Competent authority

Food and Veterinary Service

Republic of Latvia

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Food and Veterinary Service

Established in 2002, as the result of joining together of Veterinary service, Food quality control service and Sanitary Border Inspection

Developed and introduced Quality management system according to ISO 9001:2000 - in 2005

Food and veterinary Service is competent to carry out inspections as A group inspection institution accoring to requirements of standard LVS EN ISO/IEC 17020 in the area of sanitary border control and in the area of official control of food safety ensurance systems in food enterprises
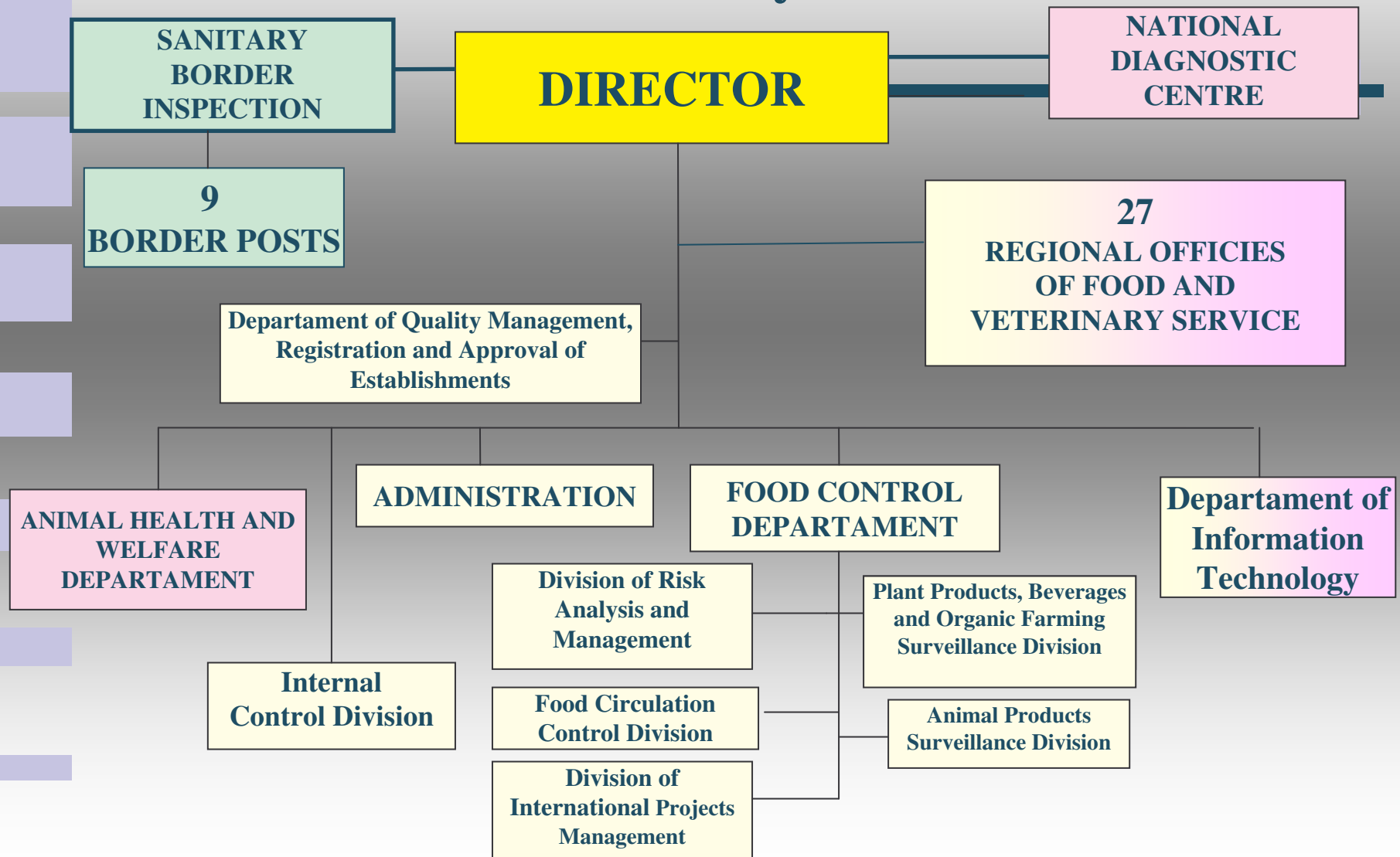
Responsibilities
of Food and Veterinary Service

In food area

- Supervision and control of food products through all food chain

- Supervision and control of activities and processes, carried out by food enterprises

- Risk analyses and risk management activities

- Competent authority in organic farming area

- Authorization of food supplements, mineral water

- Reference laboratory

- Laboratory testing

Structure
Food and Veterinary Service

PVD
PĀRTIKAS UN VETERINĀRAIS DIENESTS

SANITARY BORDER INSPECTION

DIRECTOR

NATIONAL DIAGNOSTIC CENTRE

9 BORDER POSTS

27 REGIONAL OFFICIES OF FOOD AND VETERINARY SERVICE

Departament of Quality Management, Registration and Approval of Establishments

ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE DEPARTAMENT

ADMINISTRATION

FOOD CONTROL DEPARTAMENT

Departament of Information Technology

Internal Control Division

Division of Risk Analysis and Management

Plant Products, Beverages and Organic Farming Surveillance Division

Food Circulation Control Division

Animal Products Surveillance Division

Division of International Projects Management

Sampling procedure

- The annual program for laboratory control is elaborated by the Risk management division of FVS. This program contains an information about number of samples, type of investigations (chemical, microbiological, radiological etc.) and guidelines for inspectors.

- Program is elaborated according to the following information:

  - results of testing of products during the previous years,

  - scientific information provides by EU Food Safety Agency;

  - reports of RASSF;

  - complaints of Latvian inhabitants;

- Additional samples are taken in case of emergency and complains

- Testing of all samples is done in the National Diagnostic Centre

Rapid alert system

- ◆ Latvia is included in Rapid alert system since 01.05.2004.

- ◆ The RASF national contact point is in FVS structure. The management of RASSF National contact point is done by the Risk Management division of FVS.

- ◆ NCP is responsible for the distribution of information:

- from Member State to the the CP of European Commission

- from CP of EU to the responsible structural units of the Member State

Procedure for the identification of the risk

♦ Information in form of RASSF notifications is received from the Member States of EC;

♦ Notifications forms is compiled in case non-compliant results are obtained in Latvia. In this case notification forms are filled by inspectors of FVS or Border inspection. These forms further are sent to the Risk management division. .

How information is received by involved structural units

- Risk management division of FVS receives notification and performes the analysis of the obtained information.

- Reports are sent to the responsible unit of FVS.

- Experts of responsible FVS unit evaluate the information and send report to the regional unit of FVS

- The responsible inspector of regional unit of FVS performs an inspection and informs involved institutions about the case.

- In some cases an information about the non-compliant samples is placed on the web-page of FVS.

Decisions made in case of non-compliant samples

- In case non-compliant samples is still located in the enterprise inpectors orders to stop its circulation.

- In case the product is placed in the shops the involved enterprise should recall the product.

- Enterprise could provide the information about the non-compliant product to the mass media

Further actions with the product

- After recall of the product an enterprise should decide about the further actions regarding the product:
- to destroy the product;
- to send the products back to the State of origin of the third country observing the requirement of EU Regulation No.882/2004.
- The documental proofs of the actions should be submitted to the inspector of responsible regional unit of FVS
- The inspector of FVS informs the Risk Management division about the undertaken actions.
- In case of necessity the FVS Risk Management division compiles the notification and sends it to the EC.