the European Communities (Animal Remedies and Medicated Feedingstuffs) Regulations, 1994, which provides for a maximum fine of ?1,270 and/or 12 months imprisonment on summary conviction.

3.4.4.8.9 Contingency plans

Where a residue violation is detected under the Residue Plan, results are notified to VMS within 24 hours of the finding. The follow-up procedures described at **3.9.2 (f)** above are initiated without delay. Where it is deemed appropriate and based on risk analysis, DAFF/FSAI may implement a rapid alert recall of all appropriate product. Official officers are also empowered to restrict movement of animals from the relevant herd.

3.4.4.8.10 Training of staff performing official controls

Training needs for both technical and administrative staff are assessed and organised in the context of the Performance Management and Development System.

Technical officers engaged in sampling receive on-going training in relation to sampling criteria, sampling techniques, sampling methods, custody of samples with reference to possibility of legal proceedings, etc.

All laboratory personnel engage in on-going training in all activities relating to analysis in conjunction with the CRLs, manufacturers of laboratory equipment, FSAI, DAFF, etc.

Training includes workshops, conferences, seminars, on the job training, etc.

3.4.4.8.11 Documented procedures

Documented procedures are in place to ensure effective delivery of the plan. These comprise:

- annual menu of samples to be taken by each sampling point
- comprehensive sampling instructions and SOPs covering all aspects of taking, sealing and dispatch of samples
- sampling and analysis report forms that meet the requirements of Commission Decision 98/179/EC.

Extensive dedicated intra-departmental email and intranet systems are in place to ensure effective dissemination of information.

3.4.4.8.12 Arrangements for audit

Under service contract arrangements, the FSAI can carry out audits of any agency covered by the contract. In addition DAFF has established an audit team specifically to monitor the operations of all laboratories. DAFF is also subject to audits from the Food and Veterinary Office. DAFF also has its own Internal Audit Unit, which can audit any programme it selects.

3.4.5 ANIMAL WELFARE

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food is the competent authority for policy and for drafting legislation in relation to animal welfare 3.4.5.1.

Administration

At administrative level, DAFF's Animal Health and Welfare Division is headed up by a Principal Officer. Its mission is to achieve and maintain the highest possible standards of animal health and welfare. The division, which has responsibility for transposing EU legislation into national law, works in conjunction with the veterinary inspectorate to maintain and where possible improve on the required standards of animal health and welfare by ensuring strict compliance with animal welfare legislation. Animal Health and Welfare Division actively promotes greater awareness of animal health and welfare requirements and maintains a close relationship with farm and other organisations on animal health and welfare issues.

3.4.5.2 Implementation and enforcement of the legislation:

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food has an Animal Welfare Division led by a Senior Superintending Veterinary Inspector, with two Superintending Veterinary Inspectors and two Veterinary Inspectors.

This Animal Welfare Division implements and enforces controls in relation to:

- welfare of animals on farms
- welfare of animals during national transport
- welfare of animals during international transport.

On the ground, controls are carried out by veterinary inspectors in the District Veterinary Offices.

The Veterinary Public Health Inspection Service implements and enforces the rules in relation to:

- the welfare of animals at slaughter in the larger slaughter plants under its supervision.

The Local Authority Veterinary Service implements and enforces:

- the welfare of animals at slaughter in the smaller slaughterhouses
- the control of dogs in county and municipal administrative area.

Animal Welfare Section in DAFF Headquarters consists of one SSVI, two SVIs and two VIs (one SVI and one VI on transport of animals and one SVI and one VI on other animal welfare issues). This section represents Ireland at Commission and Council level. It advises on how EU legislation is implemented in national legislation. It also draws up controls, trains regional staff in the operation of these rules and evaluates the effectiveness of these controls.

Regional

Four Regional Superintending Veterinary Inspectors (SSVIs).

Local

District Veterinary offices (DVOs) - Cf Overview of State Veterinary Services.

Welfare of Animals at Slaughtering Establishments: cf Section on Veterinary Public Health.

3.4.5.3 Control methods/plan

Required animal welfare inspections

- An annual programme of animal welfare inspections on holdings with pigs, calves and laying hens is undertaken in compliance with Art. 7 of Directive 91/629/EC. Annual targets are established by the competent authority on the required number of welfare inspections and are sent to the local DVOs for completion. Veterinary Inspectors at DVO level are responsible for the implementation of these inspections.

Techniques used in determining control methods

- The annual targets for calf, pig and laying hen inspections are based on a percentage of the total number of eligible farms within each specific DVO area. This ensures a representative sample of each of the species populations in each DVO area. The selection of the individual farms to fulfil target requirements is at the discretion of the DVO staff, but is generally aimed at higher risk enterprises. Criteria used to select farms may include the scale and degree of intensification of the operation as well as any previous compliance history. For example, with respect to calves both dairy farms with replacement calves and eligible calf rearing farms are included for inspection. Similarly, with respect to pigs all the different pig enterprises will be covered, e.g. breeding farms, fattening units, integrated units and hobby farms will be subject to inspection. In the case of laying hen farms only those farms that have more than 350 hens and are on the register of laying hen establishments will be selected for routine welfare inspections. However, as with all animals kept for farming purposes, all farms may be subject to animal welfare inspections.

- The timing of animal welfare inspections in relation to other farm inspections and the issue of prior notification of these impending inspections to the farms involved are set out below. In some cases, the inspections may be exclusively animal welfare inspections and in others they may be carried out in conjunction with other types of inspections. Sometimes calf welfare inspections may be carried out along with inspections for other official purposes. The pig and laying hen inspections tend to be specifically for animal welfare purposes. There is no formal prohibition or otherwise on either system. Inspections of intensive holdings particularly incorporate a check on compliance with Animal Remedies Legislation to ensure animal welfare issues are not being disguised by excessive or irregular medicinal usage. In general for routine inspections the farmer will be given some notice of the intention to visit the farm. However, there are occasions when inspections are unannounced and such inspections could be initiated by welfare complaints or re-inspections following previous unsatisfactory visits. In addition, a visit to the farm for other purposes could result in the commencement of a welfare inspection if indications or suspicions of welfare issues were identified on the farm.

General animal welfare investigations/inspections

All Veterinary Inspectors (VIs) employed by the competent authority are “Authorised Officers”. Their powers to carry out general animal welfare inspection on farms are given in the legislation listed below. VIs at local DVO level are responsible for general animal welfare inspections. These inspections may be initiated by complaints received at the local DVOs from any source: members of the public, local animal welfare organisations, Gardaí, private veterinary practitioners etc. or as mentioned previously they may be initiated by the VI following an unsatisfactory routine animal welfare inspection or a farm inspection carried out by other DAFF staff.

There is a defined procedure on “Managing An Animal Welfare Incident” available to all VIs on the vetzone computer system in all the individual DVOs to allow a uniform, standard approach to implementing the relevant legislation as set out below. All animal welfare investigations are reported to the competent authority on the AWIS reporting system. The individual VI will report back to his SVI at DVO level and if necessary the RSSVI at regional level, if the individual situation requires it. All animal welfare investigations are treated as ongoing with the farms/individuals involved remaining under scrutiny with repeat animal welfare visits until the original welfare situation has been satisfactorily resolved.

Under the relevant legislation the VI may monitor progress on the welfare issues or if the individual situation warrants it the VI may serve enforcement notices on the individual to improve the animal welfare issues (Regulation 7 S.I. No. 705 of 2006). If the VI is of the opinion that that level of non compliance to the relevant legislation is such that an enforcement notice will have no effects in improving the welfare situation, the VI has power to seize the animals concerned and may dispose of them (i.e. sale/slaughter/euthanasia) as the VI sees fit (Regulation 10/11 S.I. No. 705 of 2006). The decision process in these cases is at local and at regional level i.e. VI, SVI and RSSVI with the competent authority receiving ongoing progress reports etc.

Veterinary Inspectors are defined under The Protection of Animals Kept for Farming Purposes Act, 1984, Act No. 13 of 1984 as Inspectors-“Meaning a person, being a veterinary surgeon who is appointed in writing by the Minister to be an inspector for the purposes of this Act”. It gives extensive powers of surveillance, i.e. entry, inspection, sampling, etc to Inspectors so named (section 8).

This is primarily an enabling Act under which the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries & Food may make regulations to provide for the care and welfare of animals. It applies mainly to animals kept in intensive units. The main provision of this are:

- definition of animal as any animal kept or bred for the production of food, wool, skin, fur or feathers or for other farming purposes
- requirement that the owner or person in charge to regularly inspect the animals and the equipment used for the care of the animals
- requirement that the owner or person in charge to properly feed, water and house the animals under his/her care.

Veterinary Inspectors under Regulation (2) European Communities (Protection of Animals Kept for Farming Purposes) Regulations, 2000 S.I. No. 705 of 2006 are defined as "Authorised Officers". An "Authorised Officer" means a person who for the time being, stands appointed under Regulation 5 or an inspector (within the meaning of the Diseases of Animals Act, 1966 (No.6 of 1966)) or an authorised person or inspector within the meaning of the Protection of Animals Kept for Farming Purposes Act, 1984 (No.13 of 1984);

These Regulations give effect to Council Directive 98/58/EC. The main provisions of this Act are that:

- it defines "animal" as any animal (including fish, reptiles or amphibians) bred or kept for the production of food, wool, skin, fur or for other farming purposes
- the owner or keeper shall ensure the welfare of the animals under his/her care and ensure that the animals are not caused unnecessary pain, suffering or injury - Regulation 4
- it empowers an authorised officer (Veterinary Inspectors) to issue notices directing the owner or person in charge to care for the animals in a specified way including destruction of animals where there is a serious risk to the welfare of the animals - Regulation 8
- Veterinary Inspectors as Authorised Officers have extensive powers to seize, detain and destroy animals - Regulation 11
- schedules lay down detailed requirements in regard to staffing, inspection, record keeping, freedom of movement, accommodation, equipment, feed and water etc.

Veterinary Inspectors are defined as "Authorised Officers" with extensive powers of entry, inspection and enforcement under Regulation (6-10) European Communities (Welfare of Calves and Pigs) Regulations, 2003 S.I. No. 48 of 2003. These Regulations give effect to Council Directive No. 91/629/EEC of 19 November 1991, Council Directive 91/630/EEC of 19 November 1991 Council Directive No. 97/2/EC of 20 January 1997 and Commission Decision No. 97/182/EC of 24 February 1997. The main provisions of this Act are:

- it lays down specifications for the housing of calves and pigs
- it requires certification that pigs or calves imported from outside EU have received equivalent treatment
- schedules lay down detailed requirements for the rearing and fattening of calves and various categories of pigs, e.g. sows, boars, piglets, fatteners to include feeding etc.
- it empowers an authorised officer to issue notices directing the owner or person in charge to care for the pigs or calves in a specified way including destruction of animals where there is a serious risk to the welfare of the pigs.

Veterinary Inspectors are defined as authorised officers with powers of entry, inspection, and enforcement under Regulations (9-15) European Communities (Welfare of Laying Hens) Regulations, 2002, S.I. No. 98 of 2002. These Regulations give effect to Council Directive No. 1999/74/EC of 19 July 1999 and Commission Directive 2002/4/EC of 30 January 2002. The main provisions of this Act are that:

- it applies to premises where there are 350 or more laying hens, or where laying hens are kept for purposes other than breeding
- it lays down accommodation requirements for intensive and non intensive systems
- it specifies design and construction of equipment and housing
- it lays down requirements for ventilation, insulation etc.
- it specifies management and hygiene requirements
- it stipulates the types of prophylactic operations carried out on hens.

All Veterinary Inspection staff working within DAFF are familiar with the implementation of the relevant animal welfare legislation as described. Where an individual situation dictate, individuals in charge of the animals/intensive farming units who are in persistent breach of the regulations or where there is gross violation of animal welfare causing ongoing animal suffering these individuals may be charged with an offence under Regulation 12/13 S.I. No. 705 of 2006, Regulation 14 S.I. No. 98/2002, Regulation 13 S.I. No. 48 of 2003 in a court of law.

3.4.5.4 Verification of planned arrangements

The control method involves the monitoring of the implementation of these welfare inspections/investigations by a) the Superintending Veterinary Inspector (SVI) in each DVO, b) the Senior Superintending Veterinary Inspector (SSVI) in each region c) the staff in DAFF's headquarters in Agriculture House, Dublin.

- Each DVO has annual targets to achieve with regard to the completion of animal welfare inspections. The competent authority using the management function of the Animal Welfare Inspection System (AWIS), monitors the progress of completion of those targets throughout the year. In addition, at regional management meetings, each RSSVI presents data indicating the progress of each DVO in their region in completing their Inspection targets. These meetings (which are attended by SVI from each DVO) also allow the competent authority to highlight specific areas for attention and provide clarifications on any animal welfare issues that arise. The activities of individual Veterinary Inspectors are monitored locally by their SVIs who periodically accompany the individual Veterinary Inspector during the welfare inspections. The staff from the competent authority will also on occasion fulfil this function. The completed inspection reports are entered onto the AWIS at DVO Level and can be scrutinised by the various supervisory levels within the system including the competent authority. The competent authority compiles the information on a national basis to report to the Commission bi-annually under the Commission Decision 2000/50/EC format.
- The monitoring of the uniform application of these control methods is required under point 4 of Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004. The competent authority has effected the installation of centralised computer systems, databases etc to monitor the uniform application of the required control methods at local DVO and at individual Veterinary Inspector level. The Animal Welfare Inspection System (AWIS) is available at local DVO Level on the internal computer network. This system is also used for inspecting and monitoring the welfare of animals during transport (both national and international). The system includes a management facility for monitoring the local activities of the Veterinary Inspectors at DVO Level and at regional level.
- The control method as described is reviewed on an annual basis. Regular regional management meetings attended by each Superintending Veterinary Inspector (SVI), Regional Senior Superintending Veterinary Inspector (RSSVI) and management personnel from the competent authority deal with both the delivery of Inspections the management of animal welfare investigations and ultimately the uniform application of the control requirements. The SVIs have regular internal meetings with their staff at local DVO level to deal with qualitative and quantitative matters relating to inspections.

3.4.5.5 Training

- The competent authority has ensured that such suitably trained staff, i.e. Veterinary Inspectors and Superintending Veterinary Inspectors (SVIs) at local DVO level and Regional Senior Superintending Veterinary Inspectors (RSSVIs) at regional level are available as required by point 2 of Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004 and that they have available such sufficient ancillary facilities as necessary to effect the implementation of the control methods as described.
- As required by Article 6 of Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004 the competent authority has ensured that all designated staff receive such training as deemed necessary to ensure competency in carrying out the controls methods as described in a consistent and uniform manner. To facilitate the Veterinary Inspectors in carrying out the controls in a consistent and uniform manner a considerable amount of resources are devoted to providing Animal Welfare Training. The training involves:
 - a) a brief introduction to welfare during an induction course when Veterinary Inspectors initially commence employment within the competent authority
 - b) the annual attendance at comprehensive training courses including both lectures and practical demonstrations on farm. At these training sessions the uniform application of the control methods is stressed. Training has included experienced Veterinary Inspectors from the individual DVOs and RSSVIs at regional level giving presentations to their colleagues on the required approach to carry out these controls. Discussion is encouraged and queries or any inspecting inconsistencies are addressed. Additionally, the courses also detail any changes in legislation and outline new developing areas. They are designed to accommodate both new inspectors and to provide a refresher course for more experienced personnel

- c) periodically, training courses are provided on the specialist intensive farming practices
- d) every year, a number of inspectors are sent abroad to attend animal welfare courses, e.g. University of Cambridge Welfare Course
- e) training courses have been given on using the computerised animal welfare inspection data recording system (AWIS). Details of the animal welfare training courses conducted nationally are available to all inspectors on the animal welfare page of the vet zone. All the relevant welfare presentations given previously can be downloaded for reference. Training courses for the relevant personnel on the use of AWIS are carried out at both local and regional level.
- Documented procedures are provided to Veterinary Inspectors carrying out the individual Animal Welfare Inspections to ensure the relevant Animal Welfare Regulations are implemented in a uniform accountable and prescribed manner as set out in Article 8 of Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004. Set inspection forms are provided by the competent authority for the Veterinary Inspectors at local DVO level. Different inspection forms are used for each of the categories, e.g. calves, pigs and laying hens (cage and alternative systems). There is a general 'On Farm' Welfare Inspection Form for carrying out a routine/investigation visit which applies to all the species "Kept For Farming Purposes" as covered by Directive 98/58. Relevant instructions and guidelines are provided for these Veterinary Inspectors. All Veterinary Inspectors have a personal computer and have access to dedicated animal welfare pages on an internal vet zone system. This site accesses the relevant Animal Welfare Legislation and has extensive relevant guidelines on the different species involved in the controls. Comprehensive information including relevant presentations from all recent Veterinary Inspector training courses are available online at the local DVO level. These inspection forms are kept up to date by the competent authority and can be easily updated as required should the relevant legislation (as set out below) be amended.

3.4.5.6 Application of horizontal legislation across different sectors

The national legislation relevant to the Animal Welfare Sector currently in force is set out below, and the control methods as described are related to the implementation of this legislation.

EU Legislation	Implementing Regulations
Council Directive 98/58/EC of 20 July 1998 concerning the protection of animals kept for farming purposes	S.I. No. 705 of 2006 European Communities (Protection of Animals Kept for Farming Purposes), 2006
Council Directive 1999/74/EC of 19 July 1999 laying down minimum standards for the protection of laying hens	S.I. No. 98 of 2002 European Communities (Welfare of Laying Hens) Regulations 2002 S.I. No. 105/2007 European Communities (Welfare of Laying Hens) (Amendment) Regulations, 2007
Commission Directive 2002/4/EC of 30 January 2002 on the registration of establishments keeping laying hens, covered by Council Directive 1999/74/EEC	S.I. No. 98 of 2002 European Communities (Welfare of Laying Hens) Regulations, 2002
Council Directive 91/629/EEC of 19 November 1991 laying down minimum standards for the protection of calves, as amended by Council Directive 97/2/EC of 20.1.1997 Commission Decision 97/182/EC of 24.2.1997	S.I. No. 48 of 2003 European Communities (Welfare of Calves and Pigs) Regulations, 2003 S.I. No. 307/2007 European Communities (Welfare of Calves and Pigs) (Amendment) Regulations, 2007
Council Directive 91/630/EEC of 19 November 1991 laying down minimum standards for the protection of pigs, as amended by Council Directive 2001/88/EC of 23.10.2001 Commission Directive 2001/93/EC of 9.11.1993	S.I. No. 48 of 2003 European Communities (Welfare of Calves and Pigs) Regulations, 2003
	Protection of Animals Act, 1911 and Protection of Animals (Amendment) Act, 1965 Protection of Animals kept for farming purposes Act, 1984 No. 13 of 1984 S.I. No. 197/2007 Protection of Animals Kept For Farming Purposes (Electro-Immobilisation) Regulations, 2007

3.4.5.7 National and international transport (Welfare)

The control methods and techniques used and where and when applied.

The responsibility for both national and international transport is charged to a specific Senior Superintending Veterinary Inspector (SSVI). The SSVI is primarily involved with the implementation of and compliance with relevant EU legislation at a national level. At local level duties involving implementation of and compliance with the relevant transport legislation, are shared by veterinary staff in district veterinary offices and veterinary staff on the public health side.

Inspections of transport consignments are carried out in places of destination, mainly markets and slaughterhouses, by veterinary inspectors (VI). A target number of inspections per inspection site are set annually. If in the course of an inspection a serious infringement is detected, the VI may serve on the spot a notice in writing to the transporter or farmer, requesting him:

- to unload the animals and remove them to a convenient place
- or prohibit absolutely or for a period the further transport of animals
- or prohibit the transport of animals until the necessary conditions are complied with.

In case of serious infringements, legal proceedings can be taken in the courts, and a fine could be imposed. The results of the inspections, including infringements detected and actions taken, are recorded on the Animal Welfare Inspection System (AWIS) database.

The majority of animals exported to the continent from Ireland pass through approved assembly centres in Ireland where checks are carried out, route plans are checked and endorsed, and appropriate certification issued. In all cases, prior to loading, both truck and animals are inspected and a detailed checklist is used. If the veterinary inspector (VI) notes a non-compliance, this is required to be recorded together with the action taken. In some instances, the VI may decide to require that the infringement is rectified immediately or the transport is prevented. Livestock in roll-on/roll-off vessels are subject to another check in the port of departure. For international transport, a system for authorisation of transporters as required. Additionally, vehicles to be used in international transport are inspected, and if found adequate, approved. According to its specification, a truck will be authorised to transport the appropriate class of animals, e.g. pigs, adult cattle. This inspection for approval of vehicles is carried out in two locations. A list with the approved vehicles is available in all DVOs, and is updated monthly by administrative staff in a specific transport section.

According to national legislation, an international transporter must return part B of the route plan in a period of seven days after completion of the journey. Part B is completed by the person in charge of the means of transport, and states the actual itinerary. A follow-up action is taken in cases where plan B has not been returned, including a reminder letter sent to the transporter +/- temporary removal of authorisation from the transporter until the issue is resolved.

One of the key tasks organised at central level is the provision of appropriate training, on transport welfare, for staff. Training occurs on an annual and on-going basis. This involves some of or a combination of seminars, checklists, guidelines and circulars providing guidance and information for local staff. Apart from that, there is a system for induction training and on-the-job training. Leaflets for farmers and transporters are available in the DVOs, regarding animal welfare during transport, and videos are used in some markets to provide information. Posters with information are also displayed in markets and slaughterhouses. Manufacturers of vehicles within Ireland, have had guidelines produced dedicated to transport animals advising which requirements should be met.

Control priorities, resource allocation and how they relate to risk categorisation

Priority is given to animals undergoing long journeys (>8hours), on the basis that they represent a higher risk category. In practice all exports off the Island of Ireland undergo journeys of >8 hours.

Verification of planned arrangements including reporting arrangements

The overall policy and strategy in relation to transport/welfare is reviewed and discussed at a monthly meeting in Headquarters of all the relevant veterinary and administrative staff. The implementation of policy is monitored on an ongoing basis by the headquarters section and in a more formal way at regional meetings held four times per year involving headquarters and DVO management.

Arrangements for the application of horizontal legislation across different sectors/sub-sectors

The Veterinary Public Health Inspection Service is involved in the inspection of transport vehicles via its veterinary staff in slaughter plants. The results of these inspections are reported via the AWIS system.

How specific control plans or programmes required by community legislation are integrated into the control systems for the relevant sectors or sub-sectors as appropriate

The legislation under which we will act from January, 2007, will directly implement the requirements of Regulation 1/2005. DAFF's policies and strategy will directly reflect this.

3.4.5.8 Animal welfare at slaughter in local regions

Each local authority (LA) is responsible for the enforcement of the legislation listed below in premises under their supervision. Each LA has a minimum of one Veterinary Inspector who usually reports to a director of services who in turn reports to the county manager.

Control system for animal welfare at the time of slaughter

The following pieces of legislation are the primary pieces of legislation dealing with the welfare of animals at the time of slaughter:

- Slaughter of Animals Act, 1935
- European Communities (Protection of Animals at the time of Slaughter) Regulations, 1995
- Diseases of Animals (protection of animals during transport) Order, 1995.

Local authorities are also responsible for issuing an animal slaughterman's licence and maintaining a register of all slaughtermen who reside, carry on business or are employed in their functional area.

The priority in implementing the legislation is to ensure that all animals slaughtered are spared any avoidable excitement, pain or suffering during movement, lairing, restraint, stunning, slaughter or killing.

The implementation of the legislation with LA supervised slaughterhouses is outlined in SOP A4. This allows for uniform implementation of the relevant legislation by all LAs.

The arrangements within each plant are the subject of routine checks by the responsible veterinary Inspector. Slaughter day audits are also carried out as per SOP6, Appendix B and welfare aspects are one of the items on the checklist.

The issue of emergency slaughter is currently being reviewed by the local authority veterinary service (LAVS), the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food, and Veterinary Ireland (the representative body of veterinary surgeons in Ireland). It is proposed to issue a joint document on emergency slaughter of food animals following these discussions. This will deal with all issues relating to emergency slaughter including fitness to travel.

Training arrangements

In 2005, the need for training in the area of welfare at slaughter was identified by the LAVS executive. The LAVS organised a training course in October 2005 for Local Authority Officers on animal welfare at slaughter. This course was run by AW training from the University of Bristol and covered all aspects of welfare at slaughter.

A further training needs assessment will be carried out in 2007.

3.4.5.9 Animal welfare – horses

Competent authority: Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food

Local: Each County and City Council (LA) is responsible for the enforcement of the Control of Horses Act, 1996, within its area.

Where seizure is necessary, this is usually carried out either by staff of the Council or more commonly by a private firm under the supervisions of the Council and in conjunction with the Gardai (police). Where this arrangement is in place, the pound facilities are also provided by the private company.

Control system for animal welfare law - horses

The Control of Horses Act, 1996 forms the basis for dealing with issues relating to the welfare and control of horses. It is enforced by the City and County Councils. It allows for the investigation seizures and disposal of horses where they are straying as defined by the Act. It also allows for the investigation of complaints regarding the welfare of horses.

It has provisions to introduce Bye Laws in areas where a problem exists. Within these areas, horses must be micro-chipped and licensed and standards can be set for housing.

The priorities implementing the Act on a risk basis would usually be the protection of the general public from accident/injury from stray horses and the maintenance of welfare standards for horses covered by the Act.

The Act allows for two authorities to enter into arrangements whereby one assumes responsibilities for enforcement in both areas. It also has provision for intervention by the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries & Food where one authority is of the opinion that an adjoining authority needs to improve enforcement.

3.4.5.10 Animal welfare – control of dogs

Competent authority: Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government

Local competent authority: each County and City Council is responsible for the provision of dog shelter and enforcement of the Control of Dogs Act, 1986 within its functional area. Each local authority (LA) has a minimum of one Veterinary Inspector who are usually directly involved in management and administration of the Control of Dogs Act, 1986. The Veterinary Inspector reports to the Director of services who in turn reports to the County/City manager. Day to day enforcement is generally carried out by a dog warden. The dog warden may be either employed directly by the local authority or employed by an animal welfare organisation which provides a dog warden service under contract to the LA.

Control system for the animal welfare law – control of dogs

The Control of Dogs Act, 1986 forms the basis for dealing with issues relating to the control of dogs. It is enforced by LAs in their functional area. It contains a number of provisions relating to dog control including:

- establishment of a system of annual licensing for dogs
- provision for control of dogs in public areas
- provisions for liability of dog owners for damage to livestock
- seizure of stray dogs
- surrender of unwanted dogs
- powers and responsibilities for LAs
- provisions of dog shelter by LAs.

The dog warden is responsible for enforcing the licensing and dog control provisions and seizes stray dogs. In many cases, the warden is also responsible for the day to day running of the pound. The veterinary inspector is involved in administration and management of the service.

Regulations introduced under the Control of Dogs Act, 1998 (Control of Dogs Regulations, 1998) established rules in relation to certain breeds of dogs and crosses of those breeds which are regarded as being a particular risk to the public.

A national committee comprised of representatives from dog breeders, animal welfare agencies, Government departments, Veterinary Ireland and local authorities was established in 2005 and has made a number of recommendations to the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government regarding regulations for licensing and regular inspection of commercial breeders.

Priorities

The priorities in implementing the Act on a risk basis are:

- protection of persons and livestock from attack by stray dogs
- protection of stray dogs from abuse and neglect
- provision of high standard of care and welfare for dogs which are accommodated at dog shelters
- minimisation of the numbers of stray and unwanted dogs through increased public awareness and promotion of sterilisation of dogs not intended for breeding.

A number of LAs have made significant investments in provisions of dog shelters and dog control facilities in recent years.

The representative body for the LAVS normally acts to coordinate activities, particularly in training. A training course for wardens and veterinary officers was run in 2006 and further training will be given where the need is identified.

Annual statistics are collated by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government which publishes an annual summary.

CHAPTER 4: REVIEW AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

4.1 REVIEW AND ADJUSTMENT OF THE PLAN

Ireland will regularly update the national control plan in light of developments and will amend the national control plan to take account of factors including:

- new legislation
- the emergence of new diseases or health risks
- significant changes to the structure, management or operation of the competent national authorities
- the results of Irish official controls
- the results of Community controls
- any amendments to the guidelines for MANCP
- scientific findings
- the outcomes of audits performed by third countries.

4.2 PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

During the period of the NCP, the FSAI and the other competent authorities will continue to work together to ensure an effective system of official food controls. This section outlines areas of development which will be progressed during the lifetime of this plan

Chapter 2 – The National Food Control System

Section	Area for Development
2.4.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improve co-ordination between NRLs and official laboratories from other competent authorities• NRLs to work towards fulfilling all of the requirements in Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004 Article 33(2)• CVRL to work towards fulfilling the requirements in Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004 Article 33(3)
2.4.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop a mechanism to designate official food control laboratories for use by LAs• Official laboratories to work towards fulfilling the requirements in Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004 Article 12(2), where necessary
2.4.3.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Competent authorities to develop procedures to comply with all of the requirements of Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004 (Article 5), where necessary
2.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Competent authorities to develop/improve contingency plans to comply with all of the requirements of Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004 (Article 13)• Competent authorities to provide out-of-hours contact points for contingency plans
2.10	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Competent authorities to develop control procedures to fulfil all of the requirements of Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004 (Annex II Chapter II)• Competent authorities to ensure internal audit systems address all of the requirements of Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004 (Article 4(6))
2.11	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Competent authorities to ensure that procedures are in place to review the operational criteria in Article 4(2) of Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004

APPENDIX 1: CATEGORIES OF FOOD LEGISLATION IN EACH OF THE SERVICE CONTRACTS

Category of Legislation	HSE	LA	DAFF	DCMNR	MI	ODCA	NSAI
General Food Law (including traceability)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Official Controls	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓ ^a
Food Hygiene	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓ ^a
Control of Imports	✓		✓	✓			
Emergency Measures	✓						
Labelling, Presentation and Advertising	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓ ^a
Additives and Flavourings	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Contaminants	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Residues Veterinary Medicines		✓	✓	✓	✓		
Pesticide Residues			✓				
Microbiological Criteria	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Marine Biotoxins				✓	✓		
Specified Risk Material	✓	✓	✓				
Zoonoses	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Materials in Contact with Foodstuffs	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Slaughter of Animals		✓	✓				
Animal Remedies		✓	✓	✓			
Foods for Particular Nutritional Uses	✓						
Genetically Modified Foods	✓		✓				
Novel Foods	✓						
Infant Formula	✓		✓				
Foodstuffs Treated with Ionising Radiation	✓						
Marketing Standards	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Organic Foods			✓	✓			
Use of Protected Names			✓				

^a This activity is limited to natural mineral water producers.

APPENDIX 2: FSAI DIVISIONAL STRUCTURE

FIGURE A: FSAI CEO OFFICE

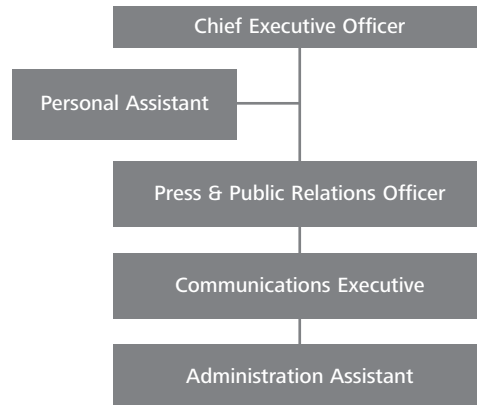
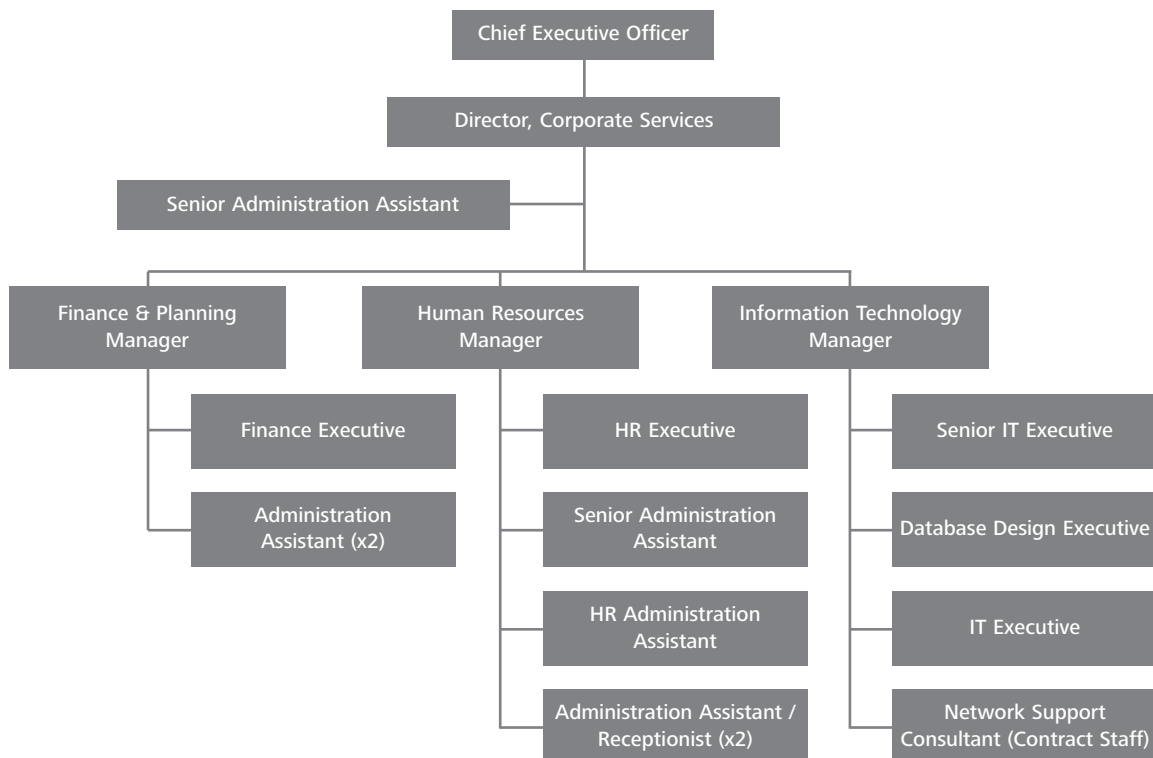


FIGURE B: FSAI CORPORATE SERVICE DIVISION



THE NATIONAL CONTROL PLAN FOR IRELAND

for the period from 1st January 2007 to 31st December, 2011

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FIGURE C: FSAI AUDIT AND COMPLIANCE DIVISION

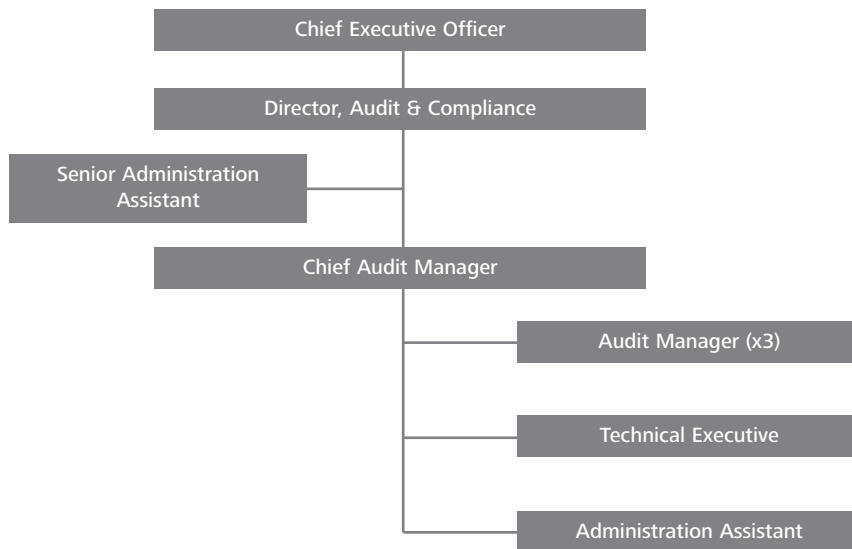


FIGURE D: FSAI CONSUMER PROTECTION DIVISION



FIGURE E: FSAI SERVICE CONTRACTS DIVISION

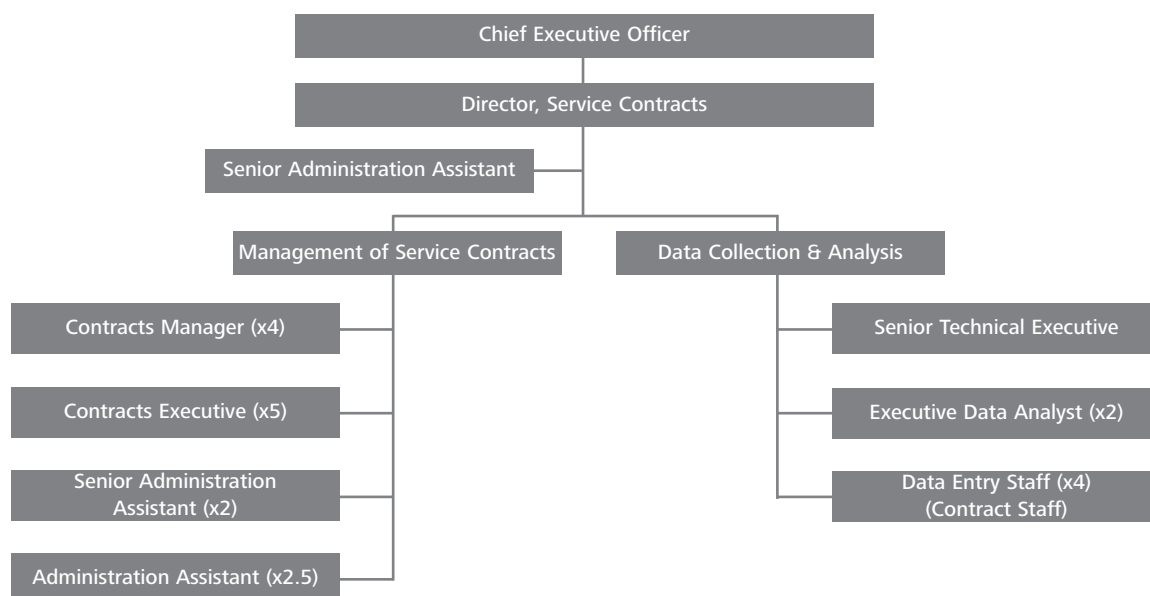
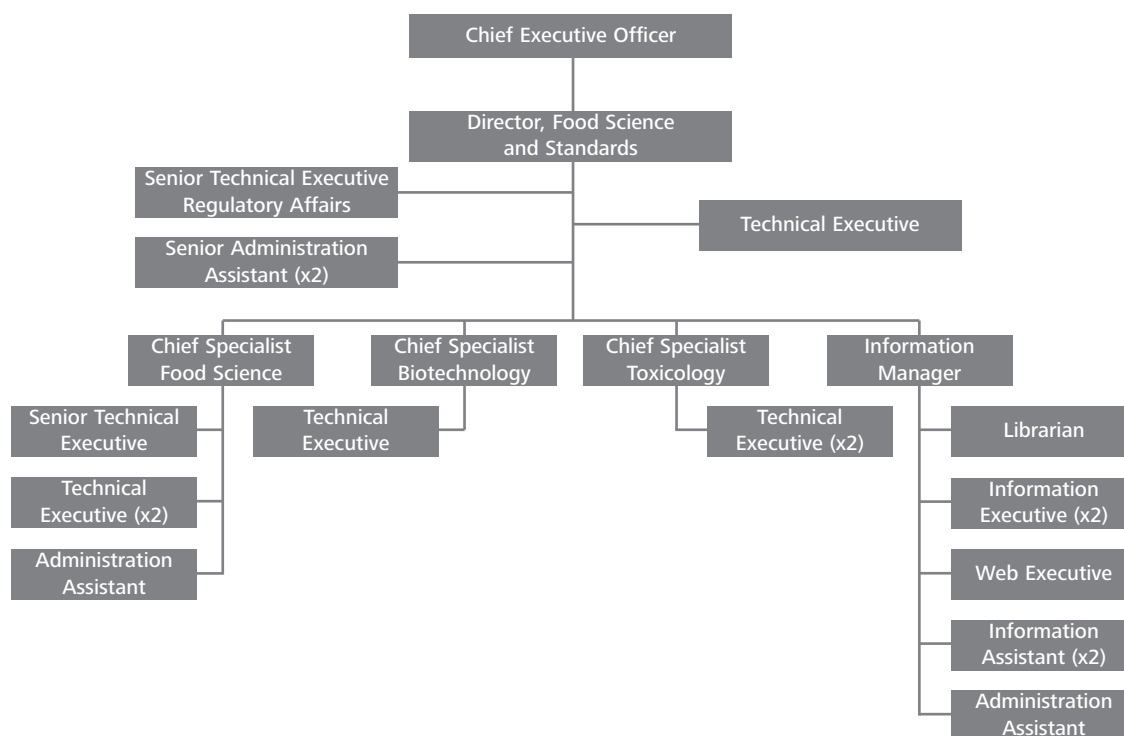


FIGURE F: FSAI FOOD SCIENCE AND STANDARDS DIVISION



APPENDIX 3: NATIONAL REFERENCE LABORATORIES

Part A: The following laboratories are NRLs in Ireland for feed and food:

Matrix/Parameter	CRL	NRL	Contact Person
Milk and milk products	AFSSA — Laboratoire d'études et de recherches sur la qualité des aliments et sur les procédés agroalimentaires (LERQAP) F-94700 Maisons-Alfort France	Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food Laboratories, (Dairy Science Laboratory) Backweston, Co Kildare	Bernadette Hickey T +353 1 6157452 F +353 1 6157454 E Bernadette.hickey@agriculture.gov.ie
Zoonoses (<i>Salmonella</i>)	Rijksinstituut voor Volksgezondheid en Milieu (RIVM) 3720 BA Bilthoven The Netherlands	Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food Laboratories, Central Veterinary Research Laboratory, Backweston, Co Kildare	Dr Montserrat Gutierrez T +353 1 6157222 F +353 1 6157116 E mm.gutierrez@agriculture.gov.ie
Marine biotoxins	Agencia Española de Seguridad Alimentaria (AES) E-36200 Vigo Spain	The Marine Institute Rinville Oranmore Co. Galway	Mr. Micheál Ó Cinnéide T +353 91 387 200 F +353 91 387 201 E micheal.ocinneide@marine.ie
Monitoring the viral and bacteriological contamination of bivalve molluscs	The laboratory of the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS) Weymouth United Kingdom	The Marine Institute Rinville Oranmore Co. Galway	Mr. Micheál Ó Cinnéide T +353 91 387 200 F + 353 91 387 201 E micheal.ocinneide@marine.ie
<i>Listeria monocytogenes</i>	AFSSA — Laboratoire d'études et de recherches sur la qualité des aliments et sur les procédés agroalimentaires (LERQAP) F-94700 Maisons-Alfort France	Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food Laboratories, (Dairy Science Laboratory) Backweston, Co Kildare	Mr. Micheál Ó Cinnéide T +353 91 387 200 F +353 91 387 201 E micheal.ocinneide@marine.ie
Coagulase positive <i>Staphylococci</i> , including <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	AFSSA — Laboratoire d'études et de recherches sur la qualité des aliments et sur les procédés agroalimentaires (LERQAP) F-94700 Maisons-Alfort France	Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food Laboratories, (Dairy Science Laboratory) Backweston, Co Kildare	Bernadette Hickey T +353 1 6157452 F +353 1 6157454 E Bernadette.hickey@agriculture.gov.ie

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Matrix/Parameter	CRL	NRL	Contact Person
<i>Escherichia coli</i> , including Verotoxigenic <i>E. coli</i> (VTEC)	Istituto Superiore di Sanità (ISS) I-00161 Roma Italy	Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food Laboratories, Backweston, Co Kildare	Dr Montserrat Gutierrez T +353 1 6157222 F +353 1 6157116 E mm.gutierrez@agriculture.gov.ie
<i>Campylobacter</i>	Statens Veterinärmedicinska Anstalt (SVA) S-751 89 Uppsala Sweden	Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food Laboratories, Backweston, Co Kildare	Dr John Egan T +353 1 6157138 F +353 1 6157116 E john.egan@agriculture.gov.ie
Parasites (in particular <i>Trichinella</i> , <i>Echinococcus</i> and <i>Anisakis</i>)	Istituto Superiore di Sanità (ISS) Viale Regina Elena 299 I-00161 Roma Italy	Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food Laboratories, (Veterinary Laboratory) Backweston, Co Kildare	Paul Rafter T +353 1 6157350 F +353 1 6157361 E paul.rafter@agriculture.gov.ie
Antimicrobial resistance	Danmarks Fødevareinstituttet DK-1790 København V Denmark	Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food Laboratories, (Veterinary Laboratory) Backweston, Co Kildare	Dr Montserrat Gutierrez T +353 1 6157222 F +353 1 6157116 E mm.gutierrez@agriculture.gov.ie
Animal proteins in feedingstuffs	Centre Wallon de recherches agronomiques (CRA-W) B-5030 Gembloux, Belgium	Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Laboratories, (Crops laboratory) Backweston, Co Kildare	Gabriel Roe T +353 1 6302902 F +353 1 6280634 E Gabriel.roe@agriculture.gov.ie
Transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSEs)	The Veterinary Laboratories Agency Surrey KT15 3NB United Kingdom	Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food Laboratories, (Veterinary Laboratory) Backweston, Co Kildare	Dr Paul Collery T +353 1 6157203 F +353 1 6157199 E paul.collery@agriculture.gov.ie

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Matrix/Parameter	CRL	NRL	Contact Person
Residues in food of animal origin	Bundesamt für Verbraucherschutz und Lebensmittelsicherheit (BVL)	(1) Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food Laboratories (Central Meat Control Laboratory), Backweston, Co. Kildare (Beta-agonists only)	(1) Paul Rafter T +353 1 6157350 F +353 1 6157361 E paul.rafter@agriculture.gov.ie
<i>Beta-agonists</i>	D-10562 Berlin		
<i>Anthelmintics</i>	GERMANY	(2) Ashtown Food Research Centre, Teagasc, Ashtown, Dublin 15 (Anthelmintics & Anticoccidials only)	(2) Michael O'Keeffe T +353 1 8059500 F +353 1 8059550 E michael.okeeffe@teagasc.ie
<i>Anticoccidials including</i>			
<i>Nitroimidazoles</i>		(3) State Laboratory Youngs Cross, Celbridge, Co. Kildare (Nitromidazoles & NSAIDs only)	(3) Liam Regan T +353 1 5057062 F +353 1 505 7070 E liam.regan@statelab.ie
<i>Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAID's)</i>			
<i>Other pharmacologically active substances</i>		(4) The Marine Institute Rinville Oranmore Co. Galway (Emamectin (anthelmentic), Teflubenzuron and Diflubenzeron (pharmacologically active substances) in aquaculture only)	(4) Mr. Micheál Ó Cinnéide T +353 91 387 200 F +353 91 387 201 E micheal.ocinneide@marine.ie
Residues of animal origin	Rijksinstituut voor Volksgezondheid en Milieu (RIVM)	(1) Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food Laboratories (Central Meat Control Laboratory), Backweston, Co. Kildare (Thyrostats & Sedatives)	(1) Paul Rafter T +353 1 615735 F +353 1 6157361 E paul.rafter@agriculture.gov.ie
<i>Stilbenes, stilbene derivatives, salts and esters</i>	3720 BA Bilthoven The Netherlands		
<i>Antithyroid agents</i>		(2) State Laboratory Youngs Cross Celbridg Co. Kildare (Stilbenes, Steroids, RAL's, & Mycotoxins)	(2) Liam Regan T +353 1 505706 F +353 1 505 707 E liam.regan@statelab.ie
<i>Steroids</i>			
<i>Resorcylic Acid Lactones (RAL's) incl. zeranol</i>			
<i>Sedatives</i>			
<i>Mycotoxins</i>			
Chemical elements in food of animal origin	Istituto Superiore di Sanita Viale Regina Elena 299 00161 Rome, Italy.	Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food Laboratories (Central Meat Control Laboratory), Backweston, Co. Kildare	Paul Rafter T +353 1 6157350 F +353 1 6157361 E paul.rafter@agriculture.gov.ie

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Matrix/Parameter	CRL	NRL	Contact Person
Residues of animal origin	Laboratoire d'études et de recherches sur les médicaments vétérinaires et les désinfectants	(1) Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food Laboratories (Central Meat Control Laboratory), Backweston, Co. Kildare (Antibacterial substances, Carbadox, Chlophenicol)	(1) Paul Rafter T +353 1 6157350 F +353 1 6157361 E paul.rafter@agriculture.gov.ie
<i>Antibacterial substances, including sulphonamides and quinolones</i>	AFSSA- F-35302 Fougères France	(2) Ashtown Food Research Centre, Teagasc, Ashtown, Dublin 15 (Nitrofurans)	(2) Michael O'Keeffe T +353 1 8059500 F +353 1 8059550 E michael.okeeffe@teagasc.ie
<i>Dyes</i>		(3) The Marine Institute Rinville Oranmore Co. Galway (Malachite Green and Leuco Malachite Green (dyes) in aquaculture only)	(3) Mr. Micheál Ó Cinnéide T +353 91 387 200 F + 353 91 387 201 E micheal.ocinneide@marine.ie
<i>Carbadox and olaquinox</i>			
<i>Chloramphenicol</i>			
<i>Dapsone</i>			
<i>Nitrofuranes</i>			
Residues of pesticides in cereals	Danish Institute for Food and Veterinary Research (DFVF) DK 2860 Søborg Denmark	Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food Laboratories, (Pesticide Residues Laboratory) Backweston, Co Kildare	Dan O'Sullivan T +353 1 6157610 F +353 1 6157575 E dan.osullivan@agriculture.gov.ie
Residues of pesticides in food of animal origin	Chemisches und Veterinäruntersuchungsamt (CVUA) Postfach 100462 D-79123 Freiburg Germany	Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food Laboratories, (Pesticide Residues Laboratory) Backweston, Co Kildare	Dan O'Sullivan T +353 1 6157610 F +353 1 6157575 E dan.osullivan@agriculture.gov.ie
Residues of pesticides in fruits and vegetables	Pesticide Residue Research group Universidad de Almería (PRRG) Laboratorio Agrario de la generalitat valenciana (LAGV) Spain	Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food Laboratories, (Pesticide Residues Laboratory) Backweston, Co Kildare	Dan O'Sullivan T +353 1 6157610 F +353 1 6157575 E dan.osullivan@agriculture.gov.ie

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Matrix/Parameter	CRL	NRL	Contact Person
Pesticides:single residue methods	Chemisches und Veterinäruntersuchungsamt (CVUA) Stuttgart Postfach 1206 D-70702 Fellbach Germany	Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food Laboratories, (Pesticide Residues Laboratory) Backweston, Co Kildare	Dan O'Sullivan T +353 1 6157610 F +353 1 6157575 E dan.osullivan@agriculture.gov.ie
Dioxins and PCBs	Chemisches und Veterinäruntersuchungsamt (CVUA) Postfach 100462 D-79123 Freiburg Germany	State Laboratory Young's Cross Celbridge Co Kildare	Liam Regan T +353 1 5057062 F +353 1 505 7070 E liam.regan@statelab.ie
Heavy metals in food and feed	Joint Research Centre. European Commission. Institute for Reference Materials and Measurements, Geel, Belgium	Public Analyst Laboratory, Southern Health Board, St. Finbarr's Hospital Cork	Dr. Fred Davidson T +353 21 4923248 F +353 21 4923367 E fred.davidson@mailp.hse.ie
Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs)	Joint Research Centre. European Commission. Institute for Reference Materials and Measurements, Geel, Belgium	Public Analyst Laboratory Sir Patrick Duns Hospital Grand Canal Street Dublin 2	Dr. John Keegan T +353 1 4004730 F +353 1 6628532 E john.keegan@maild.hse.ie
Mycotoxins	Joint Research Centre. European Commission. Institute for Reference Materials and Measurements, Geel, Belgium	Public Analyst Laboratory Sir Patrick Duns Hospital Grand Canal Street Dublin 2	Dr. John Keegan T +353 1 4004730 F +353 1 6628532 E john.keegan@maild.hse.ie
Food Contact Materials	Joint Research Centre European Commission Ispra Italy	Public Analyst Laboratory Sir Patrick Duns Hospital Grand Canal Street Dublin 2	Dr. John Keegan T +353 1 4004730 F +353 1 6628532 E john.keegan@maild.hse.ie
Additives in feed	Joint Research Centre. European Commission. Institute for Reference Materials and Measurements, Geel, Belgium	State Laboratory Young's Cross Celbridge Co Kildare	Ita Kinahan T +353 1 505 7001 F +353 1 505 7070 E ita.kinahan@statelab.ie
Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs)	Joint Research Centre European Commission Ispra Italy	State Laboratory Young's Cross Celbridge Co Kildare	Patricia Bonner T +353 1 5057071 F +353 1 505 7070 E patricia.bonner@statelab.ie

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Part B: Scopes of accreditation of the Irish laboratories designated as NRLs

Laboratory	Accreditation Status
Dairy Science Laboratory, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food (Backweston)	Accredited to ISO 17025 http://www.nab.ie/pdf/141T.pdf
Pesticide Control Laboratory, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food (Backweston)	Accredited to ISO 17025 http://www.nab.ie/pdf/121T.pdf
Central Meat Control Laboratory, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food (Backweston)	Accredited to ISO 17025 http://www.nab.ie/pdf/171T.pdf
Central Veterinary Research Laboratory, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food (Backweston)	Availing of the derogation until 31st Dec 2009. Has initiated and is pursuing the necessary accreditation procedures.
Crops Laboratory, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (Backweston)	Availing of the derogation until 31st Dec 2009. Has initiated and is pursuing the necessary accreditation procedures.
Crops Laboratory, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (Backweston)	Availing of the derogation until 31st Dec 2009. Has initiated and is pursuing the necessary accreditation procedures.
Ashtown Food Research Centre, Teagasc	Accredited to ISO 17025: http://www.nab.ie/pdf/038T.pdf
State Laboratory	Accredited to ISO 17025: http://www.nab.ie/pdf/146T.pdf
Marine Institute	Accredited to ISO 17025: http://www.nab.ie/pdf/130T.pdf
Public Analyst's Laboratory, Dublin, Health Service Executive (Dublin Mid-Leinster Region)	Accredited to ISO 17025: http://www.nab.ie/pdf/099T.pdf
Public Analyst's Laboratory, Cork, Health Service Executive (Southern Region)	Accredited to ISO 17025: http://www.nab.ie/pdf/081T.pdf

APPENDIX 4: OFFICIAL LABORATORIES INVOLVED IN FOOD CONTROLS

Official Laboratory	Designated by:	Lab Accredited to ISO 17025
Pesticide Control Laboratory, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (Backweston)	DAFF	Accredited to ISO 17025 http://www.nab.ie/pdf/121T.pdf
Central Meat Control Laboratory, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (Backweston)	DAFF	Accredited to ISO 17025 http://www.nab.ie/pdf/171T.pdf
Central Veterinary Research Laboratory Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food (Backweston)	DAFF	Availing of the derogation until 31st Dec 2009. Has initiated and is pursuing the necessary accreditation procedures.
Food Laboratory, Waterford, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food	DAFF	Not accredited – this laboratory will be closing.
Dairy Science Laboratory, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (Backweston)	DAFF	Accredited to ISO 17025 http://www.nab.ie/pdf/141T.pdf
Dairy Science Laboratory, Cork, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food	DAFF	Availing of the derogation until 31st Dec 2009. Are working towards accreditation to ISO 17025.
Dairy Science Laboratory, Limerick, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food	DAFF	Availing of the derogation until 31st Dec 2009. Are working towards accreditation to ISO 17025.
State Laboratory	DAFF/DoHC	Accredited to ISO 17025: http://www.nab.ie/pdf/146T.pdf
Ashtown Food Research Centre, Teagasc	DAFF	Accredited to ISO 17025: http://www.nab.ie/pdf/038T.pdf
Radiological Protection Institute of Ireland	DoHC	Accredited to ISO 17025: http://www.nab.ie/pdf/086T.pdf
Marine Institute	DCMNR	Accredited to ISO 17025: http://www.nab.ie/pdf/130T.pdf

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Official Laboratory	Designated by:	Lab Accredited to ISO 17025
Public Analyst's Laboratory, Cork, HSE Southern Region	DoHC	Accredited to ISO 17025: http://www.nab.ie/pdf/081T.pdf
Public Analyst's Laboratory, Dublin, HSE Dublin Mid-Leinster Region	DoHC	Accredited to ISO 17025: http://www.nab.ie/pdf/099T.pdf
Public Analyst's Laboratory, Galway, HSE Western Region	DoHC	Accredited to ISO 17025: http://www.nab.ie/pdf/097T.pdf
Public Health Laboratory, Limerick, HSE Western Region	DoHC	Accredited to ISO 17025: http://www.nab.ie/pdf/096T.pdf
Public Health Laboratory, Sligo, HSE Western Region	DoHC	Accredited to ISO 17025: http://www.nab.ie/pdf/098T.pdf
Public Health Laboratory, Waterford, HSE Southern Region	DoHC	Accredited to ISO 17025: http://www.nab.ie/pdf/094T.pdf
Public Health Microbiology Laboratory, Cork, HSE Southern Region	DoHC	Accredited to ISO 17025: http://www.nab.ie/pdf/087T.pdf
Public Health Microbiology Laboratory, Dublin, HSE Dublin Mid-Leinster Region	DoHC	Accredited to ISO 17025: http://www.nab.ie/pdf/101T.pdf
Public Health Microbiology Laboratory, Galway, HSE Western Region	DoHC	Accredited to ISO 17025: http://www.nab.ie/pdf/097T.pdf

APPENDIX 5:

SUMMARY OF HYGIENE PACKAGE TRAINING

Name of Meeting/ Training Session	Date of Training	Official Agency Name	Target Inspectorate	Main Hygiene Package Topics Covered	Format of Training	Duration
PEHO National Meeting	3rd March 2004	Health Service Executive	Environmental Health Officers	Overview of the Hygiene Package/implications for the environmental health service	Presentation and discussion	1 day (with other topics)
Cross Agency Meeting	26th, 27th May, 2nd, 1st, 22nd June 2004	All official agencies	All food safety inspectorate invited	Regulation (EC) No.s: 852/2004, 853/2004, 854/2004, 882/2004	Presentations and discussion	1 day (with other topics)
Cross Agency Meeting	29th, 30th Nov 2004	All official agencies	All food safety inspectorate invited	Regulation (EC) No. 178/2002 - crisis management	Presentations plus crisis management simulation	1 day (with other topics)
Cross Agency Meeting	4th, 5th, 24th, 25th May 2005	All official agencies	All food safety inspectorate invited	Regulation (EC) No.s: 2073/2005; 178/2002; 882/2004	Presentations and discussion	1 day (with other topics)
PEHO National Meeting	9th Nov 2004	Health Service Executive	Environmental health officers	Regulation (EC) No.s: 178/2002; 852/2004; 882/2004	Presentations and discussion	1 day (with other topics)
Health Service Executive	Various dates 2004 - 2005	Health Service Executive	Environmental health officers	Introduction to the Hygiene Package	Presentations and discussion	1 day (with other topics) at local training days
FSAI and DAFF Meat Regional Meeting	2nd, 3rd, 9th, 10th February 2005	DAFF	Veterinary Inspectors	Introduction to and overview of the Regulations as they apply to meat plants	Presentations and discussion	1 day (with other topics)
FSAI and DAFF Meat Regional Meeting	2nd, 3rd, 9th, 10th, 16th, 17th, 30th Nov, 1st Dec 2005	DAFF	Veterinary Inspectors and Technical Agricultural Officers	Regulation (EC) No.s: 852/2004, 853/2004, 854/2004, 882/2004, 2073/2005 with specific emphasis on application to meat establishments	Presentations and discussion	1 full day

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Name of Meeting/ Training Session	Date of Training	Official Agency Name	Target Inspectorate	Main Hygiene Package Topics Covered	Format of Training	Duration
DAFF Milk Regional Meeting	22nd February 2005	DAFF	Dairy Produce Inspectors	Regulation (EC) No.s: 852/2004, 853/2004, 854/2004, 882/2004, 2073/2005 with specific emphasis on application to milk establishments	Presentations and discussion	1/2 day (with other topics)
FSAI and DAFF Milk Regional Meeting	22nd February 2005	DAFF	Dairy Science Lab staff	General - all Regulations (incl. 2073/2005) with specific emphasis on application to milk establishments	Presentations and discussion	1/2 day (with other topics)
PEHO National Meeting	23rd Nov 05	Health Service Executive	Principal Environmental Health Officers	Regulation (EC) No.s: 178/2002; 852/2004; 853/2004; 882/2004;	Presentations and breakout session	1 day
Environmental Health Officer Training Days	1st Nov, 3rd Nov, 8th Nov, 10th Nov 2005	Health Service Executive	Environmental Health Officers	Regulation (EC) No.178/2002 - Traceability and Recall	Presentations and workshops	1 day x 4
Environmental Health Officer Training Days	24th Feb, 3rd, 6th, 13th March 06	Health Service Executive	Environmental Health Officers	Regulation (EC) No.s: 178/2002; 852/2004; 882/2004;	Presentations and discussion	1 day x 4
Environmental Health Officer Training Days	3rd May 06	Health Service Executive	Senior Environmental Health Officers /Principal Environmental Health Officers	Regulation (EC) No.s: 852/2004; 2073/2005 – focusing on implementing HACCP Flexibility and the Micro Criteria	Presentations and discussion	1 day
Official Food Microbiology Laboratory/ PAL Meetings	13th June 06; 15th June 06	Health Service Executive	Official Food Microbiology Laboratory/ Public Analyst Laboratory - liaison groups	Regulation (EC) No.s: 178/2002; 882/2004; 2073/2005	Presentations and discussion	1/2 day (with other topics)

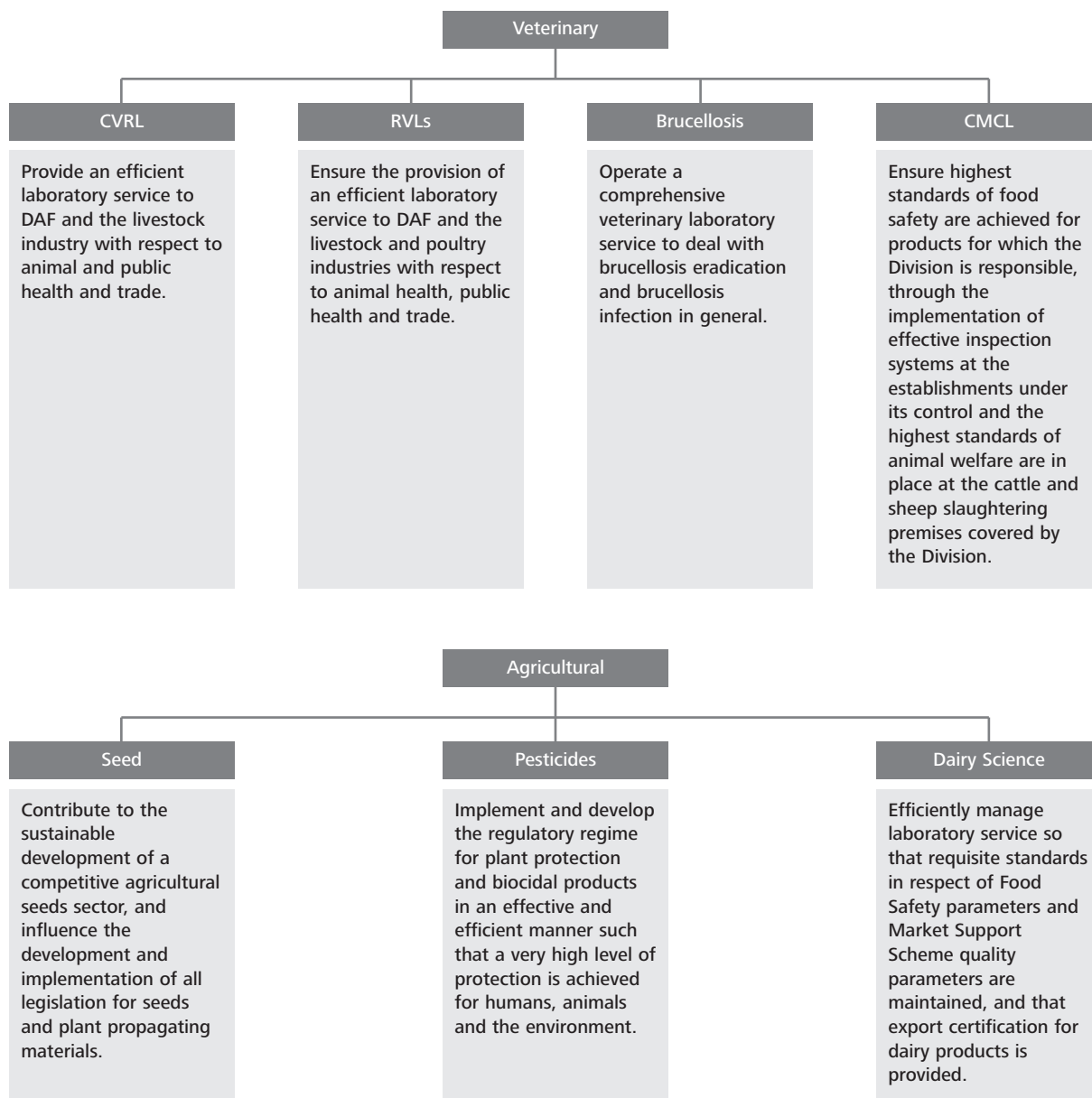
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Name of Meeting/ Training Session	Date of Training	Official Agency Name	Target Inspectorate	Main Hygiene Package Topics Covered	Format of Training	Duration
Local Authority Regional Meeting	11 & 13 May 04	Local Authorities	Local Authority Veterinary Service	Regulation (EC) No.s: 178/2002; 852/2004; 853/2004; 854 /2004; 882/2004; 2073/2005; and the implementing S.I.s	Presentations and discussion	1 day x 6
Local Authority Regional Meeting	11 & 16th Nov 04	Local Authorities	Local Authority Veterinary Service	Regulation (EC) No.s: 178/2002; 852/2004; 853/2004; 854 /2004; 882/2004; 2073/2005 and the implementing S.I.s	Presentations and discussion	1 day x 6
Local Authority Regional Meeting	12 & 17th May 05	Local Authorities	Local Authority Veterinary Service	Regulation (EC) No.s: 178/2002; 852/2004; 853/2004; 854 /2004; 882/2004; 2073/2005-; 2655/2004 and the implementing S.I.s	Presentations and discussion	1 day x 6
Local Authority Regional Meeting	10 & 15 Nov 05	Local Authorities	Local Authority Veterinary Service	Regulation (EC) No.s: 178/2002; 852/2004; 853/2004; 854 /2004; 882/2004; 2073/2005	Presentations and discussion	1 day x 6
PEHO National Meeting	26th April 2006	Health Service Executive	Environmental Health Officers	Regulation (EC) No.s: 178/2002; 852/2004; 853/2004; 2073/2005; 882/2004	Presentations and discussion (with other topics)	1 day
Local Authority Regional Meeting	23rd & 25th May 06	Local Authorities	Local Authority Veterinary Service	Regulation (EC) No.s: 178/2002; 852/2004; 853/2004; 854 /2004; 882/2004; 2073/2005- 882/2004; and the implementing S.I.s	Presentations and discussion	1 day x 6

APPENDIX 6: THE MISSION STATEMENTS OF THE DAFF VETERINARY AND AGRICULTURAL LABORATORIES



APPENDIX 7:

TASKS AND ANALYTICAL ACTIVITIES OF THE DAFF VETERINARY LABORATORY SERVICE

Task or analytical activity	NRL	Other laboratories contracted to supply service to national programme	Arrangements to ensure NRL's operate in accordance with Article 32(2) and (3) of Reg 882/2004	Quality control in place in NRL	Arrangements for planning and conducting proficiency or ring tests during the period of the NCP
Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies	Central Veterinary Research Laboratory (CVRL), Backweston Campus, Young's Cross, Celbridge, Co. Kildare	Enfer Testing Ltd, Unit 4, Boxer Hse, Newbridge	Annual Business Plan prepared outlining tasks to be undertaken each year. Consultation required with all stakeholders.	Standard Operating Procedures covering all TSE processes in place.	TSE NRL participates in proficiency tests as required including those arranged by the CRL.
• TSE diagnosis		Ind Est. Newbridge, Co.Kildare			
• Approval and monitoring of Rapid Testing Laboratories		Advanced Micro. Services Ltd., Unit 2, Southring West Business Park, Tramore Rd, Cork		Internal Audit System in place in CVRL with auditors reporting to Deputy Director.	TSE NRL organise national proficiency trials for Rapid Testing Laboratories.
Maintenance of TSE archive			Business Plan must be reviewed and approved by DAFF Management Advisory Committee.	Laboratory will seek accreditation to ISO 17025 during period covered by this plan.	Staff participate in CRL workshops.
• Genotyping for sheep in scrapie infected herds.		Irish Equine Centre, Johnstown, Naas, Co. Kildare.			
		IdentiGEN Unit 9, Trinity Enterprise Centre Pearse St. Dublin 2		Genotyping in Cellmark is accredited to ISO 17025 and laboratory is monitored as part of DEFRA QC on UK genotyping programme.	
		• Rapid serological diagnostic service to meat industry.			
		Cellmark PO Box, 265 Abingdon, Oxon OX14 1YX, England.			
		• Genotyping service to sheep flocks.			

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Task or analytical activity	NRL	Other laboratories contracted to supply service to national programme	Arrangements to ensure NRL's operate in accordance with Article 32(2) and (3) of Reg 882/2004	Quality control in place in NRL	Arrangements for planning and conducting proficiency or ring tests during the period of the NCP
Tuberculosis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diagnosis by culture and histopathology • Strain typing isolates • Tuberculin assays • Vaccine development • Support tests – Interferon, • ELISA tests 	Central Veterinary Research Laboratory (CVRL), Backweston Campus, Young's Cross, Celbridge, Co. Kildare Regional Veterinary Laboratories	UCD - private laboratory Interferon supplementary assay under the TB programme	Annual Business Plan prepared outlining tasks to be undertaken each year. Consultation required with all stakeholders. Business Plan must be reviewed and approved by DAFF Management Advisory Committee.	Standard Operating Procedures covering all laboratory processes in place. Annual internal audit by CVRL auditors to be undertaken. Laboratory will seek accreditation to ISO 17025 during period covered by this plan.	Participation in annual proficiency ring trial with Veterinary Laboratory Agency Weybridge, UK, UK Regional Veterinary Laboratories and the AFBI's Veterinary Sciences Division (VSD), Stormont, Northern Ireland
Brucellosis MSAT CFT ELISA Competitive ELISA FPA RBT Culture	Blood Testing Laboratory, Model Farm Rd., Cork Culture Regional Veterinary Laboratory, Fawcett's Bridge, Doonally, Sligo: • Provision of Serological testing for private blood samples	Central Veterinary Research Laboratory (CVRL), Backweston Campus, Young's Cross, Celbridge, Co. Kildare • Culture Regional Veterinary Laboratory, Fawcett's Bridge, Doonally, Sligo: • Provision of Serological testing for private blood samples	Annual Business Plan prepared outlining tasks to be undertaken each year. Consultation required with all stakeholders. Continuous linkage incl. meetings between NRL, DVOs and ERAD, DAFF. Business Plan must be reviewed and approved by DAFF Management Advisory Committee.	Standard Operating Procedures covering all laboratory processes in place. All testing done as outlined in OIE Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals or Annex C to Directive 64/432/EEC.	NRL participates in proficiency tests as required including those arranged by the CRL. In-house monthly checks. NRL participates in biannual QA tests organised by VLA, Weybridge, UK.

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Task or analytical activity	NRL	Other laboratories contracted to supply service to national programme	Arrangements to ensure NRL's operate in accordance with Article 32(2) and (3) of Reg 882/2004	Quality control in place in NRL	Arrangements for planning and conducting proficiency or ring tests during the period of the NCP
Avian Influenza <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Virus isolation • Serology • Molecular characterisation of H5 subtype. 	Central Veterinary Research Laboratory (CVRL), Backweston Campus, Young's Cross, Celbridge, Co. Kildare		<p>Annual Business Plan prepared outlining tasks to be undertaken each year. Consultation required with all stakeholders.</p> <p>Business Plan must be reviewed and approved by DAFF Management Advisory Committee.</p>	<p>Standard Operating Procedures covering laboratory processes in place.</p> <p>Laboratory will seek accreditation to ISO 17025 during period covered by this plan.</p>	<p>NRL participates in proficiency tests as required including those arranged by the CRL.</p> <p>Staff participate in CRL workshops.</p>
Newcastle Disease <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Virus isolation • Molecular characterisation of virus. 	Central Veterinary Research Laboratory (CVRL), Backweston Campus, Young's Cross, Celbridge, Co. Kildare		<p>Annual Business Plan prepared outlining tasks to be undertaken each year. Consultation required with all stakeholders.</p> <p>Business Plan must be reviewed and approved by DAFF Management Advisory Committee.</p>	<p>Standard Operating Procedures covering laboratory processes in place.</p> <p>Laboratory will seek accreditation to ISO 17025 during period covered by this plan.</p>	<p>NRL participates in proficiency tests as required including those arranged by the CRL.</p> <p>Staff participate in CRL workshops.</p>

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Classical Swine Fever <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Virus isolation • Serology • Real Time PCR. 	Central Veterinary Research Laboratory (CVRL), Backweston Campus, Young's Cross, Celbridge, Co. Kildare		<p>Annual Business Plan prepared outlining tasks to be undertaken each year. Consultation required with all stakeholders.</p> <p>Business Plan must be reviewed and approved by DAFF Management Advisory Committee.</p>	<p>Standard Operating Procedures covering laboratory processes in place.</p> <p>Laboratory will seek accreditation to ISO 17025 during period covered by this plan.</p>	<p>Laboratory manual produced.</p> <p>NRL participates in proficiency tests as required including those arranged by the CRL.</p> <p>Staff participate in CRL workshops.</p> <p>Laboratory contingency plans prepared and reviewed regularly.</p>
African Swine Fever <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Virus isolation. • Serology • Genome and antigen detection • Immunoblotting 	Central Veterinary Research Laboratory (CVRL), Backweston Campus, Young's Cross, Celbridge, Co. Kildare		<p>Annual Business Plan prepared outlining tasks to be undertaken each year. Consultation required with all stakeholders.</p> <p>Business Plan must be reviewed and approved by DAFF Management Advisory Committee.</p>	<p>Standard Operating Procedures covering laboratory processes in place.</p> <p>Laboratory will seek accreditation to ISO 17025 during period covered by this plan.</p>	<p>Laboratory Manual produced.</p> <p>NRL participates in proficiency tests as required including those arranged by the CRL.</p> <p>Staff participate in CRL workshops.</p> <p>Laboratory Contingency plans prepared and reviewed regularly.</p>

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Bluetongue	Central Veterinary Research Laboratory (CVRL), Backweston Campus, Young's Cross, Celbridge, Co. Kildare		<p>Annual Business Plan prepared outlining tasks to be undertaken each year. Consultation required with all stakeholders.</p> <p>Business Plan must be reviewed and approved by DAFF Management Advisory Committee.</p>	<p>Standard Operating Procedures covering laboratory processes in place.</p> <p>Laboratory will seek accreditation to ISO 17025 during period covered by this plan.</p>	<p>Laboratory Manual produced.</p> <p>NRL participates in proficiency tests as required including those arranged by the CRL.</p> <p>Staff participate in CRL workshops.</p> <p>Laboratory contingency plans under preparation.</p>
African Horse Sickness	Central Veterinary Research Laboratory (CVRL), Backweston Campus, Young's Cross, Celbridge, Co. Kildare		<p>Annual Business Plan prepared outlining tasks to be undertaken each year. Consultation required with all stakeholders.</p> <p>Business Plan must be reviewed and approved by DAFF Management Advisory Committee.</p>	<p>Standard Operating Procedures covering laboratory processes in place.</p> <p>Laboratory will seek accreditation to ISO 17025 during period covered by this plan.</p>	<p>NRL participates in proficiency tests as required including those arranged by the CRL.</p> <p>Staff participate in CRL workshops.</p> <p>Laboratory contingency plans prepared and will be reviewed regularly.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Serology Genome detection 					

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Foot and Mouth Disease	Central Veterinary Research Laboratory (CVRL), Backweston Campus, Young's Cross, Celbridge, Co. Kildare				
• Serology			Annual Business Plan prepared outlining tasks to be undertaken each year. Consultation required with all stakeholders. Business Plan must be reviewed and approved by DAFF Management Advisory Committee.	Standard Operating Procedures covering laboratory processes in place. Facilities being upgraded during course of this plan to allow virus isolation.	Laboratory manual produced. NRL participates in proficiency tests as required including those arranged by the CRL. Staff participate in CRL workshops. Laboratory contingency plans prepared and reviewed regularly.
Swine Vesicular Disease	Central Veterinary Research Laboratory (CVRL), Backweston Campus, Young's Cross, Celbridge, Co. Kildare				
• Serology			Annual Business Plan prepared outlining tasks to be undertaken each year. Consultation required with all stakeholders. Business Plan must be reviewed and approved by DAFF Management Advisory Committee.	Standard Operating Procedures covering laboratory processes in place. Facilities being upgraded during course of this plan to allow virus isolation.	Laboratory manual produced. NRL participates in proficiency tests as required including those arranged by the CRL. Staff participate in CRL workshops. Laboratory contingency plans prepared and reviewed regularly.

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Rabies	Central Veterinary Research Laboratory (CVRL), Backweston Campus, Young's Cross, Celbridge, Co. Kildare		Annual Business Plan prepared outlining tasks to be undertaken each year. Consultation required with all stakeholders.	Standard Operating Procedures covering laboratory processes in place.	Laboratory manual produced.
• Autopsy/testing of suspect cases.			Business Plan must be reviewed and approved by DAFF Management Advisory Committee.		
Enzootic Bovine Leucosis and Aujeszky's disease	Central Veterinary Research Laboratory (CVRL), Backweston Campus, Young's Cross, Celbridge, Co. Kildare		Annual Business Plan prepared outlining tasks to be undertaken each year. Consultation required with all stakeholders.	Standard Operating Procedures covering laboratory processes in place.	Laboratory manual produced. Laboratory participates in proficiency tests as required.
			Business Plan must be reviewed and approved by DAFF MAC.		

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<i>Salmonella</i>					
• Culture	Central Veterinary Research Laboratory (CVRL), Backweston Campus, Young's Cross, Celbridge, Co. Kildare	University College Hospital, Galway	Annual Business Plan prepared outlining tasks to be undertaken each year. Consultation required with all stakeholders.	Quality Manual in preparation.	NRL participates in proficiency tests as required including those arranged by the CRL.
• Serotyping		• Health Protection Agency, Centre for Infections, 61 Colindale Avenue, London, NW9 5EQ. Phage typing <i>Salmonella</i> as required	Business Plan must be reviewed and approved by DAFF Management Advisory Committee.	Development of Standard Operating Procedures covering laboratory processes in progress. Laboratory will seek accreditation to ISO 17025 during period covered by this plan.	Staff participate in CRL workshops. Laboratory annual national proficiency ring trial organised.
<i>Campylobacter</i>					
	Central Veterinary Research Laboratory (CVRL), Backweston Campus, Young's Cross, Celbridge, Co. Kildare. Designated July 2006		Annual Business Plan prepared outlining tasks to be undertaken each year. Consultation required with all stakeholders. Business Plan must be reviewed and approved by DAFF Management Advisory Committee.	Quality Manual in preparation. Development of Standard Operating Procedures covering laboratory processes in progress. Laboratory will seek accreditation to ISO 17025 during period covered by this plan.	NRL participates in proficiency tests as required including those arranged by the CRL. Staff participate in CRL workshops. Annual national proficiency ring trial organised.

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<i>E. coli</i>	Central Veterinary Research Laboratory (CVRL)/Central Meat Control Laboratory (CMCL), Backweston Campus, Young's Cross, Celbridge, Co. Kildare. Designated July 2006		Annual Business Plan prepared outlining tasks to be undertaken each year. Consultation required with all stakeholders. Business Plan must be reviewed and approved by DAFF Management Advisory Committee.	Quality Manual in preparation. Development of Standard Operating Procedures covering laboratory processes in progress. Laboratory will seek accreditation to ISO 17025 during period covered by this plan.	NRL participates in proficiency tests as required including those arranged by the CRL. Staff participate in CRL workshops.
Antimicrobial resistance	Central Veterinary Research Laboratory (CVRL)/Central Meat Control Laboratory (CMCL), Backweston Campus, Young's Cross, Celbridge, Co. Kildare. Designated July 2006		Annual Business Plan prepared outlining tasks to be undertaken each year. Consultation required with all stakeholders. Business Plan must be reviewed and approved by DAFF Management Advisory Committee.	Quality Manual in preparation. Development of Standard Operating Procedures covering laboratory processes in progress. Laboratory will seek accreditation to ISO 17025 during period covered by this plan.	NRL participates in proficiency tests as required including those arranged by the CRL. Staff participate in CRL workshops.

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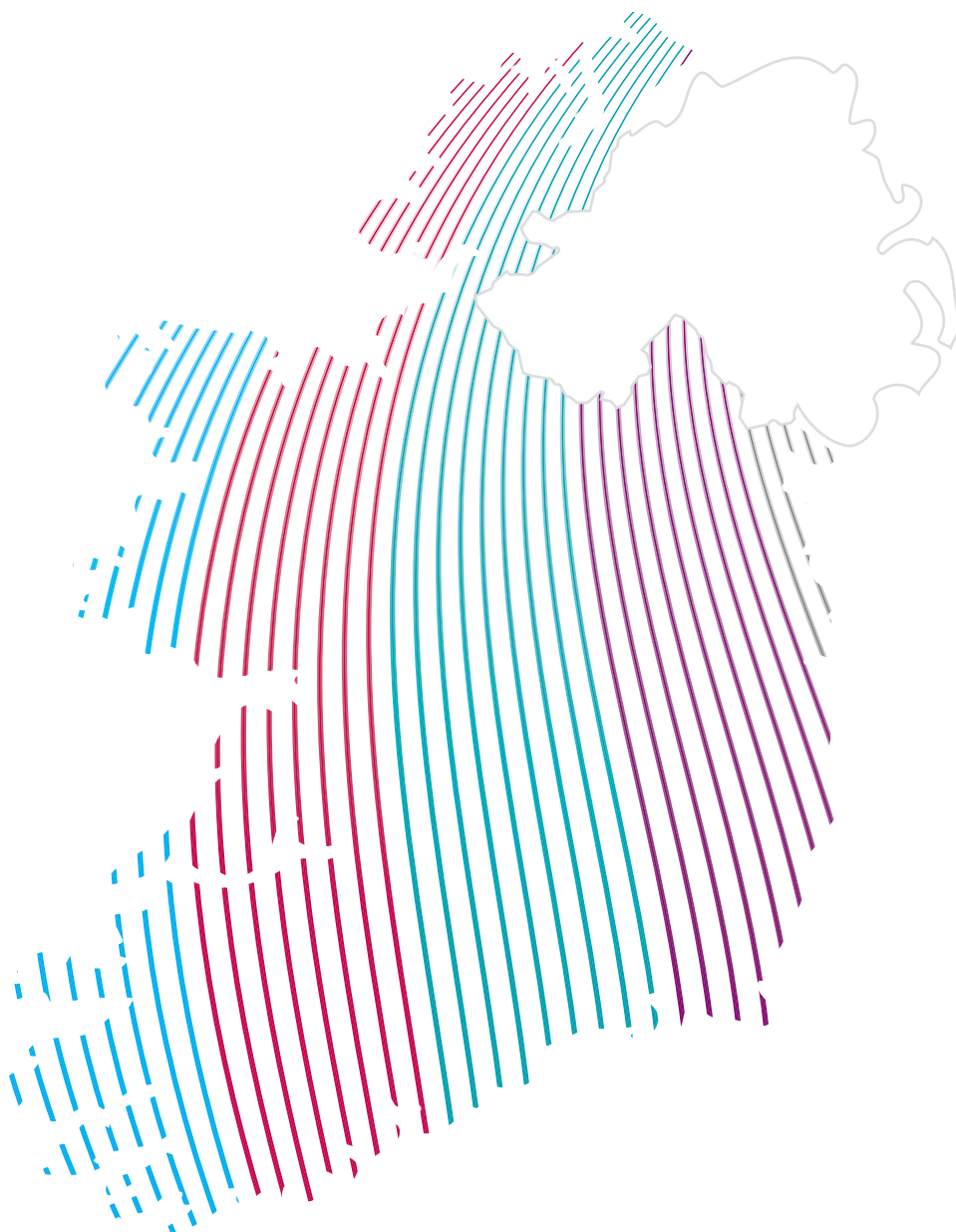
Task or analytical activity	NRL	Other laboratories contracted to supply service to national programme	Arrangements to ensure NRL's operate in accordance with Article 32(2) and (3) of Reg 882/2004	Quality control in place in NRL	Arrangements for planning and conducting proficiency or ring tests during the period of the NCP
Residues	Central Meat Control Laboratory (CMCL), Backweston Campus, Young's Cross, Celbridge, Co. Kildare.				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A2 Thyrostats • A5 Agonists • A6 Chloramphenicol 			Annual Business Plan prepared outlining tasks to be undertaken each year. Consultation required with all stakeholders.	All tests validated in compliance with EU Directive 2002/675EC	NRL participates in proficiency tests as required including those arranged by the CRL.
Chlorpromazine and Propionylpromazine				Several tests accredited by the Irish National Accreditation Board to ISO 17025.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B1 Antibacterials • B2d Sedatives • B2f Carbadox, • B3c Chemical Elements. 			Business Plan must be reviewed and approved by DAFF Management Advisory Committee.	Programme in place to broaden scope of accreditation to include all tests	Staff participate in CRL workshops.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A3 Trenbolone and Nortestosterone • A4 Zeranol. 					
Nitrite/Nitrate testing of bacon products					
Fat purity					
Microbiological surveillance of 'ready-to-eat' meat products for <i>E. coli</i> , Clostridia					
perfringens, Coagulase-positive Staphylococci, total viable count, <i>Salmonella</i> , <i>Listeria</i> , <i>Campylobacter</i> spp.					
Microbiological Surveillance of water used in meat production plants:- chlorine, conductivity, total Coliform count, <i>E. coli</i> , and faecal Enterococci.					

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Parasites	Central Veterinary Research Laboratory (CVRL)/Central Meat Control Laboratory (CMCL), Backweston Campus, Young's Cross, Celbridge, Co. Kildare.	McCarren, Cavan (Plant no 224)	Annual Business Plan prepared outlining tasks to be undertaken each year. Consultation required with all stakeholders.	Test developed to comply with the EU directive, and in consultation with the CRL. Validated using controls from CRL.	NRL participates in proficiency tests as required including those arranged by the CRL.
• Trichinella examination	Designated July 2006	Glanbia, Edenderry (Plant no 356) Glanbia, Roscrea (Plant no 355) Irish Equine Centre, Johnstown, Co. Kildare. Oldcastle Laboratory, Oldcastle, Co. Meath. Eclipse, Independent Micro. Laboratory, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.	Business Plan must be reviewed and approved by DAFF Management Advisory Committee.	Programme in place to broaden scope of accreditation to include all tests	Staff participate in CRL workshops.





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