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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 audits to Norway in recent years and, in particular, a general review in March 2023.

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 audits 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 and Environment (VKM) Norwegian Veterinary Institute (NVI) 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) NVI IIMR NMBU
3. Imports of animals and food of animal origin	Ministry of Agriculture and Food Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries Ministry of Health and Care Services	NFSA	NVI IMR NMBU
4. Feeding stuffs	Ministry of Agriculture and Food	NFSA	VKM NVI

	Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries		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	NVI 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 NVI IMR
7. Foodstuffs and food hygiene,	Ministry of Health and Care Services	NFSA	VKM NIPH NVI IMR NIBIO For food contact materials: the food department at the Danish Technical University (DTU)
8. Imports of food of plant origin	Ministry of Health and Care Services	NFSA	NIBIO NVI VKM
9. Plant protection products – authorisation, marketing and use. **Plant protection products – residues**	Ministry of Agriculture and Food Ministry of Health and Care Services	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 fisheries, aquaculture 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 this areas and secure plans for emergencies.

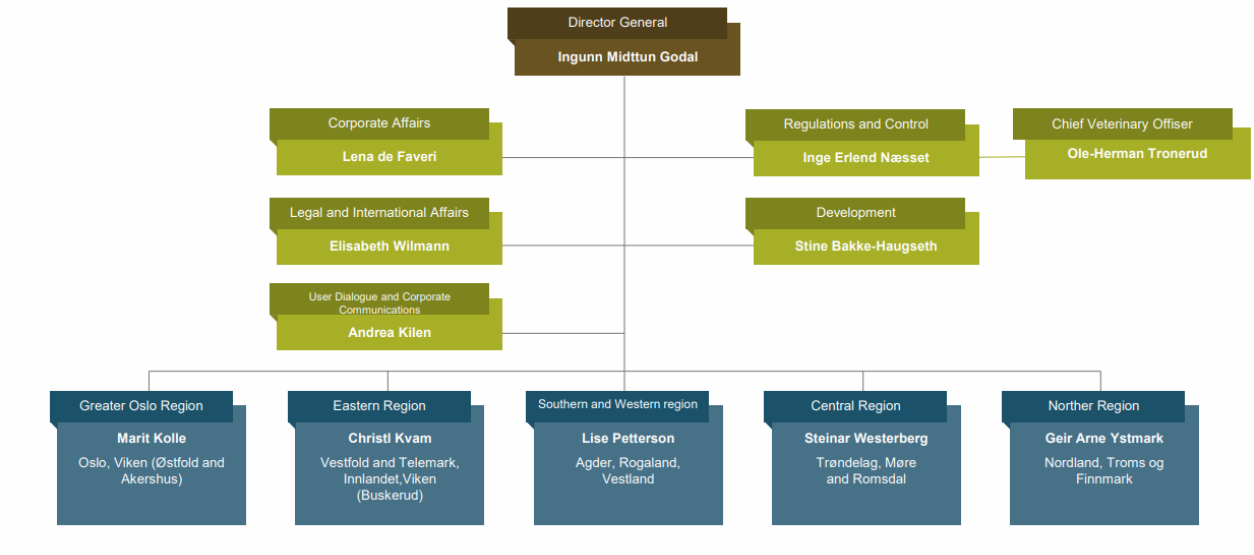
The Food Act and the Animal Welfare Act give the NFSA's authority and decision-making powers in all matters that fall under Regulation (No) 704 of 3. March 2020, which incorporates the Official Controls Regulation (EU) 2017/625. In addition, the Act relating to Cosmetic Products and Body Care Products, 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 32 local departments which are located

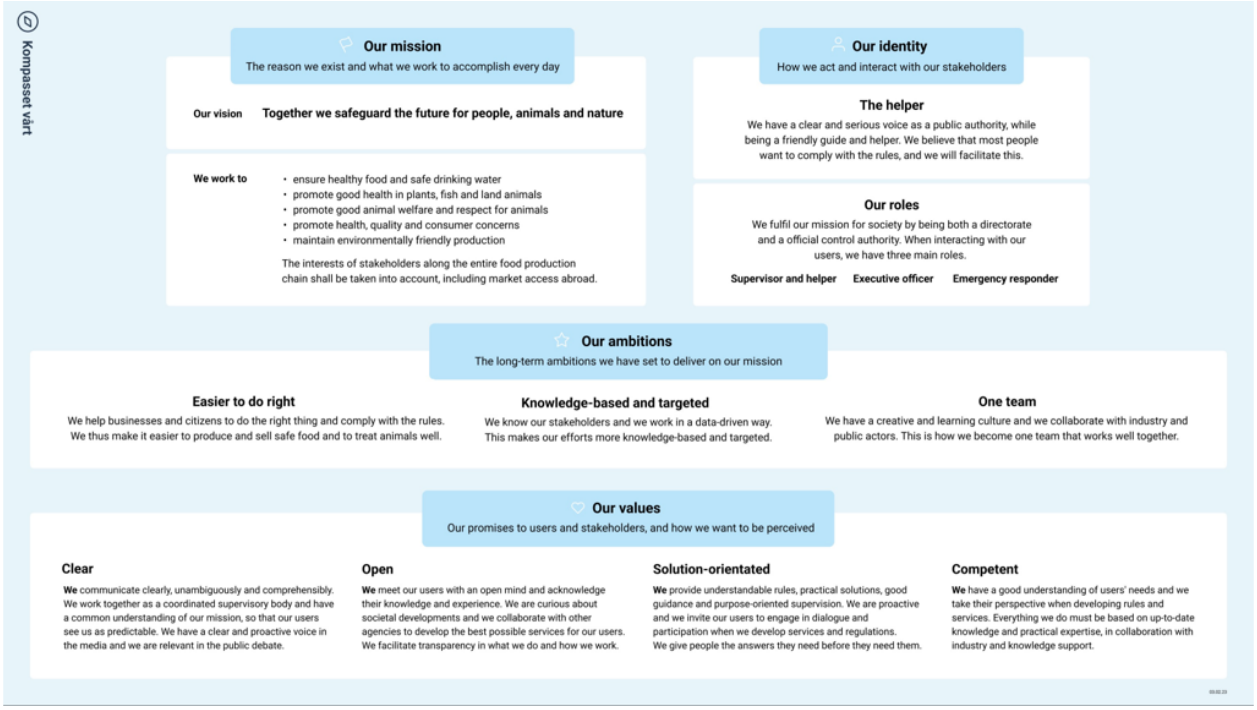
geographically dispersed within the region. The regional level normally carries out official control activities and makes initial decisions. Appeal cases are considered by the head office.

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.

Picture 2. *NFSA strategic compass*



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 Control Body)

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 11 June 2022 No 1171 concerning organic production and labelling of organic agricultural products, aquaculture products, foodstuffs and feed.

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, in border zones and on patches (field isles) and fields in outlying areas pursuant to Section 17, 19 and 22 of the same regulation.

The Norwegian Board of Health Supervision in Rogaland

As a 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 i*nclude the authority to supervise and make decisions regarding petroleum activities on land.*

Scientific support

Norwegian Scientific Committee for Food and Environment (VKM)

The Norwegian Scientific Committee for Food and Environment (VKM), which is organized as a separate entity 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 (NVI) (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, aquatic animal health and welfare)
- Norwegian University of Life Sciences (NMBU) (infectious diseases in animals and fish, feed and food safety including water and aqua medicine, testing of pesticide spreading equipment)
- Kimen, Seed Laboratory (seeds)

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

The NRL are also designated as official laboratories. For food and feed analysis, official laboratories are designated 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. For fish health, fish health laboratories are designated based on assessment procedures. For trichinella analysis, the non-accredited laboratories are designated and assessed by NFSA.

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

Research-based advisory institutions		**Website**
NVI	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 Food & Feed Testing		www.eurofins.com
VestfoldLab AS		www.vesfoldlab.no
Wageningen Food Safety Research, WFSR		www.wur.nl

SGS Analytics Norway	www.sgs.no/en/campaigns/sgs-analytics-norway
Mat-miljølaboratoriet AS	https://mat-miljo.no/
SunnLab AS	www.sunnlab.no
PatoGen AS	www.patogen.com
FishVet Group	www.fishvetgroup.no
Pharmaq Analytic AS	www.pharmaq.com/no/analytiq/
Nemko Norlab AS	nemkonorlab.com
Blue Analytics AS	www.blueanalytics.no
Fatland in Oslo, Jæren, Ølen	www.fatland.no
Furuseth AS, Dal	www.furuseth.no
Nortura in Bjerka, Forus, Målselv, Sandeid, Rudshøgda, Tønsberg	www.nortura.no

National accreditation bodies

Norwegian Accreditation is the only Norwegian body for accreditation of laboratories. All the laboratories designated by NFSA, except for the laboratories performing trichinella analysis at slaughterhouses, are assessed and accredited in accordance with 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 advisory bodies

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 veterinary practice and cases relating to veterinary medicine;

- 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 advises 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 is appointed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food. The NFSA has the 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 2023 was 1211, where of 329 were located in the head office and 882 in the 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 level 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 three 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 regional 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 Goal and Budget Letter (MDS) contains the annual budget, prioritised control areas, prioritised development initiatives, budgets, operative control plan and monitoring programs. Feedback from the regional level during the year is given in the interim reports. Based on the annual Goal and Budget 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

NFSA analyse the supervisory areas according to compliance and plan official controls in areas with low compliance and high inherent risk that the supervisory areas 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, 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 Goal and Budget Letter (MDS). The organisation is followed up every four months with respect to compliance with the MDS. The head office then adjusts and/or specifies its management signals in a supplementary MDS.

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 Norway's risk assessments. Plant pests are monitored on the basis of 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 official controls

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 chain business 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.

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 documentary checks 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 one of 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. Data regarding completed supervisory activities is extracted 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 legal basis in the event of established non-compliance are found in the Food Act, the Act relating to cosmetic products and body care products, the Animal Welfare Act, and the Act relating to veterinarians and other animal health personnel.

If the provisions prescribed in or pursuant to these Acts are contravened, the NFSA may order the execution of measures to remedy the illegal situation and bring it to an end. A time limit may be stipulated for the performance of such measures. If the deadline for the performance, has expired, the NFSA may take steps to ensure that the measures are executed at the expense of the responsible part. To ensure implementation of the provisions prescribed in or pursuant to this Act, the NFSA may also impose coercive fines to ensure compliance. Enforcement is based on the principle of proportionality and shall be effective and necessary to ensure compliance, cf. Article 138 of Regulation (EU) 2017/625.

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

Administrative fines (non-compliance penalty) may be imposed on any person who has contravened with the provisions prescribed in or pursuant to the Animal Welfare Act by the NFSA. Administrative fines are deemed to be a criminal sanction pursuant to the European Convention on Human Rights.

Any person who contravenes the provisions prescribed in or pursuant to any of the abovementioned Acts with wilful intent or gross negligence may also by criminal procedure be punished by fines or imprisonment, or both, provided the offence is not subject to more severe penal provisions. A confiscation order to pay the economic advantage of the crime may also be made part of a criminal procedure.

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).

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 meets with the directors of the head office and the regions every second week, where strategic issues are discussed. In addition, there are three formal management meetings a year. The basis for the management dialogue includes:

- Challenges the regions may have for solving their assigned tasks for the year
- Dialogue on priorities
- Status of nonconformities identified by internal and external audits (e.g. ESA) and the department's plans for their closure

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 Goal and Budget Letter. Scorecards (traffic light assessment) 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. In 2023, a guideline regarding verification of inspections in compliance with documented procedures for official controls, was published. This guideline applies to the subject areas in Regulations and Control Department at the NFSA's head office.

According to the guidelines, the department must have a three-year plan for control verifications, to ensure that all areas are included over time. The plan will be regularly updated. The scope for each control is based on results of previous controls, ESA-inspections or after an assessment within the departments' subjected areas.

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, an internal auditor and (for each single audit) one or 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.

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

Audits and inspections of delegated bodies

The NFSA organise inspections of the county governors and the municipalities to ensure that delegated tasks are carried out in accordance with the instructions given. The inspections are carried out by inspectors in the regions.

The NFSA audits Debio once a year to check whether the control body exercises its authority according to the organic regulations in an objective and efficient manner. In addition, the audit verifies that Debio 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 drinking water, the health and welfare of terrestrial and aquatic animals, plant health and cosmetics safety.

The MANCP is a requirement connected to Regulation (EU) 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 official control and other official 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 NFSA head office is responsible for contingency plans, monitoring and preventive measures against animal diseases. The aim is to eradicate exotic diseases, 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, record keeping, animal identification and movement controls

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

A registration number is allocated to each holding.

Cattle:

Operators keeping cattle must keep records as laid out in Article 102 (1) of Regulation (EU) 2016/429 and Articles 22 and 23 of Regulation (EU) 2019/2035. In addition, they must meet certain national record keeping requirements. The records must be kept for at least 10 years.

Operators are exempt from keeping records of births, deaths and movements of cattle to and from their establishments if they register the events with the NFSA (in "Husdyrregisteret") within 24 hours of the events taking place.

Cattle must be identified in accordance with Article 38 of Regulation (EU) 2019/2035. It is allowed to replace one of the conventional ear tags with an approved electronic means of identification and almost 100% of the operators choose to do so. By February 2023 only conventional and electronic ear tags are approved as official means of identification for bovine animals in Norway.

Cattle must be identified within 20 days of birth, but in any case before they are moved from the holding of birth. The NFSA may in certain cases extend the deadline.

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 mostly 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) and 'Kukontrollen' (a dairy cattle control system administered by TINE SA, Norway's largest producer, distributor and exporter of dairy products). In addittion, "Husdyrregisteret is updated by animal keepers via NSFAs digital forms ("skjematjenesten") or by 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).

Sheep and goats:

Operators keeping sheep and goats must keep records as laid out in Article 102 (1) of Regulation (EU) 2016/429 and Articles 22 and 23 of Regulation (EU) 2019/2035. In addition, they must meet certain national record keeping requirements. The records must be kept for at least 10 years.

Most commonly sheep are identified in accordance with Article 45(2) of Regulation (EU) 2019/2035 with a conventional ear tag in one ear and an electronic ear tag in the other ear. By February 2023 only conventional and electronic ear tags are approved as official means of identification for sheep and goats in Norway.

Norway uses the possibility in Article 48(2) of Regulation (EU) 2019/2035 to let operators of goats identify the animals with only conventional means of identification. (in practice two conventional ear tags).

Sheep and goats must be identified within 30 days of birth, but in any case before they are moved from the holding of birth.

If sheep or goats are sold/transferred from one operator to another or moved to Norway from other EEA-states, certain national provisions regarding additional tagging with a white or a salmon red ear tag apply.

Sheep and goats moved between establishments in Norway must be accompanied by a movement document in accordance with the provisions of Article 113(1)(b) of Regulation (EU) 2016/429 and Article 50 of Regulation (EU) 2019/2035.

All movements of sheep and goats between establishments must be registered with the NFSA (in 'Husdyrregisteret') within seven days of the movement taking place.

Pigs:

Operators keeping pigs must keep records as laid out in Article 102 (1) of Regulation (EU) 2016/429 and Articles 22 and 23 of Regulation (EU) 2019/2035. In addition, they must meet certain national record keeping requirements. The records must be kept for at least 5 years.

Operators are exempt from keeping records of movements of pigs to and from their establishments if they register the movements with NFSA (in "Husdyrregisteret") within 24 hours of the movement taking place.

Pigs must be identified on their holding of birth within 9 months after birth and in any case before they leave the holding of birth. The animals must be identified with an approved ear tag showing the registration number of the holding of birth. The ear tag may also show an individual number. By February 2023 tattoos are not approved/used as an official means of identification for pigs. However, on a private basis pigs are commonly tattooed with a 'slap mark' showing the keeper's supplier number at the slaughterhouse before they are sent to slaughter.

Pigs moved between establishments in Norway must be accompanied by a movement document in accordance with the provisions of Article 115(b) of Regulation (EU) 2016/429 and Article 57 of Regulation (EU) 2019/2035.

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

Poultry:

Operators keeping poultry must keep records as laid out in Article 102 (1) of Regulation (EU) 2016/429 and Articles 22 and 25 of Regulation (EU) 2019/2035. In addition, they must meet certain national record keeping requirements. The records must be kept for at least 5 years.

Camelid and cervid animals:

Operators keeping camelid or cervid animals must keep records as laid out in Article 102 (1) of Regulation (EU) 2016/429 and Article 22 of Regulation (EU) 2019/2035. In addition, they must meet certain national record keeping requirements. The records must be kept for at least 10 years.

Kept camelids and cervid animals must be identified by conventional ear tags in accordance with Article 73 of Regulation (EU) 2019/2035. By February 2023 no other

means of identification than conventional ear tags have been approved for these species. The ear tags must be applied to kept camelids within 20 days after birth, but in any case before the animals are moved from the establishment of birth. Kept cervid animals must be tagged within 9 months after birth, but in any case before the animals are moved from the establishment of birth or the first establishment they came to after being wild animals.

If camelid or cervid animals are sold/transferred from one operator to another and moved to another establishment in Norway or moved to Norway from another EEA-state, certain national provisions regarding additional tagging with a white or a salmon red ear tag apply.

Kept reindeer:

By way of derogation from Article 73 of Regulation (EU) 2019/2035, kept reindeer may 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.

Control of the identification and registration of animals

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 Regulation (EC) No 1082/2003 and Regulation (EC) No 1505/2006, pending Regulation (EU) 2022/160 being incorporated in the EEA-agreement.

Animal health controls – terrestrial animals

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 in cattle;
- 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 1 or List 2 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.

Table 3 *List of diseases (2023) that must be either immediately notified to the competent authority (List 1 and List 2) or reported (List 3) as soon as practical possible if suspected or diagnosed.*

List 1	List 2	List 3
African horse sickness (AHS) African swine fever (ASF) Avian influenza (AI) Bluetongue Brucellosis Ebola hemorrhagic fever and Marburg hemorrhagic fever Epizootic haemorrahgic disease of deer (EHD)	Avian chlamydiosis Echinococcosis/hydatidosis Infectious bovine rhinotracheitis Infectious pustular vulvovaginitis (IBR/IPV) Transmissible spongiform encephalopathy (TSE), including Chronic wasting disease Paratuberculosis John's disease Q-fever Salmonellosis Scabies psoroptica in ovine, caprine and camelidae Surra	Equine coital exanthema Equine influenza Equine rhinopneumonitis Contagious equine metritis (CEM) Equine viral artheritis (EVA) Bovine cysticercosis Schmallenberg Winter dysentery in cattle Contagious respiratory tract infections in bovine animals Streptococcus agalactie in cattle Caseous lymphadenitis in sheep and goats Porcine cysticercosis Porcine respiratory coronavirus infection (PRCV)

☐ Classical swine fever (CSF) ☐ Rinderpest ☐ Lumpy skin disease (LSD) ☐ Anthrax ☐ Foot and mouth disease (FMD) ☐ Newcastle disease (ND) ☐ Dourine ☐ Contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP) ☐ Teschen disease ☐ Aujeszky's disease ☐ Rabies ☐ Rift Valley Fever (RVF) ☐ Sheep and goat pox ☐ Transmissible gastroenteritis of swine (TGE) ☐ Contagious caprine pleuropneumonia (CCPP) ☐ Swine vesicular disease (SVD) ☐ Peste des petits ruminants (PPR) ☐ Glanders ☐ Vesicular stomatitis (VS)	☐ Trichinellosos ☐ Tubercolosis ☐ West Nile fever (WNF) ☐ Equine infectious anaemia (EIA) ☐ Strangles ☐ Equine encephalomyelitis ☐ Bovine genital campylobacteriosis ☐ Bovine spongiform encephalopathy ☐ Trichomonosis in cattle ☐ Bovin viral diarrhoea (BVD) ☐ Livestock associated Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (LA-MRSA) in cattle, ovine, caprine and swine ☐ Enzootic bovin leukosis (EBL) ☐ Leptospirosis in cattle and swine ☐ Mycoplasma bovis ☐ Ringworm in cattle ☐ Border disease (BD) in ovines and caprines ☐ Enzootic abortion of ewes (ovine chlamydiosis) ☐ Infectous foot rot in ovines and caprines ☐ Contagious agalactia in ovines and caprines ☐ Caprine arthritis-encephalitis (CAE) and maedi-visna viral infection ☐ Ovine pulmonary adenocarsinoma ☐ Scrapie ☐ Swine influenza (influensa A virus exept H1N1pdm09) ☐ Porcine enzootic pneumonia ☐ Clostridium perfringens type C infection in swine ☐ Porcine epidemic diarrhoea (PED) ☐ Porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome (PRRS)	☐ Swine influenza (influensa A virus H1N1pdm09) ☐ Infectious bursal disease (IBD) Gumboro disease in poultry ☐ Avian encephalomyelitis (AE) in poultry ☐ Marek's disease (MD) in poultry ☐ Acarapis woodi in bees and bumble bees ☐ Varroa destructor in bees and bumble bees ☐ Infection with Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans (Bsal) ☐ Chlamydia infections in other than ovines, caprines and birds ☐ Cow pox Swine pox ☐ Leptospirosis ☐ Fox encephalitis/hepatitis contagiosa canis (HCC) ☐ Louping ill ☐ Malignant catarrhal fever (MCF) ☐ Parafilariosis ☐ Parvovirus ☐ Pasteurellosis ☐ Rabies in bats ☐ Ringworm in species not on list 2 ☐ Tuberculosis in species not on list 2 ☐ Tularemia ☐ Distemper ☐ Colistin-resistant Enterobacterales, Acinetobacter spp. and Pseudomonas spp. ☐ ESBL/pAmpC betalactamase producing Enterobacterales and Pseudomonas spp. ☐ Carbapenemase producing/Carbapenem-resistant Enterobacterales, Acinetobacter spp. and Pseudomonas spp. ☐ Linezolid-resistant Enterococcus spp. (LRE) ☐ Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) ☐ Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus pseudintermedius (MRSP) ☐ Linezolid-resistant Staphylococcus spp. ☐ Vancomycin-resistant Enterococcus spp. ☐ Fluoroquinolone-resistant Campylobacter spp.

	☐ Avian mycoplasmosis in poultry ☐ Turkey rhinotracheitis (TRT) in poultry ☐ Egg drop syndrome (EDS-76) in poultry ☐ Fowl cholera in poultry ☐ Avian infectious bronchitis (IB) in poultry ☐ Avian infectious laryngotracheitis (ILT) in poultry ☐ Avian paramyxovirus infection (except Newcastle disease) in poultry ☐ Tubercolosis in poultry ☐ Duck virus enteritis (DVE) in poultry ☐ Duck virus hepatitis (DVH) in poultry ☐ Aethina tumida in bees and bumble bees ☐ Paenibacillus larvae in bees and bumble bees ☐ Aspergillus flavus, A. fumigatus eller A. niger in bees and bumble bees ☐ Tropilaelaps ssp. in bees and bumble bees ☐ Melissococcus plutonius in bees and bumble bees ☐ Monkey Pox ☐ European brown hare syndrom ☐ Leishmaniose in dogs, cats, kept foxes and minks ☐ Leptospirosis in dogs, cats, kept foxes and minks ☐ Myxomatosos in dogs, cats, kept foxes and minks ☐ Ringworm in dogs, cats, kept foxes and minks ☐ SARS Covid 19 in dogs, cats, kept foxes and minks ☐ Sarcopic mange in foxes	

	□ Rabbit haemorrarhagisc disease (RHD) □ Parvovirus enteritis in dogs, cats, kept foxes and minks	

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 6 April 2022 No. 631 on Animal Health (the Animal Health Regulation). The regulation requires veterinarians and laboratories to immediately notify the NFSA if list 1 and list 2 diseases are suspected. Reporting procedures between the two administrative levels of the NFSA are described in contingency plans/instructions for list 1 and list 2 diseases for terrestrial animals . If an list 1 or an list 2 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 (WOAH), ESA and the European Commission, but this is not required if it is only a preliminary finding.

If a list 1 or list 2 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 WOAH, 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 (NVI) immediately reports laboratory findings that indicate occurrences of list 1 and list 2 diseases and rare agents not previously detected in Norway to the NFSA. Negative test results on samples taken if list 1 or list 2 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 Regulation (EU) 2020/2002 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 Information System (ADIS) in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2020/2002.

As member of the WOAH, Norway also reports outbreaks of animal diseases to the WOAH 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/overvaking

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 University of Life Science 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 6 April 2022 No. 631 on Animal Health (the Animal Health Regulation), Regulation 6 April 2022 No. 632 supplementing the Animal Health Regulation as regards requirements for notification, reporting, surveillance, eradication programmes, and disease-free status for certain listed and emerging diseases (the Animal Health Surveillance Regulation) and Regulation 6 April 2022 No. 634 supplementing the Animal Health Regulation as regards requirements for prevention and control of contagious diseases (the Animal Disease Control Regulation). These regulations establish 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 1 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 1 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 2 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 2 disease has been confirmed. Slaughterhouses, dairies, semen collection centres, animal transporters etc. may be ordered to implement control measures.

Official controls of germinal product establishments (semen collection/storage centres, embryo collection/production teams and processing establishments) and breeding organisations.

Norwegian germinal product establishments are registered by the NFSA. If products from these establishments are exported to other countries, the establishment needs to be approved by the NFSA. Germinal product establishments are approved by the regional offices of the NFSA. Approved establishments are assigned an approval number. Official controls of these establishments are carried out by regional level of the NFSA.

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 level and it is also responsible for issuing guidelines.

Semen collection centres for bovine and porcine animals are inspected by an official veterinarian at least twice a year, while other germinal product establishments are inspected at least once a year in accordance with the provisions of Regulation (EU) 2022/160.

Disease free status for terrestrial and aquatic animal diseases

Disease free status in accordance with the EEA-legislation
Norway has disease free status for all the diseases of terrestrial animals listed in List 1-disease (see table 3). These diseases correspond to category A-diseases in the EEA-legislation This status is documented by our surveillance system, see description in the relevant paragraph «Active and passive surveillance».

In addition, Norway has an official disease free status of several of the diseases categorised as category B-diseases and C-diseases of terrestrial animals and aquatic animals in accordance to the EEA-legislation. These disease free statuses are given a college-decision, please see link: https://www.eftasurv.int/internal-market/food-safety/food-safety-decisions

Officially disease free status according to EEA-legislation (Regulation (EU) 2020/689)			
Terrestrial animal diseases		**Aquatic animal diseases**	
Disease	**Territory**	**Disease**	**Territory**
Brucella abortus, B. melitensis and *B. suis* in	Whole territory	Viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS)	Whole territory, with the exception of the Norwegian part of the

bovine, ovine and caprine animal populations			catchment areas of Grense Jacobselv and Pasvik river and the rivers in between and the associated coastal region (Zone).
Mycobacterium tuberculosis complex (*M. bovis, M. caprae* and *M. tuberculosis)* (MTBC)	Whole territory	Infectious haematopoietic necrosis (IHN)	Whole territory, with the exception of the Norwegian part of the catchment areas of Grense Jacobselv and Pasvik river and the rivers in between and the associated coastal region (Zone).
Rabies virus	Whole territory	*Marteilia refringens*	Zone: the entire coastline of Norway, with the exception of the containment area in the municipality of Bømlo in the County of Vestland in southern Norway.
Enzootic bovine leukosis (EBL)	Whole territory	*Bonamia ostreae*	Zone: The entire coastline of Norway, with the exception of the County of Aust-Agder in southern Norway.
Infectious bovine rhinotracheitis/infectious pustular vulvovaginitis (IBR/IPV)	Whole territory		
Aujeszky's disease virus (ADV)	Whole territory		
Newcastle disease virus without vaccination	Whole territory		

Disease free status in accordance with the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH)

Norway is a WOAH-member and has a recognised disease free status for several diseases listed by the organisation.

Disease free status in accordance with the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH)
African horse sickness
Negligible BSE risk status
Classical swine fever
Foot and mouth disease without vaccination
Pestes petites ruminants (PPR)

Aquaculture animals

The NFSA head office is responsible for legislation, official control, and surveillance on health for wild aquatic and aquaculture animals, and animal welfare for farmed fish.

The NFSA cooperates with the Directorate of Fisheries on approvals of aquaculture establishments and official controls by joint inspection and audit teams. The NFSA also cooperates with private fish health services in the control and surveillance of listed diseases in aquaculture establishments.

Official controls and surveillance on health and welfare for wild aquatic and aquaculture animals are carried out by the regional level in accordance with regulations and decisions adopted by NFSA head office.

Animal welfare is regulated by the Animal Welfare act and animal health by the Food Law Act. Norway has implemented EUs welfare regulations for fish in aquaculture. Council Directive 98/58 on protection of animals kept for farming purposes, article 3, Regulation (EC) nr. 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport, and regulation (EC) 1099/2009 on the protection of animals at the time of killing, article 3. In addition, Norway has national regulations in all these ereas.

Norway has ratified The European Convention for the protection of animals kept for farming purposes with recommendation concerning farmed fish and transposed its requirements in national legislation.

In April 2022 Norway implemented regulation 2016/429 Animal Health Law (AHL) together with the Commissions implementing and delegated supplementing

regulations. Norway has some additional or more stringent national regulations than required by EEA legislation on health for aquatic animals.

National additional regulation on registration and identification

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.

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).

Norway also requires that an internal control system shall be in place to ensure that all legal requirements on animal health and welfare are implemented in the establishment including a contingency plan, risk based medical examinations, maintaining of good water quality and log-keeping, can be complied with.

The aquaculture establishment must be able to ensure sound welfare and a good aquatic habitat for the aquatic animals. 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.

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 wastewater from aquaculture-related activities.

National additional regulation on movement controls

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 regional level has the competence to authorise and withdraw authorisation for transporting aquaculture animals. 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 compartments and movements between infected and non-infected farms are regulated by procedures to reduce the probability for spreading disease.

Transport routes of infected live fish must 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.

National additional regulation on health controls

Own check controls

According to the Norwegian regulation relating to operation of aquaculture establishment the operator shall ensure that risk-based supervision is carried out on 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. Based on 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 listed diseases must be investigated. 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 is notified immediately if there is:

- unexplained increased mortality,
- reason to suspect listed diseases, or
- other factors which have led to significant repercussions in terms of fish welfare, including disease, injury, or failure.

There are requirements for weekly reporting of mortality, from aquaculture establishment during an outbreak of listed diseases. Sea lice *(Lepeophtheirus salmonis)* levels are reported weekly.

In addition to listed diseases in AHL there is a national list for aquatic diseases.

Aquatic diseases	***National disease* category**	**Susceptible species**
Bacterial kidney disease (BKD),	F	All species of Salmonidae
Infection with *Gyrodactylus salaris(GS)*	F	(*Salmo salar*), (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), (*Salvelinus alpinus*), (*Salvelinus fontinalis*), (*Thymallus thymallus*), (*Salvelinus namaycush*) (*Salmo trutta*)
Nodavirus Viral nervous necroise (VNN)/Viral encephalo- og retinopathyi (VER)	F	Marin fish
(*Aeromonas salmonicida* subsp. *salmonicida*)	F	All species of Salmonidae
Infection with *Salmonid alphavirus (SAV)*	F	(*Salmo salar*), (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) (*Salmo trutta*)
Systemic infection with *Flavobacterium psychrophilum*	F	(*Oncorhynchus mykiss*)
(*Francisella sp.*)	F	(*Gadus morhua*)
Infection with (*Aphanomyces astaci*)	F	Fresh water crayfish
Lepeophtheirus salmonis	F	All species of Salmonidae

2.2. Control system for food of animal origin

Competent Authorities

The NFSA 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, fish processing plants and vessels, control of live bivalve molluscs and primary production of terrestrial animals.

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 regional level. The regional offices 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 official 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.

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 (EU) 2017/625. The approval numbers for FBOs are issued by the NFSA.

Food business operators that handle food of animal origin, and that mainly supply the final consumer, may also supply other retailers without any approval if the suppliance is in accordance with national regulations for marginal, localised and restricted activity

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 in slaughterhouses

In general the official veterinarians and official auxiliary staff carry out official controls at slaughterhouses. In poultry meat production official veterinarians, auxiliaries or the slaughterhouse staff carry out general controls at post mortem. It's only official veterinarians who perform ante-mortem control. The inspectors register their findings and conclusions, such as follow-up on non-compliances, in the system and finally MATS generates a report based on that input. The report is sent electronically to the FBO concerned. Templates and guidelines are available in MATS for the different types of inspections. They include instructions on how to prepare, conduct and report an inspection. 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. The surveillance program includes tests on feed, live swine and poultry, tests of lymph nodes of cattle and swine at the slaughterhouses and tests of meat scrapings of cattle and swine at cutting plants. All largescale poultry flocks are tested before entering the slaughterhouses and the swine flocks on top of the breeding pyramids are tested regularly. There are strict measures for biosecurity in poultry, swine and cattle holdings. This extensive testing documents our very low prevalence of salmonella in cattle, swine and poultry, most years below 0,01%. 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:

Campylocacter

- The monitoring of Campylobacter is part of the control system for food of animal origin. The objective is to reduce the human exposure to thermophilic Campylobacter spp. through Norwegian broiler meat products. The surveillance program for Campylobacter spp. in broiler flocks in Norway, is a national action plan with specific mitigation measures targeting Campylobacter spp. in gallus gallus slaughtered at a maximum age of 50 days. The surveillance of Campylobacter in poultry is carried out from May 1st to October 31st each year, as part of the monitoring and control program.
- NFSA have published a guidance document for the industry on how they can make sure that they comply with annex I chapter II number 2.1.9 in regulation (EU) nr 2073/2005.
- The producers who are a part of the action plan "*The surveillance program for Campylobacter spp. in broiler flocks in Norway",* are exempt from the requirements in annex I chapter II number 2.1.9. The rationale behind the exemption for the summer period and winter period is that all these flocks are sampled on the farm from May to October, which is the peak season for Campylobacter. Previous tests have shown that only 1% of flocks are infected with Campylobacter during the winter months in Norway. Further reduction, through sampling, during the winter season is difficult and cannot be achieved without using disproportionately large resources.

- The use of vaccines is forbidden at all levels.

Salmonella

- For poultry, the focus of the risk management is at the point of primary production and the animal feed industry. Thus, the control of Salmonella in eggs and poultry meat is ensured by preventing and controlling Salmonella in laying hens and broilers.
- 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 NFSA head office is responsible for coordinating veterinary import control of products of animal origin (POA) and live animals from third countries by the border control posts (BCPs).

Competent authorities

The Border Control and Fraud unit at the NFSA's head office is the national contact point for TRACES and iRASFF, not only for the European Commission, but also within the NFSA. All the BCPs have access to and use TRACES and they can have a reader access to the iRASFF database.

BCP, TRACES and iRASFF manuals are produced by the unit, in addition to the European Commission guidelines. 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 Border Control and Fraud unit 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. Ten of the BCPs are run by an official veterinarian (OV), while the other four, 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 Border Control and Fraud unit and subsequently entered on the national list of approved signatories, in order to issue Common Health Entry Documents (CHEDs). Prior to approval, there must be 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 (POA) 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 POA 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 Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/632 and Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/630, which is implemented in (NO) Regulation of 2 June 2022 No 1010 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 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 feedingstuffs and animal nutrition

Competent Authorities and official controls

The NFSA head office is responsible for the implementation and enforcement of EEA feedingstuff legislation, as well as having overall responsibility for the implementation of controls. Official controls of feed business operators are carried out by the regions of the NFSA using a risk-based approach. Every year, the head office issues instructions to the regional offices 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 (EU) 2019/2004 (medicated feed) and Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 (TSE). 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 on site visits and is performed by the regional departments.

Feed business operators producing medicated feed are approved and subject to official control by NFSA. Only Veterinary Medicinal Products that fall under the medicinal form "premix for use in medicated feed" holding a marketing approval from the Norwegian Medicinal Agency for use in medicated feed may be used.

Lists of registered and approved operators are generated automatically from MATS and updated daily. The lists are available on the NFSA website.

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 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.

2.5. Control system for Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy (TSE)

Competent authorities

The NSFA head office is responsible for epidemiological surveillance and national control programmes for TSE, and for maintenance of these programmes and their implementation. The NSFA's regional level are responsible for implementing TSE controls in accordance with instructions, standard operating procedures (SOPs), sampling plans and supervisory procedures. NFSA has an agreement with Biosirk Norge AS. Biosirk collects 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.

Epidemiological surveillance

The (NO) Regulation 6 April 2022 No. 631 on Animal Health (the Animal Health Regulation) requires veterinary practitioners to give notification of any clinically suspect animal they come across in their practice. This regulation also gives 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.
- all ovine and caprine animals over 18 months of age subject to special emergency slaughter

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 substantially. 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 also included the EU-programme Regulation (EU) No. 2017/1972.

- All fallen stock older than 1 year all over the country are included in the programme;
- The surveillance of hunted cervids (moose, red deer) is more intensive in the municipalities close to the Nordfjella and Hardangervidda region where CWD has been found;
- All wild reindeer areas are included in the programme;
- All imported deer animals irrespective of age;
- Semi-domesticated reindeer: NFSA performs testing at all slaughterhouses. In general, animals older than 2 years are tested. In Finnmark county and in Trøndelag and Innlandet county,the testing is reduced to 10 percent due to the health situation. In the CWD neighbouring areas, the semi-domestic reindeer over 1 year are tested. ;
- All flocks with farmed red deer are included in the programme. Animals older than 2 years are tested.

The NFSA, together 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 NFSA 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 ABP establishments is generally carried out by the regions/local departments.

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

Approval of ABP plants

Standardised procedures for approval are in place through MATS. Only those establishments that fall under the scope of Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009 art 24 are approved i.e. storage plants, intermediate plants, processing plants, biogas plants composting and petfood plants in addition to some incineration plants. 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 apply for approval, which is followed by inspections before approval is given.

A list of approved and registered ABP plants is compiled and published 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 unit 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 16.09.2022 and the Regulation of veterinary medicinal products of September 2022 No. 1573, amended 1 January 2023. 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 VMPs 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. The marketing authorisation holder shall record, at least annually, all results and outcomes of the signal management process, including a conclusion on the benefit-risk balance. The outcome of the signal

management process 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

Wholesalers are inspected every three to five years, frequency depending on a risk assessment based on activities and inspection outcome. 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 practicing veterinarians who purchase VMPs from wholesalers or pharmacies for use in their own practice. Pharmacies are subject to inspection every four to ten years. Checklists are used during the inspection of retailers.

Medicated feed controls

The production and distribution of medicated feed is permitted in Norway. Official control of medicated feed based on MA-holding premixes, is the responsibility of NFSA. Feed with other pharmaceutical forms can be allowed on a case by case basis. Feed containing other pharmaceutical forms is still within NoMAs area of responsibility. The preparation of medicated feed shall only be performed by feed business operators approved by the NFSA 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 head office. Inspectors at the NFSA's regions are responsible for the sampling.

Private veterinary practitioners (PVPs) and farms

The regional level of 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.

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 under supervision of a veterinarian. 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

The NFSA head office is responsible for control plans regarding residues of veterinary medicinal products (VMPR). The control plan on VMPR is based on total national production and the requirements of regulations (EU) 2022/1644 and 2022/1646. The control plan and the results of its implementation are submitted annually to EFSA. The control plan is reviewed and evaluated annually. The sampling is risk based according to the legislation.

Follow up of non-compliant results from official samples

The analytical results from the laboratories are reported to NFSAs local department that has taken the samples. In the case of non-compliant results, the local department will follow up in accordance with the instructions from the head office. The head office receives a copy of all the results and monitors that the results are followed up.

The plans are to be submitted annually to EFSA by April 1st. The results are submitted annually to EFSA on a SSD2 format by 30th June.

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 contaminants in food

The NFSA head office is responsible for control plans regarding contaminants in food.

The control plan is based on total national production and the requirements of regulations (EU) 2022/931 and 2022/932. The results are submitted annually to EFSA. The control plans are reviewed and evaluated annually. The sampling is risk based according to the legislation.

Follow up of non-compliant results from official samples

The analytical results from the laboratories 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. The head office receives a copy of all the results and monitors that the results are followed up.

The plans are to be submitted annually to EFSA by March 31st. The results are submitted annually to EFSA on a SSD2 format by 30th June.

2.9 Control system for foodstuffs and food hygiene

Competent Authorities

The NFSA 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.

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

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. The inspections/audits sometimes involve sampling and labelling.,

About 8,000 of the registered food operators are restaurants. From January 2016, a scheme involving a grading system using a 5-tier smiley figure 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 have so far not been risk-based. Establishments in the food and beverage service industry that fall under this scheme used to be inspected every twelve

months regardless of risk. For the year 2023 the establishments with the best results (three big smiles during the last five years) will not have any inspections unless there are other indications for it. This is a temporary measure while a more permanent system for risk basing the smiley inspections is developed.

Establishments that got a poor score can also request a new inspection after rectification of the non-conformities..

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. Directive 98/83/EC has been replaced by directive (EU) 2020/2184 on the quality of water intended for human consumption, and the Norwegian regulations on drinking water will be in accordance with the requirements of the new directive by the time it is implemented into the EEA-agreement. 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 (iRASFF)

The national contact point (NCP) for iRASFF is the Border Control and Fraud unit at the NFSA's head office. The NCP has a staff of four 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 iRASFF 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 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. Norway also participates in Heads of Agencies working group for e-commerce and recently joined the HoA working group for Food Fraud.

The NFSA was project manager for the Nordic Threat Assessment for Food Fraud, published via the Nordic Ministers Council publishing site. The Norwegian threat assessment prepared for that publication is the basis for NFSAs 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”.

2.10 Control system for imports of food of non-animal origin

The NFSA is responsible for import controls of food of non-animal origin in cooperation with the Customs Service.

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 through the TRACES system. 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 NFSA head office implements and follows up the EEA legislation for risk products of non-animal origin laid down in Regulation (EU) 2017/625 Articles 47 and 54 and other regulations concerning safeguard measures.

Products regulated through EEA safeguard measures, such as Regulation (EU) 2019/1793 or other regulations, can only be imported through a Border Control Post (BCP). In Norway there are five BCPs that can receive food of non-animal origin: Oslo Port, Borg Port, Larvik Port, Oslo Airport and Haugesund Port. 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 NFSA head office issues guidelines and instructions for the local departments.

2.11 Control system for plant protection products (PPP)

Competent Authorities

The NFSA is the designated CA for plant protection product (PPP) and is responsible for the authorisation of PPPs, implementation of controls of marketing and use of PPPs, pesticide residues and controls of the sustainable use of pesticides.

PPPs on the Norwegian market are authorised by the National Registration Department at the NFSA. Prior to authorisation, the National Registration Department carries out an extensive evaluation of the PPPs. This evaluation includes evaluations of the physical and chemical properties, the efficacy, the analytical methods, mammalian toxicology, metabolism and residues in food and feed, environmental fate, ecotoxicology and an assessment of the relevance of metabolites in the groundwater. 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 for non-professional use, is about 740. 440 of these are only selling PPPs for non-professional use.

Official control of marketing and use is carried out by inspectors from the NFSA's regional level. Controls are undertaken in all regions of the country. The controls are carried out according to a multi-annual control plan 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 is detected, the certification of professional users will be revoked.

Inspection of pesticide application equipment

Inspection of PPP application equipment is based on the European standards *Agricultural and forestry machinery – Inspection of sprayers in use* (EN ISO 16122 1 to 5). 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 29 400 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 regional level.

2.12 Control system for pesticide residues

NFSA is responsible for legislation and official control of pesticide residues in general.

Official control of residues

Sampling and monitoring plans

NFSA is responsible for interpreting legislation and developing control plans. It coordinates the surveillance programme for pesticides in food, guidelines and instructions for the regional level 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 and in Regulation (EU) 2017/625.

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. Norway (NFSA) also carries out an annual national control programme for pesticide residues in food.

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. Minimum requirements for national control programs are regulated in regulation (EU) 2017/625 article 19 and the implementing regulation (EU) 2021/1355. 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.

2.13 Control system for animal welfare

The NFSA is responsible for the control and monitoring of animal welfare. The regional level are responsible for controls relating to animal welfare. In accordance with the Animal Welfare Act, animal welfare committees assist the local departments at the regional level. 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

Ideally, all animal species and types of farming systems should be inspected during the year, but this is not realistic or possible due to staff resources. It is therefore necessary to prioritise quite strictly. According to the current annual control plan, the regions shall prioritise the following animal welfare inspections: a) holdings with repeated breaches and persistently poor animal welfare and b) notices of concern from meat inspection, public or others. 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 regions are instructed to select farms in line with the annual control plan. If they perform any additional animal inspections, these are risk based, i.e. holdings where infringements of animal welfare regulations are likely, will be inspected more often than others. 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.

2.14 Control system for organic production

Control system for organic production

The NFSA head office is the competent authority for organic production in Norway. Norway implemented Regulation (EU) 2018/848 and the corresponding secondary acts in the (NO) Regulation 11 June 2022 No. 1171 on Organic Production, see Forskrift om økologisk produksjon og merking av økologiske landbruksprodukter, akvakulturprodukter, næringsmidler og fôr m.m. (økologiforskriften) - Lovdata

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: Delegering av myndighet fra Mattilsynet til Debio etter økologiforskriften - Lovdata Debio carries out physical inspections of organic operators according to Regulation (EU) 2018/848, art. 38.3.

The Norwegian Food Safety Authority has the responsibility for supervisory activities for evaluation of Debio. The supervisory activities are based on the requirements in Regulation (EU) 2018/848, especially Article 40. 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 as observers on audits done by the accreditation body Norsk Akkreditering. 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 Instruks til Debio og det regionale Mattilsynet om utøvelse av delegert myndighet etter økologiforskriften - Lovdata

Import controls

The NFSA has the responsibility for performing the import controls of organic products, and the regional endorsing authority has developed internal procedures for such controls. The NFSA performs documentary control and endorsement of Certificate of Inspection (COI) in the TRACES for all imported consignments. In addition, the inspectors decide based on risk evaluation the necessity to perform an identity or physical control of the delivery. The import controls are ensured either at the Border Control Post or at the point of first consignee before free circulation of the organic products. This depends on the category of products according to Regulation (EU) 2021/2305.

The obligation to follow the system of Certificate of Inspection (COI) in TRACES is fulfilled by the NFSA. The CCA (Central Competent Authority) in Norway approves the access to TRACES 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 TRACES.

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 by Debio is based on data from EU and the OFIS database (Organic Farming Information System) 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 are given priority when the sampling plan is developed.

In addition, samples of feed and occasionally fish are taken from producers of organic fish and organic fish feed. 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.

In addition, samples can 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 The (NO) Regulation 11 June 2022 No. 1171 on Organic Production § 5, Regulation (EU) 2018/848, art. 34 and 35.8 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 has been placed in the regional offices of NFSA.

The inspectors in the NFSA have 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; The Greater Oslo Region. This region is handling authorisations regarding:

- tethering of cattle in farms with a maximum of 50 animals ((EU) 2018/848, Art 14 nr. 1, Annex II, Part II: 1.7.5)
- use of non-organic protein feed for a limited period for piglets up to 35 kg and young poultry ((EU) 2018/848, Art 14 nr. 1, Annex II, Part II, 1.9.3.1 c and 1.9.4.2. c)
- renewal or major extension of the herd or flock with non-organic animals ((EU) 2018/848, Art 14 nr. 1, Annex II, Part II, 1.3.4.4.2 and 1.3.4.4.3)
- dehorning ((EU) 2018/848, Art 14 nr. 1, Annex II, Part II, 1.7.8.)
- use of non-organic food ingredients of agricultural origin for a limited period ((EU) 2018/848, Art 25)
- retroactive recognition of conversion periods ((EU) 2018/848 Art 10 nr. 3 and (EU) 2020/464 Art 1)

- derogations for a limited period after recognition of catastrophic circumstances ((EU) 2020/2146, Art 1, 2 og 3)

The regional office of The Greater Oslo Region 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
ADIS	Animal Diseases Information System
BCP	Border Control Post
CCA	Central Competent Authority
CHED	Common Health Entry Document
CVO	Chief Veterinary Officer
Debio	Control body for organic certification
EA	European Accreditation
EC	European Community
EEA	European Economic Area
EFTA	European Free Trade Association
EN ISO	International Standards Organisation
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
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
MANCP	Multi-Annual National Control Plan
MATS	Electronic operating system for official control
MDS	Goal and Budget Letter

ACRONYM/ ABBREVIATION	DESCRIPTION
MRL	Maximum Residue Level
MS	Member State
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
OV	Official Veterinarian
POA	Products of Animal Origin
PNAO	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 for Food and Environment
WOAH	World Organisation for Animal Health