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COUNTRY PROFILE - PART 1 NORWAY

Competent authority control systems in the areas of food and feed safety, animal health and animal welfare

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INTRODUCTION

This country profile has been drawn up by Norway in cooperation with the EFTA Surveillance Authority (ESA) to present in a summary form the latest information available on Norwegian control systems relating to food and feed safety, animal health and animal welfare. Plant health is not part of the country profile as it does not fall under the Agreement on the European Economic Area ('the EEA Agreement', 'the Agreement').

The information in the country profile has been compiled from:

- recent written submissions and background documentation provided by the Norwegian authorities, detailing how control systems are organised;
- the results of the ESA's missions to Norway in recent years and, in particular, a general review mission in February 2020.

This country profile (Part 1) is presented in two main chapters:

Chapter 1 describes the overall organisation of the Norwegian authorities and the respective responsibilities of the ministries and government agencies in relation to the different components of the control system.

Chapter 2 provides a more detailed description of the different control systems that form the complete set of official controls in Norway, covering the whole chain of animal, feed and food production.

This country profile is to be updated at regular intervals pursuant to the ESA's missions or additional relevant information being submitted by the Norwegian competent authorities.

Part 2 of the country profile will cover the current status of progress in implementation of corrective actions to recommendations issued by ESA.

Acronyms are used extensively throughout this report for the sake of brevity. A list of acronyms, abbreviations and special terms is provided in Annex I.

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1 COMPETENT AUTHORITIES AND IMPLEMENTATION OF REQUIREMENTS

1.1. Competent authorities

Ministries

The Ministry of Agriculture and Food, the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries, and the Ministry of Health and Care Services share responsibility for developing policy and legislation on food and feed safety, animal health and animal welfare in Norway.

Table 1. *Division of responsibility in relation to control systems and operational levels.*

Sector	Policy co-ordination	Coordination and implementation of controls	Risk assessment and scientific advice
1. Animal health (including aquatic animal health)	Ministry of Agriculture and Food Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries	NFSA	Norwegian Scientific Committee on Food Safety (VKM) Norwegian Veterinary Institute (VI) Institute of Marine Research (IMR) Norwegian University of Life Sciences (NMBU)
2. Food of animal origin	Ministry of Agriculture and Food Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries Ministry of Health and Care Services	NFSA	VKM Norwegian Institute of Public Health (NIPH) VI Institute of Marine Research (IMR) NMBU
3. Imports of animals and food of animal origin	Ministry of Agriculture and Food Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries	NFSA	VI Institute of Marine Research (IMR) NMBU
4. Feeding stuffs	Ministry of Agriculture and Food Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries	NFSA	VKM VI Institute of Marine Research (IMR) Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research (NIBIO)

5. TSE/Animal by-products (ABP)	Ministry of Agriculture and Food Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries	NFSA	VI VKM
6. Veterinary medicines - authorisation, marketing and distribution **Veterinary medicines residues**	Ministry of Agriculture and Food Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries Ministry of Health and Care Services	NFSA the Norwegian Medicines Agency (NoMA)	VKM VI Institute of Marine Research (IMR)
7. Foodstuffs and food hygiene,	Ministry of Agriculture and Food Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries Ministry of Health and Care Services	NFSA	VKM NIPH VI Institute of Marine Research (IMR) NIBIO For food contact materials: the food department at the Danish Technical University (DTU)
8. Imports of food of plant origin	Ministry of Agriculture and Food Ministry of Health and Care Services	NFSA	NIBIO VI VKM
9. Plant protection products – authorisation, marketing and use. **Plant protection products – residues**	Ministry of Agriculture and Food	NFSA	NIBIO Kimen Seed Laboratory VKM
10. Plant health	Ministry of Agriculture and Food	NFSA	NIBIO VKM

The Ministry of Agriculture and Food

The Ministry is responsible for food and agricultural policymaking. The food policy of the Ministry aims to provide consumers with wholesome, high quality food products, and to ensure that the food production process is carried out with environmental, public health and animal welfare concerns in mind. The Ministry is responsible for terrestrial primary production.

In addition, the Ministry is administratively responsible for the Norwegian Food Safety Authority (NFSA), which is the central competent authority in Norway for food and feed safety, animal health and welfare.

The Ministry of Health and Care Services

The Ministry is responsible for policymaking on drinking water and foodstuffs. The production and marketing of safe and wholesome food is an essential principle in this regard, as is the avoidance of misleading practices and ensuring of honest information to consumers.

The Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries

The Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries is responsible for policymaking on fish and seafood. The Ministry is responsible for maritime primary production and creates and administers policies on fish health and fish welfare. The Ministry is also responsible for creating a framework for the Seafood Industry.

The Norwegian Food Safety Authority (NFSA)

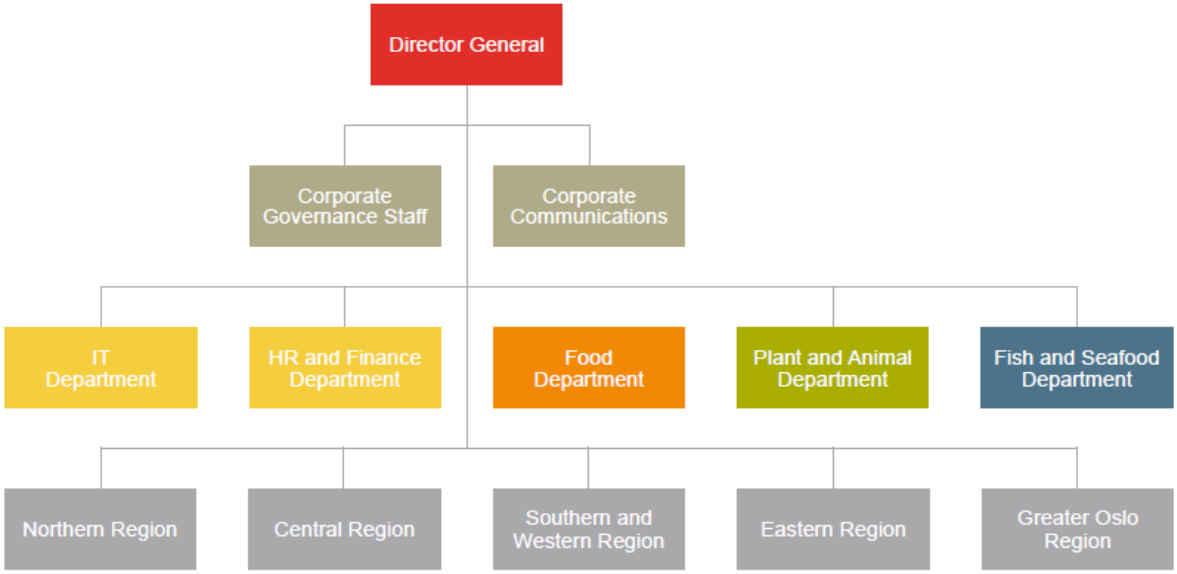
The NFSA is the designated competent authority for food and feed safety, animal health and animal welfare. The Norwegian Food Safety Authority's role is to draft legislation and provide guidance on existing legislation, perform risk-based inspections, monitor food safety as well as plant, fish and animal health, provide updates on developments in our field and plan for emergencies.

The Food Act and the Animal Welfare Act give the NFSA's authority and decision-making powers in all matters that fall under Regulation (No) 1621 of 22 December, which incorporates the Official Controls Regulation (EU) No 2017/625. In addition, the Act relating to Cosmetic Products and Body Care Products, the Animal Breeder Act and the Plant Breeder Act give the NFSA further authority and decision-making powers. The Public Administration Act and Freedom of Information Act constitute an important framework for the NFSA's exercise of authority.

The NFSA's organisation

The NFSA is organised into two administrative levels, the head office and the regions. The head office carries out directorate and governance tasks, such as interpreting legislation, developing control plans and surveillance programmes. The regional level consists of five regions, each divided into 31 local departments which are located in several places. The regional level normally carries out official control activities and makes initial decisions. Appeal cases are considered by the head office.

Picture 1. *NFSA organisation chart*



The head office issues guidelines and instructions for how official control is to be exercised. These guidelines are communicated through the quality system (QS) and the NFSA's food safety supervision system MATS. Interregional expert forums support and promote professional coordination between the regions. The NFSA appoints an Animal Protection Committee, which contributes to animal welfare issues. The police, Norwegian Customs, the Norwegian Coast Guard and the municipalities are obliged to assist the NFSA on request in connection with official controls.

Delegation of authority to control bodies

The NFSA carries out most of the official control activities itself, but it has delegated authority to the following organisations in specific areas:

Debio (Organic Certification Organisation)

Debio is a non-profit member-based organisation whose objective is to ensure and promote organic and sustainable production, sales and consumption. Membership is open to all national organisations that have a positive attitude to the development of organic production.

Establishments subject to certification by Debio cannot be members. Representatives from the membership organisations can be elected at Debio`s annual general meeting to have a seat in Debio's board of directors. The general meeting is open to all membership organisations and the NFSA.

Debio has been delegated authority to carry out official controls and make individual decisions about the production and sale of organic products pursuant to the Regulation of 18 March 2017 No 355 relating to organic production and labelling of organic agricultural products, aquaculture products and foodstuffs.

County governors and municipalities

As public administrative bodies, the county governors and municipalities have been delegated authority to hold examinations and issue certificates of authorisation for the use of pesticides pursuant to Section 8 of the Regulation (NO) of 6 May 2015 No 455 relating to pesticides. The municipalities have been delegated the authority to make decisions about permits for spraying pesticides from aircraft pursuant to Section 17 of the same regulation.

County governors and municipalities have been authorised to carry out official control tasks relating to wild oats pursuant to Section 2 of the Regulation of 25 March 1988 No 251 relating to wild oats.

The Norwegian Board of Health Supervision in Rogaland

As public administrative body, The Norwegian Board of Health Supervision in Rogaland, is delegated authority to carry out official control and make individual decisions in accordance with Act 19 December 2003 No. 124 on food production and food safety and regulations given on this basis, to offshore petroleum companies. The delegation does not include the authority to supervise and make decisions regarding petroleum activities on land.

Scientific support

Norwegian Scientific Committee for Food Safety (VKM)

The Norwegian Scientific Committee for Food Safety (VKM), which is part of the Norwegian Institute of Public Health, carries out independent risk assessments for the NFSA across the Authority's field of responsibility, as well as environmental risk assessments of genetically modified organisms, alien organisms, micro-organisms and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) for the Norwegian Environment Agency (Miljødirektoratet).

Scientific support institutions

The following institutions provide independent scientific support to the NFSA:

- Norwegian Veterinary Institute (VI) (animal health and welfare, fish health and food safety)
- Norwegian Institute of Public Health (NIPH) (food safety and epidemiology)
- Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research (NIBIO) (plant health and pesticides)
- Norwegian Institute of Marine Research (IMR) (food and feed safety and nutrition, fish health and fish welfare)
- Kimen, Seed Laboratory (seeds)

These scientific institutions usually perform the functions of national reference laboratories (NRL). A list of NRL is available at this link.

Official laboratories are selected by the NFSA based on a tender and assessment procedure. Accreditation according to EN ISO 17025 is a prerequisite for participation in competitive tenders. The laboratories have a contract with the NFSA.

Table 2. List of designated laboratories involved in controls on food, feed, plant, fish and animal health

Research-based advisory institutions		**Website**
VI	The Norwegian Veterinary Institute	www.vetinst.no
NIBIO	The Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research	www.nibio.no
NIPH	The Norwegian Institute of Public Health	www.fhi.no
IMR	The Norwegian Institute of Marine Research	www.imr.no
NMBU	The Norwegian University of Life Sciences	www.nmbu.no
Kimen	Kimen Seed Laboratory	www.kimen.no
DSA	Norwegian Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority	www.dsa.no
DTU	The Technical University of Denmark, National Food Institute	www.food.dtu.dk
Official laboratories		**Website**
Eurofins		www.eurofins.com
Synlab		www.synlab.no
Fera Science Ltd		www.fera.co.uk
PatoGen		www.patogen.com
FishVet Group		www.fishvetgroup.no
Pharmaq Analytic		www.pharmaq-analytiq.com
Kystlab		www.kystlab.no

National accreditation bodies

Norwegian Accreditation is the only Norwegian body for accreditation of laboratories. All the laboratories designated by NFSA are assessed and accredited in accordance with the Standard EN ISO 17025 by Norwegian Accreditation.

Norwegian Accreditation is the Norwegian signatory to the EA multilateral agreements on accreditation (MLA). Through this MLA, Norwegian Accreditation is also a signatory to the ILAC and IAF agreements.

Other advisers

The NFSA seeks external advice in certain areas:

- The Council for Animal Ethics can, on its own initiative or on assignment for the NFSA or the Ministry, submit opinions on ethical issues relating to animal husbandry and the use of animals;
- The Legal Advisory Council for Veterinary Medicine is, among other things, tasked with advising the veterinary authorities in disciplinary cases involving animal health personnel, cases concerning proper practice, cases relating to veterinary medicine and animal protection issues;
- The Norwegian national committee for the protection of animals used for scientific purposes was established to fulfil the requirements of Directive 2010/63/EU, Article 49: It advise the NFSA on matters dealing with the acquisition, breeding, accommodation, care and use of animals in procedures and ensure sharing of best practice. The committee is independent and was appointed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food. The Norwegian Food Safety Authority has a secretariat function for the committee.

1.2. Resources for the performance of controls

Overview of staff resources

The total number of full-time equivalents (FTEs) in the NFSA in 2018 was 1,091.40 in which 268.50 was located in head office and 822.90 in regions.

Staff qualification and training

Competence development in the NFSA is managed on the basis of a perennial functional strategy that identifies critical areas for development. Vital components of competence development are:

- Statutory training;
- The NFSA's School of Supervision;
- Vocational training;
- 'Better Training for Safer Food'.

Statutory training is required for border veterinarians and veterinarians involved in abattoir inspections, among others.

The NFSA's School of Supervision was established in order to ensure that supervisory personnel have a common platform for official controls. The School of Supervision consists of mandatory courses in administrative law, control methodology and communication during inspections.

Subject-related vocational training is developed continuously based on the critical areas for development specified in the functional strategy.

A perennial training calendar is reviewed annually on the basis of the functional strategy and ongoing competence development measures. Its purpose is to assist managers and employees to draw up multi-annual plans for competence building. All managers are responsible for planning the necessary competence over time.

Better Training for Safer Food (BTSF), a European Commission initiative, is an important tool for calibrating official control activities. NFSA employees participate regularly in BTSF training sessions. These members of staff constitute a competence pool for, among other things, improvement and harmonisation of control procedures. They are available to the rest of the organisation when required.

All course activities within the functional strategy are documented in the learning management system (‘Ransel’).

1.3. Organisation and implementation of official controls

Official controls are carried out by the regional offices in accordance with delegation decisions adopted by NFSA head office.

The long-term plan for official control describes the activities of the NFSA plan for the following five years. These activities are described at a national level. At regional levels they may be described in more detail and include other priorities based on a risk evaluation. The document is called operative control plan and it includes mandatory control activities. The plan is updated annually and forms the foundation for the discussion of the upcoming year’s priorities for official control.

The annual budget disposition letter (BDL) to the regional level is based on the long-term plan for official control and other main priorities. It contains the annual budget, prioritised control areas, prioritised development initiatives, budgets, operative control plan and monitoring programs. Feedback from the regional offices during the year is given in the interim reports. Based on the annual budget disposition letter, the operational plans for appurtenant activities incorporate effectiveness targets and a risk-based approach that reflects where unacceptable conditions might arise, with the resulting consequences. When circumstances change, (e.g. a health situation or other occurrence), the annual budget disposition letter to the regions may be updated. Such updates generally occur twice a year (in June and in October); however, the head office may update the annual budget disposition letter whenever it is considered necessary.

The objective of the annual budget disposition letters and the operative control plan for official control, as well as of the other tools mentioned above, is to control or supervise all segments of the food sector within a set period, covering all stages of production, processing and distribution.

Risk-based prioritisation of official controls

Risk-based planning

Firstly, the Head office are making a risk evaluation on the inherent risk that the industry represents. Secondly, the concrete risk that the individual establishment represents based on any history of non-compliance and ability/willingness to comply with regulations.

The NFSA operates on the basis of a combination of a block budgetary allocation, goal and performance management. Each entity is assigned a block allocation and goals for what it should achieve. In addition, certain requirements are set for what is to be done. It is then up to the entity to manage the available resources in such a way that it fulfils the requirements and achieves its goals.

The management and prioritisations are based on an annual assessment of the status of the NFSA's social mission, the general risk map, development trends, the results of monitoring and other supervisory activities, and other factors that could have a bearing on the NFSA's social mission. The annual management activities are based on a three-year perspective and are governed by the internal budget disposal letter. The organisation is followed up every four months with respect to compliance with management signals. The head office then adjusts and/or specifies its management signals in a supplementary BDL.

Monitoring

Terrestrial and aquaculture animal diseases and certain threats to food safety are monitored. The basis for monitoring can be obligations to or recommendations from the European Union (EU) and/or our own risk assessments. Plant pests are monitored on the basis of our own risk assessments.

The monitoring programmes are carried out in accordance with instructions issued by the head office on the basis of advice from the knowledge support institutions.

Organisation of control

The regions are responsible for all activities governed by the Food Act, the Animal Welfare Act, the Act relating to Animal Health Personnel and the Act relating to Cosmetic Products and Body Care Products, etc.

Below, different ways of organising supervisory activities are described:

Control projects

Control projects can be organised as Nordic, national or regional projects. National control projects must comply with the applicable guidelines. The control projects provide:

- an overview of the current status in an area;
- the possibility of standardising sanctions;
- the possibility of attracting media attention, which could increase their impact;
- opportunities for dialogue with the industry before and after the project.

In addition, control projects provide for calibration of control activities and raise competence in relation to control projects.

Coordinated control/campaigns

Campaigns are a less formal way of coordinating control activities between several units and have many of the same advantages as control projects.

Control activities relating to chains

In this type of controls, a group of companies, a chain or other type of organisation is targeted by implementing control activities in relation to the head office and other facilities/establishments around Norway. Supervisory activities relating to chains often take the form of audits, particularly of the head office.

Supervisory activities relating to chains ensure:

- help from the chain management to ensure compliance;
- uniform control of all chain's activities;
- competence development in the area within which the chain operates;
- a more professional relationship with big chains.

Control methodology

The NFSA has different control methods at its disposal to assess whether operators are in breach of any regulations. Most of these methods involve an inspector observing and communicating with the people in charge of the site where the activity takes place. Other control methods are also in place, including as documentary check and sampling.

Inspection

Inspections take place in the establishments, and they are the most common way of acquiring a factual basis for determining whether an establishment is complying with regulations or whether a consignment of goods is in accordance with regulations. The inspector observes the premises and equipment, routines and, if relevant, inspects the consignment of goods and pertaining documentation, talks to the staff and checks whether what is said corresponds to what is observed.

As a rule, all inspections are unannounced. In cases where it is needed to ensure that responsible personnel are present at the inspection site, notification is given shortly before the inspection.

Audits

Audits are in principle more extensive than inspections, and they primarily control an establishment's systems – whether they meet the regulatory requirements and whether they function in practice. For the planning of an audit, the establishment is notified in advance.

Control of commercial documents

Commercial documents and documents required under feed or food law that are accompanying the consignment can also be sources of information about practices in establishments subject to supervision.

Sampling

Inspectors may collect samples in connection with inspections, audits and document control. The NFSA has agreements with laboratories that perform analyses of samples for fish, animal and plant health in addition to food, water and feed.

Case processing tool and guidelines

MATS is the NFSA's case processing and decision support tool. All establishments subject to official controls by the NFSA are registered in MATS with all their activities subject to controls. Official control activities are planned, implemented and followed up using MATS. We retrieve data about completed supervisory activities from MATS.

The guidelines and instructions for control activities are set out in the Quality System and can also be accessed via MATS.

1.4. Enforcement measures

Measures in cases of non-compliance

The NFSA's procedures and legal powers in connection with infringement are described in *Virkemiddelbruk ved tilsyn* (administrative rules concerning infringement procedures), amended on 25 October 2019.

In the event of non-compliance, the NFSA has under the Food Act the legal authority to make the necessary administrative decisions to ensure compliance. The NFSA also has the authority to impose coercive fines until compliance is achieved.

Enforcement is based on the principle of proportionality and shall be effective and necessary to ensure compliance.

Pursuant to the Norwegian Public Administration Act, administrative decisions may be appealed to the next administrative level. In the NFSA, authority to make decisions is delegated to the regional level. Appeals are considered by the NFSA's head office.

Any person or establishment who, intentionally or through negligence, violates provisions of the Food Act or decisions made by the NFSA is liable to fines or imprisonment.

Sanctions, as described in Article 139 of Regulation (EU) No 2017/625, may be imposed by a national court. There are no limits set out in law regarding the amount of fines. Serious infringements may be reported to the police and eventually brought before the courts for prosecution under criminal law.

1.5. Verification and review of official control

Internal control activities

NFSA internal control activities consist of:

- First-line control (the day-to-day system that aims to ensure that work is done correctly);
- Second-line control (a more detailed investigation carried out by a line manager or the person responsible for a process to see whether work in a certain area is carried out as decided);
- Third-line control (internal audits).

The NFSA is developing the system for verification of the effectiveness of official control activities. The analysis method has been completed and needs to be tested. The management system and procedure for verification of official control activities has not yet been completed.

First-line control

First-line control is the individual manager's system for ensuring that his/her units tasks are carried out as decided. For instance, all managers are obliged to check every inspection report that the unit prepares to send to establishments.

Second-line control

Internal control is exercised by NFSA staff at various levels to ensure that:

- the NFSA's operations are targeted and efficient;
- the NFSA’s reports to superior authorities are reliable;
- the NFSA complies with laws and regulations.

Some second-line control activities are mentioned below.

Management dialogue (the management's review)

The Director General of the NFSA engages in dialogue with the directors of the regions and at the head office every year to follow up the units operations and deliveries. The basis for the management dialogue includes reporting, non-conformities identified in internal audits, ESA inspections, investigations by the Office of the Auditor General of Norway, the improvement portal, user surveys and evaluations.

Four-monthly reports

The departments of the regions report to the head office every four months on what they have done and what they have achieved in relation to the budget allocation letter. Scorecards are used as the reporting tool. The reports are followed up by supplementary internal budget allocation letters.

Internal reviews

Within a limited discipline area, the head office can check that control activities are carried out in accordance with the applicable guidelines. This is often done in preparation for ESA audits.

Other reviews

Interregional expert forums review reports from national and regional control projects assess how uniform the control system is, and whether the guidelines are complied with. These reviews result in proposals for improvements in the improvement portal.

Third-line control – internal audits

Internal audits are conducted on behalf of the Director General of the NFSA, and the results are reported to him/her. Internal audits are conducted by a team, the internal auditor and (for the each single audit) two appointed auditors/technical experts, employees of the NFSA. All audits are carried out in accordance with documented procedures set out in the NFSA's quality management system. In addition to these central internal audits, the regional offices and head office can conduct local audits. Local audits can also be performed as part of the quality system process.

There is a three-year plan for internal audits that ensures that all areas are audited over time. The plan is regularly updated. It is prepared on the basis of previous audits, ESA inspections and national control projects. The plan shall cover all disciplines during the course of a five-year period. The choice of topic for each audit is also based on an assessment of the risk to society and the risk relating to the NFSA's activity.

Auditing of Debio

The NFSA audits Debio once a year to check whether it exercises its authority in an objective and efficient manner and meets the requirements of the Public Administration Act and the Freedom of Information Act.

The NFSA also has an observer role in Norwegian Accreditation's audits of Debio.

1.6. Multi-annual national control plan (MANCP) and annual reports

The MANCP is intended to ensure effective control of food safety and quality over the entire food chain, as well as the health and welfare of animals and fish, plant health and cosmetics safety.

The MANCP implements Regulation (EU) No 2017/625 on official controls (OCR). The MANCP applies to all supervisory activities and other measures that the NFSA carries out in order to ensure regulatory compliance in its administrative area, including control activities and other activities not covered by the OCR. It does not apply to control activities that the NFSA carries out on behalf of other agencies.

The MANCP is reviewed and updated annually, based on the result of changes to the regulations, an assessment of the previous year's activities and the status of the NFSA's responsibilities.

2 ORGANISATION OF CONTROL SYSTEMS

2.1. Control system for animal health

Terrestrial animals

The Animal Health section at the NFSA's head office is responsible for contingency plans, monitoring and preventive measures against animal diseases. The section seeks to eradicate endemic disease, control the transmission of infectious agents and improve the general health of terrestrial animals. Inspections are carried out by the local departments of the regions.

Holding registration, animal identification and movement controls

The domestic animal database 'Husdyrregisteret' contains a register of all bovine, ovine, caprine, porcine and poultry holdings. The database is part of MATS.

Livestock keepers are also responsible for recording identified diseases, medical treatments and preventive measures. When livestock is transported, a copy of their health cards must accompany them. Livestock keepers are responsible for keeping records of all animals in their herd in a herd book. The herd book and health card records must be retained for at least 10 years, even if production stops. If requested by the NFSA, keepers must provide information about the origin and destination of all animals in their ownership, animals produced and sold as live animals, and slaughtered animals.

Cattle:

Everyone keeping cattle is obliged to report births, deaths and movements of animals to the NFSA ('Husdyrregisteret'), which then records the origin, identity, movement and disposal of all cattle, using input from cattle birth and movement data, livestock markets, slaughterhouses and export points for live animals.

Updating and reporting to the 'Husdyrregisteret' database is done by direct input online from various stakeholders, such as animal keepers, slaughterhouses, 'Storfekjøttkontrollen' (a beef cattle control system administered by Animalia, the Norwegian Meat and Poultry Research Centre), 'Kukontrollen' (a dairy cattle control system administered by TINE SA, Norway's largest producer, distributor and exporter of dairy products), ear tag producers and NFSA personnel.

The maximum time limit for reporting deaths or movements is seven days after the event has occurred. The maximum time limit for reporting births is seven days after the animal has been identified (ear tagged).

A holding number is allocated to each holding.

The system for the identification and registration of cattle comprises the following elements:

- ear tagging;
- on-farm register;
- 'Husdyrregisteret';
- animal passports for animals to be exported to EEA countries.

All cattle must be tagged at birth with a unique identification number issued by the NFSA.

Sheep and goats:

Sheep and goat farmers are required to tag all animals born on their holdings, either before they are moved off the holding or within 30 days after birth. Farmers are required to keep a holding register to record the details of the animals on the farm and the details of all movements to and from the farm.

For each holding, the register contains:

- the identification code of the holding;
- the postal address and geographical location of the holding;
- the name, address and occupation of the animal keeper;
- the species of animals (sheep/goat);
- the type of production; and
- the result of the inventory of animals and total number of sheep and goats as of 1 March each calendar year.

Pigs:

The main rule is that pigs must be identified on their holding of birth as soon as possible and in any case before they leave the holding of birth. The animals must be identified either with an ear tag or a readable tattoo showing the identification code of the holding of birth. The ear tag or tattoo may also show an individual number. Pigs moved from the holding of birth directly to the slaughterhouse may alternatively be identified with a tattoo ('slap mark') showing the keeper's supplier number at the slaughterhouse.

As an exception from the main rule, unidentified piglets may, on certain conditions, be moved from the holding of birth to another holding in Norway for fattening. However, the animals must be identified before they are moved from the fattening holding to a Norwegian slaughterhouse. The fattening holding can receive unidentified piglets only from one holding. The animals may not be exported to other EEA countries.

Every animal keeper must keep an updated holding register. The register must contain information about the identification code of the holding, the number of weaned pigs on the holding and any cases of pigs being identified with another identification code than the code they were assigned on the holding of origin. The holding register must also contain information about the movements of pigs to and from the holding, unless the movements are immediately registered with the NFSA (in 'Husdyrregisteret'). All

movements of pigs between holdings must be registered with the NFSA (in 'Husdyrregisteret') within seven days of the movement taking place.

Poultry:

Establishments that keep hens, turkeys or ratites must be registered, including the name and address of the operations manager, the address of the holding, type of holding and capacity of the establishment. Recent additions to the register include information required by Directive 2002/4/EC, Annex 1, and definitions referred to under point 2.1 of the Annex. Changes in information about the establishment must be reported to the NFSA.

Farmed deer and South American camelids:

South American camelids (lama, alpaca, guanaco and vicuna) born in Norway shall be marked with a yellow ear tag before they are 14 days old, or before they are moved from the holding where they were born. The animals are considered to be moved from the holding when they are let out to graze.

Farmed deer (deer and fallow deer) born in Norway shall be marked with a yellow ear tag at the first gathering after birth, but before they are moved from the holding where they are born.

Ear tags shall be designed in such a way that they cannot be reused after removal. The information on the tags must be pre-marked with black lettering that cannot be changed. Farmers are required to keep a holding register to record the details of the animals on the farm and the details of all movements into and off the farm.

Reindeer:

All domesticated reindeer shall be marked with a registered mark no later than 31 October in the year they are born. The registered mark is made by cutting the ears. Ear tags made of metal or plastic are used temporarily when buying and selling animals. The marking of reindeer and registration of reindeer marks is regulated by the Reindeer Husbandry Act Chapter 5.

<u>Control of the identification and registration of animals</u>

Checks concerning the requirements for the identification and registration of animals are included in the NFSA's inspection tasks. As regards bovine, ovine and caprine animals, the NFSA must perform checks in accordance with the minimum requirements laid down in Norwegian legislation implementing Regulation (EC) No 1082/2003 and Regulation (EC) No 1505/2006.

<u>Animal health controls – terrestrial animals</u>

Biosecurity measures and movement control

Norwegian animal health legislation contains minimum requirements for biosecurity measures on farms and in connection with the movement of animals. The NFSA

supervises that the rules are followed and the local departments of the NFSA do on-the-spot checks and follow up reports about illegal movement of animals.
The rules for controlling live animals imported to Norway are laid down in the Regulations of 31 December 1998 No 1484. Animals can enter Norway from other EEA States in accordance with EEA legislation. Entry of animals in Norway from third countries is also permitted pursuant to EEA legislation. Norway has two border control posts for live animals, one at Gardermoen Oslo airport and one at Storskog (in the county of Finnmark, near the Russian border).

Norway has national surveillance programmes for the following diseases:

- paratuberculosis in cattle, lama and alpaca;
- BVD/MD in cattle;
- tuberculosis in farmed deer;
- scrapie in sheep and goat;
- maedi in sheep;
- PRRS, Swine Influenza and TGE in swine;
- ILT in poultry, turkey, partridges, pheasants, guinea hens and quail;
- ART in turkey, pheasants, ostriches and guinea hens.

Animals from herds or flocks not included in the national surveillance programmes may not be moved to herds or flocks that are included in the programmes until their health status has been examined and found satisfactory. As a consequence, imported animals must normally be kept isolated in approved isolation facilities for the first weeks or months after arrival, even though quarantine is not required. The period of time the animals are isolated differs between species and depends on the nature of the disease in question. During the period of isolation, the animals are tested for several diseases. The NFSA is responsible for approval of the isolation facilities and testing during the isolation period.

Passive and active surveillance

Passive and active surveillance systems for animal diseases are an important part of animal health controls. The NFSA will take action if a disease listed on either List A or List B is notified (see the table below). The response depends on the disease in question. The topic is described more thoroughly under the heading ‘Animal disease: combating/eradication’. The passive surveillance system is based on a notification and reporting system.

ESA | EFTA Surveillance Authority

Table 3 *List of diseases (2019) that must be either immediately notified to the competent authority (A and B list) or reported (C list) within a week if suspected or diagnosed.*

List A	List B	List C
☐ African horse sickness (AHS) ☐ African swine fever (ASF) ☐ Avian influenza (AI) ☐ Bluetongue ☐ Brucellosis ☐ Ebola hemorrhagic fever and Marburg hemorrhagic fever ☐ Epizootic hemorrhagic disease of deer (EHD) ☐ Avian infectious laryngotracheitis (ILT) ☐ Classical swine fever (CSF) ☐ Rinderpest ☐ Lumpy skin disease (LSD) ☐ Anthrax ☐ Foot and mouth disease (FMD) ☐ Newcastle disease (ND) ☐ Dourine ☐ Contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP) ☐ Teschovirus encephalomyelitis ☐ Aujeszky's disease (AD) ☐ Rabies ☐ Rift Valley Fever (RVF) ☐ Sheep and goat pox	☐ Echinococcosis/hydatidosis ☐ Leptospirosis ☐ Transmissible spongiform encephalopathy (TSE), including Chronic wasting disease (CWD) ☐ Paratuberculosis, Johne's disease ☐ Salmonellosis ☐ Trichinellosis ☐ Tuberculosis ☐ Equine infectious anemia (EIA) ☐ Strangles ☐ Equine encephalomyelitis ☐ Bovine genital campylobacteriosis ☐ Bovine spongiform encephalopathy ☐ Tritrichomoniasis ☐ Bovine viral diarrhoea (BVD) ☐ Enzootic bovine leukosis (EBL) ☐ Infectious bovine rhinotracheitis Infectious pustular vulvovaginitis (IBR/IPV) ☐ Ringworm ☐ Caprine arthritis-encephalitis (CAE) ☐ Border disease (BD) ☐ Enzootic abortion of ewes (ovine chlamydiosis) ☐ Infectious foot rot ☐ Contagious agalactia ☐ Ovine pulmonary adenocarsinoma ☐ Maedi-visna virus infection ☐ Scrapie ☐ Contagious caprine pleuropneumonia (CCPP) ☐ Porcine respiratory coronavirus infection ☐ Swine influenza	☐ Equine coital exanthema ☐ Equine influenza ☐ Contagious equine metritis (CEM) ☐ Equine rhinopneumonitis ☐ Equine viral arteritis (EVA) ☐ Bovine cysticercosis ☐ Winter dysentery in cattle ☐ Caseous lymphadenitis in sheep and goats ☐ Contagious ecthyma (orf) ☐ Infectious keratoconjunctivitis ☐ Porcine circovirus diseases (PCVD) ☐ Porcine cysticercosis ☐ Benign enzootic paresis (Talfan disease) ☐ Swine dysentery ☐ Proliferative enteropathy ☐ Avian encephalomyelitis (AE) ☐ Chicken infectious anemia (CIA) ☐ Infectious bursal disease (IBD) Gumboro ☐ disease ☐ Mycoplasma infections ☐ Marek's disease (MD) ☐ Nosemosis of honey bees ☐ Varroosis of honey bees ☐ Acarapiosis of honey bees ☐ Chlamydia infections ☐ Clostridial infections ☐ Cow pox Swine pox ☐ Fox encephalitis/hepatitis contagiosa canis (HCC) ☐ Listeriosis ☐ Louping ill ☐ Contagious respiratory diseases bovine and swine (Nysesyke) ☐ Malignant catarrhal fever (MCF) ☐ Parafilariosis ☐ Pasteurellosis ☐ Babesiose ☐ Q-fever ☐ Ringworm ☐ Tick-borne fever ☐ Toxoplasmosis

☐ Scabies psoroptica ovium (sheep scab) ☐ Transmissible gastroenteritis of swine (TGE) ☐ Swine vesicular disease (SVD) ☐ Peste des petits ruminants (PPR) ☐ Glanders ☐ Vesicular stomatitis (VS)	☐ Clostridium perfringens type C infection ☐ Porcine epidemic diarrhoea (PED) ☐ Porcine respiratory and reproductive syndrome (PRRS) ☐ Avian rhinotracheitis (ART) Turkey rhinotracheitis (TRT) ☐ Egg drop syndrome (EDS-76) ☐ Fowl cholera ☐ Avian infectious bronchitis (IB) ☐ Avian mycoplasmosis ☐ Avian paramyxovirus infection (except Newcastle disease) ☐ Avian tuberculosis ☐ Duck virus enteritis (DVE) ☐ Duck virus hepatitis (DVH) ☐ Small Hive Beetle ☐ American foulbrood of honey bees ☐ Stonebrood ☐ Tropilaelapsinfestation of honey bees ☐ European foulbrood ☐ Monkey pox ☐ European brown hare syndrome ☐ Leishmaniosis ☐ Myxomatosis ☐ Ringworm ☐ Sarcopic mange in foxes ☐ Distemper ☐ Rabbit hemorrhagic disease (RHD) ☐ Parvovirus enteritis ☐ Livestock associated Methicillin resistant Staphylococcus aureus (LA-MRSA)(svine,cattle, sheep and goats)	☐ Tuberculosis ☐ Tularemia ☐ Colistin resistant Enterobacteriacea ☐ Livestock associated Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (LA-MRSA) ☐ ESBL/pAmpC producing Enterobacteriaceae ☐ Fluoroquinolone resistant Enterobacteriacae ☐ Carbapenemaseproducing/Carbapenem resistant Enterobacteriacae ☐ Linezolid-resistant Enterococcus faecium og E. faecalis ☐ Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) ☐ Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus pseudintermedius (MRSP) ☐ Vankomycin resistant Enterococcus faecium og E. faecalis

The animal disease reporting procedures

National reporting procedures

Pursuant to the Norwegian Food Act, anyone who suspects an animal disease that may have considerable social and economic consequences shall immediately notify the NFSA.

Veterinarians and laboratories are obliged to report terrestrial animal diseases under (NO) Regulation 19 December 2014 No 1841 concerning warning and notification of diseases in animals. The regulation require veterinarians and laboratories to immediately notify the NFSA if A and B diseases are suspected. Reporting procedures between the two administrative levels of the NFSA are described in contingency plans/instructions for A and B diseases for terrestrial animals and List 1 and 2 diseases for aquatic animals. If an A or B disease is suspected, the region must notify the head office and internally within the region. The region is required to notify local and regional organisations. The regions are responsible for updating the national animal disease database. The head office shall notify central organisations and inform the public. The head office must also consider whether to report to the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), ESA and the European Commission, but this is not required if it is only a preliminary finding.

If an A or B disease is confirmed, the region shall notify the head office, internally within the region, and local and regional organisations. The region is responsible for updating the national animal disease database. The head office shall notify the OIE, ESA and European Commission within 24 hours of the outbreak being confirmed.

The regions in the NFSA are responsible for the controls and for reporting at slaughterhouses.

The Norwegian Veterinary Institute (VI) immediately reports laboratory findings that indicate occurrences of A and B diseases and rare agents not previously detected in Norway to the NFSA. Negative test results on samples taken if A or B diseases are suspected are reported in the same way.

International reporting procedures

Pursuant to international agreements, Norway is obliged to report outbreaks of various animal diseases to the other EEA States. Reporting pursuant to these agreements is the responsibility of the NFSA's head office.

Under the EEA Agreement, Norway is obliged to report primary outbreaks of the diseases listed in Council Directive 82/894/EEC to ESA and the European Commission, within 24 hours of the outbreak being confirmed. Secondary outbreaks must be reported at weekly intervals. The lifting of restrictions must also be reported. Reporting is done in the Animal Diseases Notification System (ADNS) or by e-mail in accordance with Council Directive 82/894/EEC.

As member of the OIE, Norway also reports outbreaks of animal diseases to the OIE in accordance with the requirements laid down in the Terrestrial Animal Health Code, Article 1.1.2.3. This includes giving notification of listed diseases within 24 hours, weekly reports, six-monthly reports and annual reports.

Active surveillance

Norway has ongoing surveillance programmes for several animal diseases. Detailed information about the programmes and the results is available in the annual report, which can be downloaded from the Norwegian Veterinary Institute's website: https://www.vetinst.no/rapporter-og-publikasjoner/rapporter/2019/surveillance-programmes-summary-of-results-2018

Other national surveillance and control programmes:

Bee diseases annually from 2011: European foulbrood. The programmes are part of Norwegian legislation relating to terrestrial animal health and food in Norway. The NFSA is responsible for the implementation of measures under this legislation. The Norwegian Veterinary Institute ensures the scientific quality of the programmes with regard to epidemiological design, testing and analysis using approved methods, and by presenting and interpreting the results in accordance with accepted standards. Sampling is performed by or under the supervision of official inspectors from the NFSA.

Eradication of animal diseases

The Norwegian Food Act provides the legal basis for the (NO) Regulation of 27 June 2002 No 732 concerning measures against diseases and zoonotic agents in animals (including aquatic animal diseases). The regulation establishes the general principles for the eradication of animal diseases in Norway. The regulation implements the EEA legislation on animal diseases.

General measures taken where a List A disease is suspected or confirmed are in accordance with the EEA legislation:

- All animals on the holding must be kept isolated. Animals shall not be taken from or brought into the holding;
- Meat, milk, eggs, other animal products, cadavers, feed, waste, manure, utensils etc. likely to transmit the disease shall not leave the holding;
- No unauthorised persons or vehicles shall be admitted to or leave the holding. Entrances to buildings, access roads and holding boundaries must be marked with warning signs;
- Appropriate means of disinfection must be used at the entrances and exits of buildings housing animals of susceptible species and of the holding itself.

If a List A disease is confirmed, the NFSA may take any measure necessary to prevent its spreading or to eradicate the disease. This may include restrictions as described above in other holdings that have had contact with the holding where the disease is suspected or confirmed. Animals from the affected/suspected/contact holdings may be ordered to be slaughtered and/or destroyed. Animal products from the affected/suspected/contact holdings may be ordered to be traced and destroyed. Slaughterhouses, dairies, semen collection centres, animal transporters etc. may be ordered to implement control measures. Depending on the disease that is confirmed, protection and surveillance zones shall be established around the outbreak.

If a List B disease is suspected or confirmed, the following general measures must be taken:

- Susceptible animals shall not leave the holding;
- The person responsible for the holding must implement measures to prevent further spreading and to control/eradicate the disease;
- Unauthorised persons must not be admitted to rooms where animals of susceptible species are kept. The entrances to buildings must be marked with warning signs.

The NFSA may impose further restrictions on the affected/suspected holding. It may also trace and establish restrictions on contact holdings. Animals in the affected holding may be ordered to be slaughtered and destroyed, animal products from the holdings may be ordered to be traced and destroyed, and environments/persons may be ordered to be cleaned and disinfected. The NFSA may also decide that suspected cases must be handled in the same way as if the disease had been confirmed and that control measures must be taken in holdings that have had direct or indirect contact with the holding where a List B disease has been confirmed. Slaughterhouses, dairies, semen collection centres, animal transporters etc. may be ordered to implement control measures.

<u>Official controls of semen collection/storage centres, embryo collection teams and breeding organisations.</u>

Norwegian semen collection/storage centres and embryo collection/production teams are approved by the regional offices of the NFSA. Approved establishments are assigned a registration number. Official controls of these establishments are carried out by the Southern and Western Region Offices.

The authorisation and inspection of breeding organisations approved to maintain herd books is done by the Southern and Western Regional, national assignments department. The same office is also responsible for the approval of breeding programmes.

The NSFA head office is the appeal body for decisions made by the regional offices and it is also responsible for issuing guidelines.

Semen collection centres and semen storage centres are regularly inspected by an official veterinarian at least twice a year, as laid down in point 1(c) and 2(b) of Chapter II of Annex A of Directive 88/407/EEC.

Aquaculture animals

The national legislation in place fulfills the relevant EEA requirements in the field of fish health. In some instances, Norway has established and implemented stricter requirements than are required by EEA legislation regarding fish health.

NFSA, Section for Fish Health and Fish Welfare is responsible for the control and monitoring of fish health and fish welfare. The NFSA cooperates with the Directorate of Fisheries on authorisations and controls by joint inspection and audit teams. The NFSA also cooperates with private fish health services in the control and monitoring of fish diseases at fish farm level.

Site registration and identification

No person may engage in aquaculture activities without registration as the holder of an aquaculture license in the aquaculture register. The aquaculture license permits the production of specific species in limited geographic areas (sites) subject to the prescribed restrictions on the scope of the license that apply at any given time.

The establishment of aquaculture establishments and mollusc farming areas, expansion of production and any other significant change of previously approved aquaculture establishments or mollusc farming areas shall be approved by the NFSA.

For approval to be granted, the establishment of the aquaculture sites must not involve any unacceptable risk of spreading disease, including to the aquaculture establishment or mollusc farming area and the surrounding environment.

When considering the risk of spreading disease, particular emphasis shall be given to the distance to watercourses, other aquaculture related activities and groups of aquaculture establishments. There must also be emphasis on the species to be produced, the form of operation and the scope of production.

For marine aquaculture establishments, the distance to other aquaculture related undertakings and watercourses shall primarily be considered on the basis of where the production units are placed. For land-based aquaculture establishments, the distance to other aquaculture related undertakings and watercourses shall primarily be considered on the basis of water inlet(s) and outlet(s).

An internal control system shall be in place substantiating that requirements for reasonable operations in terms of biosecurity and animal welfare, including requirements for a contingency plan, risk based medical examinations, maintaining good water quality and log-keeping, can be complied with;

The aquaculture establishment must be able to ensure the requirements of the species for a good aquatic habitat. There must be a reliable and sufficient supply of water of

appropriate quality. The establishment shall be located and designed so that there is a low risk of harming or exposing the aquaculture animals to unnecessary stress. When considering the welfare aspect, information about the establishment's design and equipment, and where it is placed at the location shall be considered in relation to the form of production and water data.

Approval may be subject to conditions. A register of Norwegian aquaculture establishments is available in MATS, the NFSA´s operating system for official control.

The NFSA regulations and control cover the whole production chain. There are i.a. regulations relating to the approval and use of disinfectants in aquaculture establishments and transport units, and regulations relating to disinfection of inlet water to and waste water from aquaculture-related activities.

Movement controls

In order to be authorised for transporting aquaculture animals, the vessels or trailers must comply with the national Regulation (NO) 17 June 2008 No. 820 containing requirements related to fish health and fish welfare during transport. The district office has the competence to authorise and withdraw authorisation of the means of transport. In general, the authorisations are valid for five years. The NFSA has made the list of authorised means of transport available on its website.

Movements into disease free zones or compartment and movements between infected and non-infected farms are regulated by procedures to reduce the probability for spreading disease. For example, according to the contingency plan for control of Infectious Salmon Anaemia (ISA) in Norway, the transport route shall be authorised by the NFSA when transporting fish from farms with confirmed ISA. Furthermore, the NFSA and the operators pay special attention to the epidemiological status of the areas sailed through when transporting fish on well boats.

Transport routes of infected live fish have to be authorised by the NFSA. Strict rules apply for the disinfection of transport water. The operators are obliged to keep records on movements. The NFSA has issued guidelines for the inspection of means of transport.

An overview of areas declared free from Infectious salmon anaemia (ISA) in Norway can be found here:
http://www.mattilsynet.no/language/english/fish_and_aqaculture/fish_health/areas_declared_free_from_infectious_salmon_anaemia_isa.8754

Health controls

Own check controls

According to the Norwegian regulation relating to operation of aquaculture farms the person responsible for daily operations shall ensure that risk based supervision be carried out of factors of significance for the environment, health and welfare of aquaculture animals. Supervision of fish farms shall be done at least once daily insofar as weather conditions permit.

Health checks

Risk-based health checks shall be made of aquaculture animals to prevent and treat disease and injury. The health check shall be performed by authorised veterinarians or fish health biologists. The operating log shall be reviewed during each health check. On the basis of a risk evaluation, a representative sample of the production units shall be inspected. A representative sample of newly dead animals or animals exhibiting abnormal behaviour shall be examined and relevant tests shall be performed. Revealing any cases of diseases on lists 1, 2 and 3 shall be particularly stressed. In the event of increased mortality, apart from when such mortality is obviously not caused by disease, or when there is no reason to suspect contagious/non-contagious disease, the health status of the entire aquaculture establishment shall be assessed. Specimens shall be taken and tests performed to establish the cause.

Notification

The Norwegian Food Safety Authority shall be notified immediately if there is:

- unexplained increased mortality;
- reason to suspect diseases on lists 1,2 or 3, or
- other factors which have led to significant repercussions in terms of fish welfare, including disease, injury or failure.

Requirements for weekly reporting of mortality, from aquaculture production businesses during an outbreak of list 1 or list 2 diseases, are also laid down in the Norwegian legislation. Sea lice levels have to be reported weekly.

2.2. Control system for food of animal origin

Competent Authorities

The Hygiene and Drinking Water section at the NFSA's head office is responsible for food safety controls covering official control of slaughterhouses, game-handling, meat-cutting plants, meat processing plants, dairy plants, egg packing centres, egg-processing plants.

The Seafood section is responsible for food safety controls covering official control of fish processing plants and vessels, and control of live bivalve molluscs.

The Animal Health section is responsible for controlling primary production of terrestrial animals.

The Export and Import section is responsible for the system of control of food imports.

The NFSA's head office is responsible for interpreting legislation relating to the relevant field, for risk assessment and for issuing instructions on control and surveillance to the regions. The regions decide which topics should be prioritised in their surveillance and control work, within the framework set by the head office. The regions are responsible for carrying out the controls.

Registration and approval of establishments

All establishments controlled by the NFSA (for food of animal origin) have to be approved in accordance with the relevant legislation. The evaluation of establishments is based on their applications and audits/inspections of the premises performed by the local departments. A certificate of full or conditional approval is issued.

Standardised procedures for approval are in place through MATS. Only those establishments that fall under the scope of Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 are approved and given an approval number in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 2017/625. All approval numbers for FBOs are issued by the NFSA.

Other establishments producing food of animal origin are registered if the production and distribution are on a small scale according to national regulations. The list of approved establishments for Norway is available at:

http://www.mattilsynet.no/language/english/food_and_water/approved_products_and_establishments/?kategori=1011#godkjenninger

Live bivalve molluscs

The NFSA is responsible for the approval of production areas for live bivalve molluscs. It is also the Competent Authority for the classification of harvesting areas, monitoring of toxic algae and marine bio-toxins and the approval of dispatch centres pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 and Regulation (EU) 2019/627.

Organisation and implementation of official controls

The mandatory official controls at slaughterhouses are mostly carried out by official veterinarians. Routine meat control tasks alone take up a third of the local departments' staff and resources.

Official controls of identification marks placed on products and tagging of live animals are carried out on animals sent for slaughter. Traceability is covered during controls that are carried out as part of the official controls of the establishments.

The animal food surveillance and monitoring programmes are the responsibility of the NFSA. These programmes are risk-based, based on both local knowledge of the production and foodstuff in question, and on the outcomes of national monitoring programmes.

Monitoring of antimicrobial resistance

Antimicrobial resistance is a limited problem among humans and food-producing animals in Norway. This reflects the low usage of antibacterial agents in human and veterinary medicine, a favourable usage pattern, as well as effective infection control measures. Strategies for containment of antimicrobial resistance have been successful both in the food-producing animal sector and in the healthcare sector. Norway also has a surveillance program to identify Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA)

positive pig herds with the intention of contract tracing and eradication of LA-MRSA, as the overall goal is to keep the Norwegian pig population free of LA-MRSA.

Monitoring of zoonosis and zoonotic agents

Salmonella/Campylobacter

In Norway, food-producing animals are very rarely infected with *Salmonella*. This is well documented in the surveillance program. Surveillance of *Salmonella* in feed, cattle, swine and poultry (live animals and animal products) started in 1995. Testing is performed in cases of disease, live animal import and as part of Salmonella control systems in feed production. *Salmonella diarizonae* is occasionally detected in Norwegian sheep. This variant is only rarely associated with disease in animals, and is not considered a public health threat. Vaccination of animals against *Salmonella* is forbidden in Norway.

Norwegian legislation includes some national measures that are stricter as regards monitoring and control of *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter* than those laid down in EEA legislation, for example:

- Norway has a national action plan against *Campylobacter* spp. in broilers that ensures that all broiler flocks slaughtered before 51 days of age are tested prior to slaughter. The testing is only done in the high season for *Campylobacter* contamination risk, which is between May and October. Carcasses of positive flocks are either heat-treated or frozen for a minimum of three weeks before marketing;
- in breeding turkey holdings, the food business operator collects samples for Salmonella testing every two weeks instead of every three weeks;
- all broiler holdings are subject to official controls each year (which is beyond the EEA requirement of at least one flock of broilers on 10% of the holdings with more than 5,000 birds);
- the application of sanitary restrictive measures is considered mandatory for all *Salmonella* serovars (not just for *Salmonella Enteritidis* and *Salmonella Typhimurium*), and these measures are applied immediately upon suspicion of a positive result;
- the use of vaccines is forbidden at all levels.

2.3. Control system for imports of animals and food of animal origin

The Export and Import section at the NFSA's head office is responsible for coordinating veterinary import control of products of animal origin (POAO) and live animals from third countries by the border control posts (BCPs).

Competent authorities

The section is the national contact point for TRACES and RASFF, not only for the European Commission, but also within the NFSA. All the BCPs have access to the RASFF database and they all use TRACES.

BCP, TRACES and RASFF manuals are produced by the section. Circulars concerning border control are also issued when the need arises. They provide information on procedures, legislation etc. Relevant information from the European Commission or competent authorities of other countries is sent to the BCPs by email as it becomes available.

Annual seminars for BCP personnel are organised by the Export and Import section in order to discuss and inform about relevant issues and problems.

Import controls

Information about approved BCPs is available on the European Commission's website:

https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/vet-border-control/bip-contacts_en

The BCPs are organised as part of the local departments where they are based. It is only in the Greater Oslo region that all BCPs belong to a border control and import department. Administrative responsibility for the BCPs as regards their budget, personnel administration and day-to-day management rests with the local department. Nine of the BCPs are run by an official veterinarian (OV), while the other five, which are only approved for fishery products for human consumption, are run by an official fish inspector (OFI). The number of people working on border control can vary depending on the season and workload. All personnel at Norwegian BCPs must be approved by the Export and Import section and subsequently entered on the national list of approved signatories, in order to issue Common Health Entry Documents (CHEDs). Prior to approval, the section must receive confirmation from the OV/OFI in charge of the BCP that the personnel have completed local training as prescribed in the national procedure.

Checks of incoming consignments are based on pre-notification via the CHED in TRACES. This information is cross-checked with information from other authorities, for example Customs, port authorities, the pilot service and the coastal surveillance authorities. In addition, TVINN, the Customs Service's electronic database, will, at the time of customs clearance, intercept goods that are subject to border control, but that have not been correctly pre-notified. The NFSA also cooperates with Customs when it comes to checking for illegal products of animal origin (POAO) in personal luggage. Joint actions are implemented at airports and border crossings to check for illegal products and inform travellers.

To ensure correct and professional handling of illegal imports, the procedures to be followed were regulated in the Instruction of 10 January 2003 No 28. Illegal imports of POAO to Norway are handled by the local departments and the BCPs. Illegal imports

are seized and transported to the nearest BCP approved for the relevant product category. The transport must be agreed with the BCP, and the local department must ensure that no contamination is possible during transport. The further handling of the goods is decided by the BCP.

Catering waste

The handling of catering waste from ships in international traffic at ports with BCPs is dealt with in guidelines issued to the BCPs by the head office, which were revised in September 2017.

The guidelines also state that responsibility for handling the waste may be outsourced to the local harbour services. However, the border veterinarian is still responsible for keeping copies of receipts of waste destruction and checking that legal requirements are fulfilled.

Veterinary checks on food of animal origin

Import controls of products of animal origin and live animals from third countries are in accordance with EU legislation. For imports of food of animal origin, pre-notifications are received through the TRACES system. The NFSA has direct access to or receives cargo manifests from freight companies for cross-checking purposes.

Import and export goods must be declared in the electronic customs clearance system TVINN. All import declarations containing animal products from third countries listed in Council Decision 2007/275/EC, which is implemented in (NO) Regulation of 26 June 2008 No 726 and in Regulation (EU) 2019/2007 implemented in (NO) Regulation of 9 March 2020 concerning veterinary border control, are subject to manual processing. The Directorate of Customs updates the TVINN system with control data received from the NFSA. The customs regions perform the controls. The goods are not released before the original CHED has been controlled. The declarations received by TVINN are managed using various control filters, which select objects for document control and/or physical control. The Directorate of Customs has instructed customs officers to alert the NFSA immediately every time they detect products of animal origin that have not been checked at a BCP, if they come from a third country.

2.4. Control system for feeding stuffs and animal nutrition

Competent Authorities and official controls

The NFSA`s Seafood section is responsible for the implementation and enforcement of EEA feeding stuff legislation, as well as having overall responsibility for the implementation of controls. Official control of feed business operators is carried out by the regions of the NFSA using a risk-based approach. Every year, the head office issues instructions to the regional departments regarding surveillance programmes and the frequency of and national priorities for official controls. All parts of the feed chain are controlled periodically, based on inspections, audits and sampling.

Approval or registration of feed business operators

Feed business operators are approved or registered in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 183/2005 (Annex II; operators) and, if relevant, Regulation (EC) No 999/2001. Using the NFSA's quality manual available in MATS, feed business operators have a web-based application for approval or registration. The evaluation of feed business operators is based on their applications and is performed by the regional departments. Lists of registered and approved operators are generated automatically from MATS and updated daily. The lists are available on the NFSA website. The operators are classified into four risk categories depending on their activities in the feed sector. The frequency of inspections depends on the risk classification.

FBOs that fall under Annexes I and III of Regulation (EC) 183/2005 are registered either as primary producers in a register administered by the Norwegian Agriculture Agency, as feed users in the domestic animal database (Husdyrregisteret) or in a register of Norwegian aquaculture establishments (Directorate of Fisheries).

Samples are taken and analysed as part of the NFSA basis surveillance programme for contaminants in feed, results communicated yearly. Additional samples can be taken /analysed for verification or upon suspicion..

Samples taken as a part of the surveillance programmes are distributed among the designated central laboratories. The NFSA has approved the use of these laboratories for surveillance programmes and has also signed agreements on advisory support with these central laboratories.

For samples taken as a part of the on-site inspections certain official laboratories are to be used, provided that the analytical method in question is a part of the agreement between the NFSA and the laboratory. Otherwise, the designated central laboratory is to be used.

Medicated feed

The production of medicated feeding stuffs is controlled by the Norwegian Medicines Agency (NoMA), and the production of medicated feed is subject to approval by NoMA. Veterinary medicines must be incorporated into feed in the form of a pre-mixture.

2.5. Control system for Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy (TSE)

Competent authorities

The NSFA's Animal Health section is responsible for epidemiological surveillance and national control programmes for TSE, and for maintenance of these programmes and their implementation. The NSFA's regional departments are responsible for implementing TSE controls in accordance with instructions, standard operating procedures (SOPs), sampling plans and supervisory procedures. NFSA has an agreement with Norsk Protein. Norsk Protein collect fallen stock in the area where they collect carcasses. In remote areas is it NFSA that collect fallen stock.

The NSFA's regions are responsible for the enforcement of official controls of the removal of specified risk material (SRM) in food establishments.

Epidemio-surveillance

The (NO) Regulation 19 December 2014 No 1841 concerning warning and notification of diseases in animals require veterinary practitioners to give notification of any clinically suspect animal they come across in their practice. The (NO) Regulation of 27 June 2002 No 732 concerning measures against diseases and zoonotic agents in animals establishes the same obligation for the keeper, transporter or others responsible for the animal. TSE in small ruminants has been a notifiable disease since 1965, in cattle since 1991, and in cervidae since 2004.

SOPs are in place for guidelines and other information about handling TSE clinical suspects and confirmed cases. All clinical suspects irrespective age are included in the TSE monitoring programme.

In the active surveillance context, the following subpopulations are monitored :

Bovine animals:

- all bovine animals over 48 months of age subject to special emergency slaughter;
- all bovine animals over 48 months of age subject to special slaughter after ante-mortem inspection;
- all bovine animals over 48 months of age that have died or been killed (fallen stock), except those killed in the framework of an epidemic;
- all imported bovine animals irrespective of age.

On a yearly basis until January 2014, Norway also tested a random selection of 10,000 bovine animals over 30 months of age subject to normal slaughter for human consumption.

Ovine and caprine animals:

- all ovine and caprine animals over 18 months of age, or that have more than two permanent incisors erupted through the gum, that have died or been killed for other purposes than being slaughtered for human consumption (fallen stock);
- a random selection of 10,000 ovine animals over 18 months of age, or that have more than two permanent incisors erupted through the gum, that have been slaughtered for human consumption;
- all ovine and caprine animals over 18 months, or that have more than two permanent incisors erupted through the gum, that have been slaughtered for human consumption, died or been killed from holdings placed under an official movement restrictions;
- all imported ovine and caprine animals irrespective of age.

With regard to scrapie in sheep and goat and BSE in cattle, the competent authority has taken several initiatives to raise awareness among farmers, private veterinary practitioners and others who handle such animals.

Cervids

After the confirmation of CWD in Norway, the TSE monitoring among cervids has been extended a lot. All kind of cervids are included in the programme, both wild and farmed, and both healthy and fallen stock (risk animals). For the period 2018-2020, the programme includes the EU-programme Regulation (EU) No. 2017/1972:

- All fallen stock older than 1 year all over the country is included in the programme.;
- The surveillance is more intensive in the areas close to where CWD is found;
- All wild reindeer areas are included in the programme;
- All imported deer animals irrespective of age;
- NFSA performs testing at all cutting plants;
- Semi-domesticated reindeer: all slaughterhouses are included. In south NFSA have tested all animals over 1 year, in north all animals over 2 years. From 2020 less tests will be performed due to the health situation;
- All flocks with farmed red deer are included in the programme.

The competent authority, with other authorities, has taken several initiatives to raise awareness among hunters and others who handle such animals. They have also been trained to perform testing.

Specified Risk Material (SRM)

Removal of SRM from the carcasses is verified as part of the official control of food establishments. The removal is done at slaughterhouses or at approved cutting plants with a special approval.

Total Feed Ban

In order to ensure the correct application of the regulation an official guideline on the feed ban has been issued.

The monitoring of animal feed production is performed through inspections carried out in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 2017/625 and Regulation (EC) No 183/2005.

2.6. Control system for Animal By-Products (ABP)

Competent Authorities

The Seafood section at the NFSA's head office is responsible for policy and enforcement of ABP legislation, as well as having overall responsibility for the implementation of controls.

The NFSA enforces ABP regulations directly on the premises that it supervises. Official control of ABP at food, feed and other ABP processing establishments is generally carried out as an extension of official controls by the regions/local departments.

These offices are responsible for all food, feed and ABP processing establishments. However, incinerators, and food waste collection and management establishments also fall under the responsibility of the Norwegian Environment Agency (Miljødirektoratet).

Approval of ABP plants and other premises

Approval of all types of plants controlled and found to be in compliance with the ABP regulations (processing, storage, intermediate plants, and pet animals feed and collecting centres) is done using an electronic form available in MATS. The NFSA disseminates information about approval requirements under the ABP regulations on the NFSA's website, as well as at meetings between the NFSA and the industry, and by direct communication. Plants requiring approval must submit an application, which is followed by an approval inspection.

A list of ABP plants, as well as other types of special users approved or registered in compliance with ABP regulations, is compiled and publicly available on the NFSA's website. www.mattilsynet.no

Official controls

The NFSA selects, on a yearly basis, prioritised ABP areas for coordinated controls. This is planned and managed by the responsible section at the head office.

2.7. Control system for veterinary medicinal products (VMP) and residues

Veterinary Medicinal Products (VMP)

Competent Authorities

Controls of the production, distribution and use of VMPs are divided between the Norwegian Medicines Agency (NoMA) and the NFSA. The NoMA is responsible for licensing, and for official controls of the manufacture and distribution of VMP to the pharmacy level, while the NFSA is responsible for the control of VMP use by veterinary practitioners and on farms, and the national residue monitoring programme.

Authorisation of VMP

The legal basis for the registration of veterinary products depends on the type of product:

- VMPs: the Medicines Act of 4 December 1992, No 132, amended 1 July 2011, and the (NO) Regulation on medical products of 18 December 2009 No 1839, amended 18 December 2015. Registration requirements and procedures are in line with the EEA requirements;
- Feed additives: the Food Act, (NO) Regulation of 14 January 2010 concerning feed hygiene, and (NO) Regulation of 7 November 2002 concerning feeding stuffs.

Registration and authorisation of VMPs

NoMA is responsible for the registration of veterinary products. The NFSA is responsible for issuing permits for the use of immunological VMPs pursuant to animal disease control legislation. The NFSA is also responsible for feed additives.

The EU forms 'Application form for VMPs and 'Application form for a variation to a Marketing Authorization' are required for applications to NoMA for marketing authorisations. Approval time depends on the type of product, and for medicinal products, it also depends on the procedure. Applications sent via the European Mutual Recognition Procedure: 120 days, and the Decentralised Procedure 240 days (+ clock-stop period). National applications:

- VMPs: 210 days (+ clock-stop period);
- Feed Additives: 2 to 3 months. Also subject to requirements in line with the EEA legislation;
- Criteria for refusal of registration are equivalent to the EU criteria.

Foreign studies are accepted if relevant to Norwegian conditions, but all data must be signed or published. Clinical trials may be required to be carried out in Norway for immunologicals for Atlantic salmon.

With respect to VMPs, only products based on radioactive isotopes, magistral and officinal products and autogenous vaccines are exempt from registration. However, licensed veterinarians can prescribe VMPs that have not been licensed in Norway. The NoMA considers applications for such use.

Adverse reactions reported

The reporting of adverse reactions depends on the type of product:

- VMPs: veterinarians are requested to report adverse reactions to NoMA.
- Feed Additives: no formal requirements

Post-registration reporting

Manufacturers are obliged to notify the NoMA immediately about all new information relating to clinical effects and adverse reactions, toxicological and qualitative conditions, or defects and deficiencies in a product. Periodic Safety Update Reports must be submitted by Marketing Authorisation Holders in accordance with the EU/EEA requirements.

Manufacturing inspections and official controls of marketing/use

The NoMA carries out inspections on a routine basis, and it is responsible for control of the manufacturing and distribution of VMPs. The NFSA supervises veterinary practitioners and controls the use of VMPs.

Control of VMPs at wholesale and retail level

According to NoMA's internal procedures, large wholesalers should be inspected every three years and smaller ones every three to five years. There is a checklist for use during inspections of wholesalers. It includes checks of the VMPs and purchases by private veterinary practitioners (PVPs).

VMPs are mainly distributed via practising veterinarians who purchase VMPs from wholesalers for use in their own practice. Small quantities of VMPs are also distributed through other pharmacies. Retailers are subject to inspection every four to ten years. Checklists are used during the inspection of retailers and veterinary practitioners operating veterinary pharmacies.

Medicated feed controls

The production and distribution of medicated feed is permitted in Norway. Surveillance of medicated feeding stuffs is the responsibility of the NoMA. The medicines shall be incorporated into the feed in the form of a pre-mixture. The preparation of medicated feeding stuffs shall only be performed by feed business operators approved for the production of medicated feed.

As regards pesticide residues in feed, the EEA legislation is implemented in Norway. Annual sampling plans for the surveillance programme are drawn up by the NFSA's Seafood section. Inspectors at the NFSA's regional offices are responsible for the sampling.

Private veterinary practitioners (PVPs) and farms

The region in the NFSA is responsible for official control of the proper use and storage of medicines on farms. Animal keepers are obliged to keep records of the health status of animals and their medical treatment for at least ten years.

All VMPs are prescription medicines only, and must be prescribed by a veterinarian and used under the responsibility of the veterinarian (medicines for fish may also be prescribed by fish health biologists). It is also accepted that farmers can administer drugs for certain diseases that are common in their own holding for short periods on a

contract with a PVP. The veterinarian is still responsible for the use of the medicines, and for training the farmer.

The NFSA is responsible for controlling the use of VMPs by veterinarians.

The Veterinary Medicines Register (VetReg) is part of MATS. The objective of the register is to ensure safe food, promote public health, animal health, animal welfare and consumer interests, and to promote sustainable production. All prescriptions of medicines for animals must be registered by pharmacies and all treatment carried out by veterinarians on livestock and horses must be registered within seven days.

In cases where veterinarians do not fulfil the requirements concerning registration in the database, the NFSA can take appropriate measures against the veterinarian. In the worst case, the veterinarian could lose his licence to practise as a veterinarian.

Residues

Competent authorities

Responsibility for monitoring residues is divided between the sections for Chemical Safety and EEA (terrestrial animals and products) and Seafood (aquaculture), both under the head office of the NFSA. NoMA contributes to the National Residue Monitoring Plan (NRMP) based on its data on VMP use.

Implementation of the National Residue Monitoring Plan (NRMP)

The NRMP is based on total national production and the requirements of Council Directive 96/23/EC. The NRMP and the results of its implementation are submitted annually to ESA. The NFSA is responsible for supervision of the NRMP. The sampling plan is reviewed and evaluated annually. Account is taken of the level of risk of residues in certain areas and animals.

Follow up of non-compliant results from official samples

All the results for terrestrial animals and animal products are reported to the local department that has taken the samples. In the case of non-compliant results, the local NFSA department will follow up in accordance with the instructions from the head office in the Quality System. The head office receives a copy of all the results and monitors that the results are followed up. For Aquaculture, the NRMP coordinator contacts the relevant region/local department for follow-up.

A detailed report on the results and the plan for residue control is sent to ESA by 31 March every year.

Dairy plants operate self-control programmes for antibacterial substances (every delivery is tested). Non-compliant results can be traced back to each farm, and documentation of follow-up investigations by the dairy plants must be reported to the local veterinary officer.

2.8. Control system for foodstuffs and food hygiene

Competent Authorities

The Food department at the NFSA's head office is responsible for legislation on food safety, environmental protection and general hygiene, as well as control and monitoring of general foodstuffs, chemical safety, food hygiene, labelling and quality and water supply systems.

Official controls of food premises

All food establishments, including primary producers, are required to register. However, all establishments covered by Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 and (EC) No 210/2013 must first be approved. Lists of registered and approved establishments are kept and maintained as required by Regulation (EU) No 2017/625, and the lists are available on the NFSA website www.mattilsynet.no, for example by searching for the phrase 'Godkjente produkter og virksomheter'.

All establishments that carry out any activity involving the production, processing and distribution of food have to comply with the hygiene requirements. The regional level of the NFSA is responsible for official control of foodstuffs at all levels, including retail, service sector, manufacturers, producers and packers.

Good Hygiene Practice Guides (GHP)

The inspections/audits that establishments undergo depend on the type of establishment. The frequency and number of inspections are based on an evaluation of possible health risks. To ensure compliance with the regulations, the inspections/audits sometimes involve sampling and labelling, as well as the establishment's internal (self-check) system.

About 8,000 of the registered food operators are restaurants. From January 2016, a scheme involving a 'smiley' in the inspection report was launched for this category of food retailers. The short version of the inspection report must be displayed for consumers to read before entering the restaurant.

Smiley inspections are not risk-based. Establishments in the food and beverage service industry that fall under this scheme must be inspected every twelve months regardless of risk. In addition, they can request a new inspection after rectification of non-conformities that have resulted in a poor score.

Results for all food operators and all Smileys can be found on the NFSA website www.mattilsynet.no.

Potable water

Licensing and registration of water supply systems

The documentation for water supply systems that shall produce at least 10 m^3 drinking water per day must be approved by the NFSA. However, all water supply systems shall be registered at the NFSA. The water supply systems are subject to official control by the NFSA. The controls are carried out by the regions. Water quality, monitoring, the use of materials or chemicals and information must be in accordance with Directive 98/83/EC. Sampling in accordance with Directive 98/83/EC is carried out by the water supplier.

Water sampling in food establishments is carried out by the establishment in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 853/2004. Both clean seawater and clean water may be used throughout the production and processing of fishery products in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 853/2004.

Approval and official control of natural mineral waters under Directive 2009/54/EC are the responsibility of the regional level of the NFSA, and are carried out by its various local departments. Reporting is done to the head office.

Food contact materials (FCM)

Control of importers and producers of FCM, and of the use of FCM at food establishments, is done at regional level. Region East has been assigned responsibility for having in-depth knowledge and a coordinating role in the area of FCM.

Norway has implemented all the EEA regulations concerning FCM. Norway also has some national provisions. They include a requirement for a Declaration of Compliance for all types of FCM and lower limits for Cd and Pb in ceramics. Establishments that produce, import or sell FCM wholesale are obliged to notify their activity to the NFSA.

Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF)

The national contact point (NCP) for RASFF is the Export and Import section at the NFSA's head office. The NCP has a staff of three advisers who share responsibility for ensuring that e-mails concerning RASFF notifications are read and acted upon without unnecessary delay. All information relating to RASFF, both from the European Commission and from the local departments of the five NFSA regions, are sent to the same e-mail address. The RASFF e-mail inbox is under constant surveillance during office hours, while the emergency phone of the NFSA can be contacted outside office hours. When the NCP receives information from the European Commission about food, feed or FCMs that may pose a health risk in Norway, the information is forwarded to the relevant regional offices of the NFSA. The NFSA department located where the product has been distributed or where the product originates will then contact the business operators involved. The NCP has developed internal guidelines for the local offices of the NFSA. They describe the appropriate response to RASFF notifications. These guidelines also describe how information about detection of non-compliance in the Norwegian market that may pose a potential health risk should be forwarded to the

NCP. The NCP will thereafter validate the information in iRASFF before the notification is submitted to the European Commission.

Food fraud

Administrative Assistance and Cooperation

The NFSA is the designated liaison body mentioned in Regulation (EU) No 2017/625, Article 103(1) for exchange of communications between Competent Authorities in accordance with said Regulation, Articles 104–107. A dedicated team of contact points is appointed within the NFSA Head Office to handle all incoming and outgoing messages according to agreed internal procedures. This same team handles also all iRASFF notifications. In addition a contact point for Food Fraud is appointed at NFSA Head Office to handle notifications related to cases that fall under Regulation (EU) No 2017/625, Article 102(4)(b).

Food Fraud and E-commerce

The NFSA has a dedicated Food Fraud and E-Commerce contact point. The NFSA has also a regional team of inspectors in the regions Greater Oslo and East that have cooperated locally on dedicated actions relating to suspect food fraud cases.

The NFSA participates regularly in the EU Food Fraud Network, in the EU E-Commerce Network and in EU coordinated control plans relating to food fraud and e-commerce. The NFSA regularly cooperates with and supports Norwegian Customs in the international operations OPSON and Pangea.

The NFSA is preparing a national threat assessment that will feed into the risk based planning for controls related to fraudulent and deceptive practices according to Regulation (EU) No 2017/625, Article 9(2).

The NFSA has national competence to perform anonymous controls and “mystery shopping”.

2.9. Control system for imports of food of non-animal origin

The Export and Import section at the NFSA’s head office is responsible for import controls of food of non-animal origin in cooperation with the Customs Service.

Import control is an integral part of the general inspection of establishments that is carried out by the regions. All importers of food must register with the NFSA. Registration is done by the establishment itself. The importer must register the name of the establishment, address, telephone number, e-mail address and contact person. In addition, information must be provided about which commodities will be imported to Norway, including CN codes with four digits or more for each commodity group.

Imports of products of non-animal origin from third countries must be notified to the NFSA 24 hours prior to the physical arrival of the consignments. The notification must include information about the importer and the first consignee, the amount and time of

arrival of the commodities, the name of the dispatcher and the dispatching country, the country of origin of the commodities and the eight-digit CN code for each commodity group. The requirement for prior notification does not apply to certain fresh fruits and vegetables specified in Norwegian import regulations. There is no requirement for prior notification of foods of non-animal origin from countries within the EEA.

The first consignee of foods of non-animal origin is obliged to keep an import register that contains information about all consignments that have been imported to the establishment. The register shall be available for control by the NFSA. Information about imported consignments must be kept for two years. The first consignee shall also check that the imported consignments comply with requirements in Norwegian food legislation. In the event that the first consignee discovers a non-compliance in an imported consignment, this should immediately be notified to the NFSA. In such case, the consignment shall not be released for free circulation without the NFSA's permission.

The NFSA has entered into a cooperation agreement with the Directorate of Norwegian Customs. The two authorities cooperate at both the central level and the local level. As regards imports of food of non-animal origin, the main cooperation concerns commodities that are subject to EU safeguard measures. Based on information from the NFSA, the Directorate of Norwegian Customs can add restrictions or information to its electronic customs clearance system (TVINN). This ensures correct border control of consignments. Consignments subject to safeguard measures are not released for free circulation until the results of the official control are available.

The Export and Import section implements and follows up the EEA legislation for risk products of non-animal origin laid down in Regulation (EU) No 2017/625 Articles 47 and 54 and other regulations concerning safeguard measures.

Products regulated through EEA safeguard measures, such as Regulation (EU) No 2019/1793 or other regulations, can only be imported through a Border Control Post (BCP). In Norway there are four BCPs that can receive food of non-animal origin: Oslo Port, Borg Port, Larvik Port and Oslo Airport. Food and Feed Business Operators (FBOs) are required to notify the correct BCP of the estimated date and time of physical arrival of the consignment at least one working day prior to the arrival of the consignment. All consignments are subject to a document check, while a certain percentage of the consignments are subject to an identity and physical check, including laboratory analysis. Depending on the control performed on the consignments, the business operators are charged the relevant fees.

In addition to implementing EEA safeguard measures for the import of food of non-animal origin from certain third countries, the Export and Import section issues guidelines and instructions for the local departments.

2.10 Control system for plant protection products (PPP)

Competent Authorities

The NFSA's Plant section in the head office is responsible for the implementation and enforcement of EEA plant protection product (PPP) legislation, as well as having overall responsibility for the implementation of control of the marketing and use of PPPs.

PPPs on the Norwegian market are authorised by the National Approvals Department at the NFSA. Prior to authorisation, the National Approvals Department carries out an evaluation, involving toxicologists, eco-toxicologists, chemists, agronomists, horticultural and legal experts in the procedure. The list of authorised PPPs is published on the website of the NFSA and is updated regularly: http://www.mattilsynet.no/plantevernmidler/godk.asp

Official controls of marketing/use

Anyone selling PPPs to professional users or concentrated products for non-professional use must be registered with the NFSA. The NFSA's database 'MATS' records information about the retailers and wholesalers. The number of distributors selling PPPs, both PPPs for professional use and concentrated products for non-professional use, is about 540. 210 of these are only selling concentrated products for non-professional use.

Official control of marketing and use is carried out by inspectors from the NFSA's regions. Controls are undertaken in all regions of the country. The controls are carried out according to a multi-annual control plan prepared by the head office and by using a risk-based approach. The focus areas vary between inspections at retailers of pesticides, supervision of the use of pesticides (at farms, greenhouses, nurseries and at public areas), controls of illegal use of pesticides etc. Infringement procedures are initiated in the event of non-compliance with legislation. If use of illegal PPPs are detected, the certification of professional users will be revoked.

Inspection of application equipment

Inspection of PPP application equipment is based on the European standard *Agricultural and forestry machinery – Inspection of sprayers in use* (EN ISO 16122). Sprayers in use must carry a sticker proving that they have successfully passed the mandatory technical inspection. The inspections are delegated to trained inspectors authorised by the NFSA.

Training and certification of professional users

Norway has approximately 28,300 trained sprayer operators, including both PPP users and those who give professional guidance. A compulsory training and certification system has existed for all professional PPP users since 1995. These courses include examinations. Every 10 years, the trained sprayers must take a follow-up course. The

NFSA defines the topics to be addressed in both initial and follow-up training. They cover the requirements of Annex I of Directive 2009/128/EC.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

Norway has a long tradition of encouraging reduced use of PPPs. The Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research (NIBIO) operates websites that are used by farmers, retailers and the agricultural advisory services alike to obtain advice and guidance on PPP related matters. In addition, NIBIO develops crop-specific IPM guidelines covering major crops. Finally, the agricultural advisory services publish bulletins during the growing season providing information about pest pressure and appropriate actions for major crops. Verification of whether the farmer is using integrated pest management is done by the NFSA's regions.

2.11. Control system for pesticide residues

The Chemical Safety and EEA section at the NFSA's head office is responsible for legislation and official control of pesticide residues in food.

Official control of residues

Sampling and monitoring plans

The Chemical Safety and EEA section is responsible for interpreting legislation and developing control plans. It coordinates the surveillance programme for pesticides in food, guidelines and instructions for the regions and reporting as laid down in Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 on maximum residue levels (MRL) for pesticides in or on food, and feed of plant and animal origin.

The NFSA participates in the coordinated multi-annual EU Community control programme to ensure compliance with maximum levels of, and to assess consumer exposure to, pesticide residues in and on food of plant and animal origin.

The sampling plans for the Multi-Annual National Control Plan for Pesticide Residues are drawn up by NFSA in cooperation with the Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research (NIBIO). The number of samples and type of food products are based on the recommendations in the relevant EU/EEA legislation and guidelines, Art. 30.2 of Regulation (EC) No 396/2005. The plan specifies the food to be sampled, the number of samples to be taken, and the pesticides for which they are to be tested.

Samples shall be taken of commodities originating from organic farming in proportion to the market share of those commodities in each Member State. The samples are submitted throughout the year, taking account of the analysis capacity of the laboratory. The laboratory is also involved in training NFSA inspectors, taking samples for pesticide analyses and carrying out the surveillance programme.

The samples are taken mostly at the wholesale level, but are also taken at market places, in shops and at the production sites. The samples cover both imported and domestic products. The inspectors send the samples to the laboratory. Procedures

have been established for the distribution of results from the laboratory to the NFSA. There are also guidelines for inspection procedures and on how to follow up residues of pesticides that are detected. Where pesticide residues are detected in food and the level is found to be higher than the MRL ('Guidance document on analytical quality control and method validation procedures for pesticides residues analysis in food and feed'), the NFSA follows the EFSA's model for chronic and acute risk assessment and considers whether the residue level is a risk to the consumer. If the residue level found is higher than the MRL and the residue is considered to be a risk to the consumer, the rapid alert process is triggered.

Enforcement

When a pesticide residue exceeds the MRL, a new sample must be analysed to confirm the result. Enforcement action is taken if the pesticide residues in the repeat sample exceed the MRL.

The National Approvals Department (ANG) carry out a health risk assessment of the exceedance, and thereafter guide the NFSA region which action to be take. It is the NFSA region where the sample was taken, that are responsible for the following up of the sample.

2.12. Control system for animal welfare

Control and monitoring of animal welfare of terrestrial animals is the responsibility of the Animal Welfare section at the NFSA's head office. Control and monitoring of fish health and welfare is the responsibility of the Fish Health and Welfare section at NFSA's head office. The regions are responsible for controls relating to animal welfare. In accordance with the Animal Welfare Act, animal welfare committees assist the local departments. These committees consist of laymen and act under the responsibility of the regions. The idea behind this is that lay opinions should be expressed when controlling animal welfare.

Official controls on farms

As a basis, all animal species and types of farming systems are supposed to be inspected during the year. There are no annual targets for inspections, but in recent years, approximately 10% of holdings keeping farm animals have been inspected, with some variation between the different species. For poultry and fur animals, the numbers are considerably higher (approximately 30 - 40 % of the holdings are inspected each year). The regions select the holdings for inspection. In some cases, in order to make the best of the available resources, the inspection may be carried out in conjunction with checks for other purposes. The local departments are instructed to select the farms and the numbers of farms, not just based on the total number of farms keeping each species, but also to ensure a risk-based selection. Relevant criteria will be previous animal welfare history, whether the farming is intensive or extensive, findings in connection with the slaughtering of animals from the specific farm, etc. In addition, the head office is entitled to control the focus by making some of the points in the different checklists obligatory, when necessary.

Infringement

In severe cases, the NFSA reports the situation to the police for further investigation and possible prosecution. If necessary, the NFSA has the authority to take animals into custody and even to prohibit individual persons from keeping animals in future or for a specific period. The results of inspections, including infringements detected and actions taken, are recorded in MATS.

Official controls during transport

The inspections are mainly carried out by the regions at the destination, particularly at slaughterhouses. In addition to Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport and related operations, Norway has stricter measures in force for transport that takes place entirely within Norway. As an example, long journeys are not allowed for the transport of slaughter animals (with some exceptions in northern parts of Norway), and the means of transport used for horses must be approved even for short journeys (less than eight hours).

Official controls at slaughterhouses

The regions have special teams at slaughterhouses to carry out the inspections. The aim is to ensure that all animals are spared any avoidable/unnecessary stress, pain, or suffering during movement, lairage, restraint, stunning or slaughter.

2.13. Control system for organic production

Control system for organic production

The Norwegian Food Safety Authority (NFSA) is the competent authority for organic production in Norway. More precisely, the plant section at the NFSA's head office is responsible for the organic area. Norway implemented Regulations (EC) No 834/2007, 889/2008 and 1235/2008 on March 18th 2017, see https://lovdata.no/dokument/SF/forskrift/2017-03-18-355?q=økologi

There is only one control body for organic production in Norway. The NFSA has delegated authority to carry out official controls of organic operators and make individual decisions about the production and sale of organic products to this control body, called Debio (see also chapter 1.1). The delegation is described in this document: https://lovdata.no/dokument/DEL/forskrift/2017-03-18-356?q=økologi

Debio carries out a physical inspection of nearly all organic operators at least once a year according to Regulation (EC) No 889/2008, art. 65.1.

The Norwegian Food Safety Authority has further responsibility for supervisory activities for evaluation of Debio. The supervisory activities are based on the requirements in Regulation 889/2008, especially Article 92c-e. According to these provisions, the Norwegian Food Safety Authority shall ensure the following requirements:

- That the inspections carried out by the control body are objective;
- That the inspection procedures and measures are followed;
- Documentation on the risk analyses procedure;
- The effectiveness of the inspections;
- Take cognizance of any irregularities and/or infringements found and penalties applied;
- Withdraw approval of the control body if it fails to satisfy the requirements or no longer fulfils the criteria indicated in the relevant provisions or fails to satisfy the requirements.

To fulfil the requirements for supervision of control bodies, the NFSA has initiated the following measures:

- Audits of the control body once a year. The focus on these audits is to verify the objectivity of the control body and to follow up that the control body performs its certifications according to its own written procedures.
- Participation on audits done by Norwegian Accreditation. The control body is accredited according to standard NS-EN ISO/IEC 17065:2012. This standard sets some of the same requirements as the organic legislation. It is therefore efficient to participate on these audits to avoid overlapped focus areas.
- Regular meetings with the control body to discuss interpretation of the legislation and appropriate penalties when irregularities and infringements arise.
- Participate on inspections performed by the control body to see that the practical certification is in accordance with the legislation and the quality system of the control body.
- Routines for sufficient exchange of information with the control body, see https://lovdata.no/dokument/INS/forskrift/2019-07-02-961?q=økologi

Import controls

The NFSA has the total responsibility for performing the import controls of organic products, and the regional endorsing authority has developed internal procedures for import controls. The NFSA receives a notification for every imported organic consignment in the MATS-system (Mattilsynets tilsynssystem) before the organic products enter the country, and decides based on risk evaluation the necessity to perform an identity or physical control of the delivery or if document control is sufficient.

The obligation to follow the system of Certificate of Inspection (COI) in the TRACES NT is fulfilled by the NFSA. The CCA (Central Competent Authority) in Norway approves the access to Traces NT for the endorsing authority and also for the control body. The NFSA has pointed out the five different regional offices in NFSA as Endorsing Authorities for Organic Certification.

The customs have no specific additional responsibility to check organic products beyond the ordinary customs declaration and specific control procedure of animal products.

Lists of consignments of organic foodstuffs and feedstuffs imported from non-EEA countries can be extracted from the internal electronic MATS system where all notifications are registered.

Sampling of organic products

The sampling is carried out in cooperation between the NFSA and Debio, where the NFSA takes samples from imported products and Debio from Norwegian primary production.

The selection of samples of plant products in Debio is based on data from EU (EFSA) showing the most frequent findings of pesticides in organic agricultural products, data from Norway showing the most frequent findings of pesticides in conventional production and data showing which organic products that have the largest volumes in the market. Operators with parallel production and other high-risk producers shall be given priority.

In addition, samples of feed and fish are taken from all producers of organic fish. These samples are analysed for the presence of non-authorised antioxidants. Some samples of food and feed are also analysed for the presence of GMOs.

Samples can also be taken when:

- there is a suspicion of a non-compliance that can be clarified by taking a sample;
- there is a request from consumers or other operators that suspect a non-compliance that can be clarified by taking a sample, and the request is considered relevant for further investigation by Debio.

Market controls at retailers

The obligation of the regional offices of the NFSA to take necessary measures when revealing unlawful marketing of organic products by operators exempted on the basis of Article 28(2) is set out in the instructions for the regional offices of the NFSA. The responsibility to follow up cases of unlawful marketing of organic products received from the Control body has been placed in the regional offices of NFSA. One region, region Stor-Oslo, has the responsibility of advising the other regions on this subject, and to see that cases are handled in a uniform way.

The inspectors in the NFSA has access to a requirement in the digital template that inspectors use when they perform controls at the retailers. This requirement describes how to check if the retailer is authorised by the Control body. If such authorisation is lacking, the inspector shall check if the operator fulfils the criteria to be exempted. If these criteria are not fulfilled, necessary measures shall be taken.

Derogations and exemptions

The responsibility for handling authorisations regarding derogations and exceptional production rules is delegated to one of the regional offices; region Stor-Oslo. This region is handling authorisations regarding:

- dehorning and cutting of teeth;
- retroactive recognition of conversion periods;
- renewal or reconstitution of the herd or flock with non-organic animals;
- use of non-organic feedingstuffs for a limited period and in relation to a specific area by individual operators;
- conversion plan for parallel production of perennial crops;
- use of non-organic food ingredients of agricultural origin.

The regional office of region Stor-Oslo reports to the head office of the NFSA.

Operations such as attaching elastic bands to the tails of sheep, tail-docking and trimming of beaks is not allowed in Norway at all.

ANNEX I – ACRONYMS, ABBREVIATIONS AND SPECIAL TERMS

ACRONYM/ ABBREVIATION	DESCRIPTION
ABP	Animal By-Products
ADNS	Animal Diseases Notification System
BCP	Border Control Post
BDL	Budget Disposition Letter
CCA	Central Competent Authority
CHED	Common Health Entry Document
CVO	Chief Veterinary Officer
Debio	Norwegian organisation for organic certification
DPE	Designated Point of Entry
EC	European Community
EEA	European Economic Area
EFTA	European Free Trade Association
ESA	EFTA Surveillance Authority - the Authority
EU	European Union
FBO	Food Business Operator / Feed Business Operator
FCM	Food Contact Material
GMO	Genetically Modified Organism(s)
HACCP	Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points
EN ISO	International Standards Organisation
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
LBM	Live Bivalve Molluscs
MANCP	Multi-Annual National Control Plan
MANIAP	Multi-Annual National Internal Audit Plan
MARTA	Electronic case handling system for Smiley Inspections
MATS	Electronic operating system for official control
MBM	Meat and Bone Meal
MSM	Mechanically Separated Meat
MRL	Maximum Residue Level
MS	Member State

ACRONYM/ ABBREVIATION	DESCRIPTION
NCP	National Contact Point
NFSA	Norwegian Food Safety Authority
NRMP	National Residue Monitoring Plan
NRL	National Reference Laboratory
NMKL	Nordic Committee on Food Analysis
NoMA	Norwegian Medicines Agency
OCR	Official Controls Regulation (EU) 2017/625
OFI	Official Fish Inspector
OIE	World Organisation for Animal Health
OV	Official Veterinarian
POAO	Products of Animal Origin
PONAO	Products of Non-Animal origin
PPP	Plant Protection Product(s)
PVP	Private Veterinary Practitioner
RASFF	Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
SRM	Specified Risk Material
TRACES	Trade Control and Expert System
TVINN	Electronic customs clearance system
VI	Norwegian Veterinary Institute
VMP	Veterinary Medicinal products
VKM	Norwegian Scientific Committee