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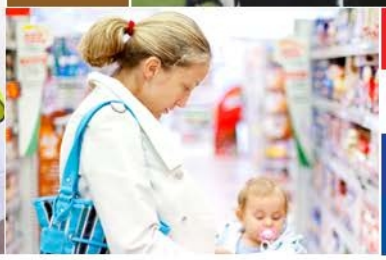

NETHERLANDS

DG Health and Food Safety

COUNTRY PROFILE
Organisation of Official Controls

Health and Food Safety

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INTRODUCTION

This overview has been drawn up by the Health and Food Audits and Analysis Directorate of the Health and Food Safety Directorate General (DG SANTE) of the European Commission based on information supplied by the Netherlands.

The aim is to present, in summary form, the latest information on how control systems for food and feed safety, animal health, animal welfare and plant health are organised in the Netherlands.

- Chapter 1 describes the overall organisation of the Netherlands authorities and the respective responsibilities of the ministries and government agencies in relation to the different components of the control system. A chart is used to help the reader better understand the inter-relationships between the responsibilities of the different bodies.

- Chapter 2 gives a more detailed description of the main responsibilities for each of the eleven separate systems that form the complete range of control systems in the Netherlands, covering the whole chain of plant, animal and food production. As in Chapter 1, organisation charts are used to help the reader.

The overview was updated following the most recent general follow-up audit in September 2016 and will be updated at regular intervals based on relevant information received by the Commission from the Netherlands authorities.

Acronyms are used extensively throughout this overview for the sake of brevity. A list of acronyms, abbreviations and special terms is given in Annex I as a guide for the reader.

SUMMARY

The Ministries of the Netherlands with competence for food and feed safety, animal health and welfare and plant health are structured in a centralised manner and direct their policies through a number of agencies and bodies with mostly regional implementation.

The main ministries involved are: the Ministry of Economic Affairs and the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sports.

Dutch legislation provides for the establishment of autonomous management agencies – independent administrative bodies to implement specific tasks in the public interest. They are under external controls of the Ministry concerned but are competent for making independent and sector specific decisions.

The main implementing agencies reporting to the Ministries mentioned above are: the Netherlands Food and Consumer Products Safety Authority and the Netherlands Enterprise Agency.

A number of independent administrative public bodies carrying out official controls function under scrutiny of the Netherlands Food and Consumer Products Safety Authority (see section: Designation of competent authorities).

The most recent version of multi-annual national control plan (MANCP) covers the period 2014-2018.

Arrangements for the implementation of certain requirements of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004

1.1 Designation of competent authorities

The organisation of competent authorities consists of three levels: ministries, agencies and semi-autonomous public bodies.

Ministries are in charge of policy making, drafting legislation and the Community or international bilateral agreements. They act as central competent authorities.

Agencies are in charge of organization of official controls according to the ministries' policies and supervision on independent administrative public bodies. Agencies act as competent authorities centrally located in the country.

Independent administrative public bodies are in charge of execution of official controls at regional level following the agencies programmes.

The agency is the first instance for administrative decisions on sanctions and enforcement measures but in one area – eggs and milk production, this task lays with one of the independent public bodies (see section 1.2 on COKZ).Two ministries play the main role in the agriculture sector as regards food and feed safety, animal health and welfare and plant health. These are:

- the Ministry of Economic Affairs (Ministerie van Economische Zaken – EZ), and
- the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sports (Ministerie van Volksgezondheid, Welzijn en Sport – VWS).

There are some other ministries that have some limited duties in relation to policy making (including advising) and official controls in the areas mentioned above. These are:

- the Ministry of Finance (Ministerie van Financiën – MF),
- Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment (Ministerie Infrastructuur en Milieu - I&M) and
- the Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment (Ministerie van Sociale Zaken en Werkgelegenheid – SZW).

Two agencies play the main role on implementation of the Ministries' policies; these are:

- the Netherlands Food and Consumer Products Safety Authority (Nederlandse Voedsel- en Warenautoriteit – NVWA), and
- the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (Rijksdienst voor Ondernemend Nederland) RVO.nl).

In the area of organic products, EZ delegated task of official controls and certification of organic companies to a single competent authority – SKAL Biocontrole.

Dutch legislation provides for the establishment of independent administrative public bodies (Zelfstandige Bestuurs Organen – ZBO) to implement specific tasks in the public interest. Such bodies come under the external control of the Ministry concerned but are competent for making independent decisions. ZBO may be either a public body

empowered by a specific law or a private body performing contracted services in the public interest. Decisions made by either type of ZBO have legal effect.

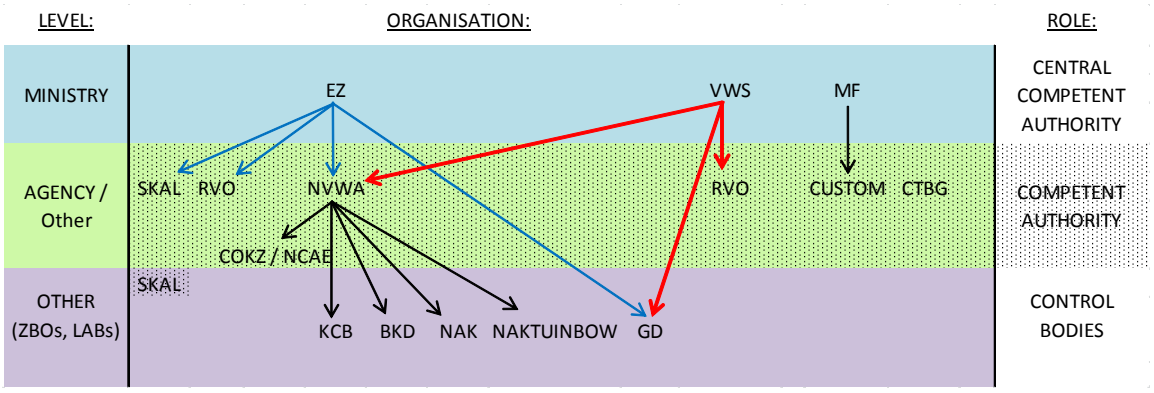
The legal relationship between an implementing body such as NVWA and a specific ZBO is laid down in Dutch legislation, under which the implementing body has to approve the annual programme of the ZBO and must receive all inspection reports. Coordination has been formally established at different levels and procedures are in place to deal with alerts or complaints.

The following independent administrative public bodies, subordinated to NVWA, are in charge of official controls within the agricultural sector:

- the Netherlands Controlling Authority for Milk and Milk Products (Centraal Orgaan voor Kwaliteitsaangelegenheden in de Zuivel – COKZ),
- the Quality Control Bureau (Kwaliteits-Controle-Bureau – KCB),
- the Flower Bulb Inspection Service (Bloembollenkeuringsdienst – BKD),
- the Netherlands General Inspection Service for Agricultural Seeds and Seed Potatoes (Nederlandse Algemene Keuringsdienst voor zaaizaad en pootgoed van landbouwgewassen – NAK), and
- the Netherlands Inspection Service for Horticulture (Nederlandse Algemene Kwaliteitsdienst Tuinbouw – Naktuinbow),

Some additional tasks related to monitoring of animal diseases NVWA delegates also to the Animal Health Service (De Gezondheidsdienst voor Dieren – GD), which is not ZBO but a private official laboratory.

The organigram below presents the links between competent authorities and control bodies.



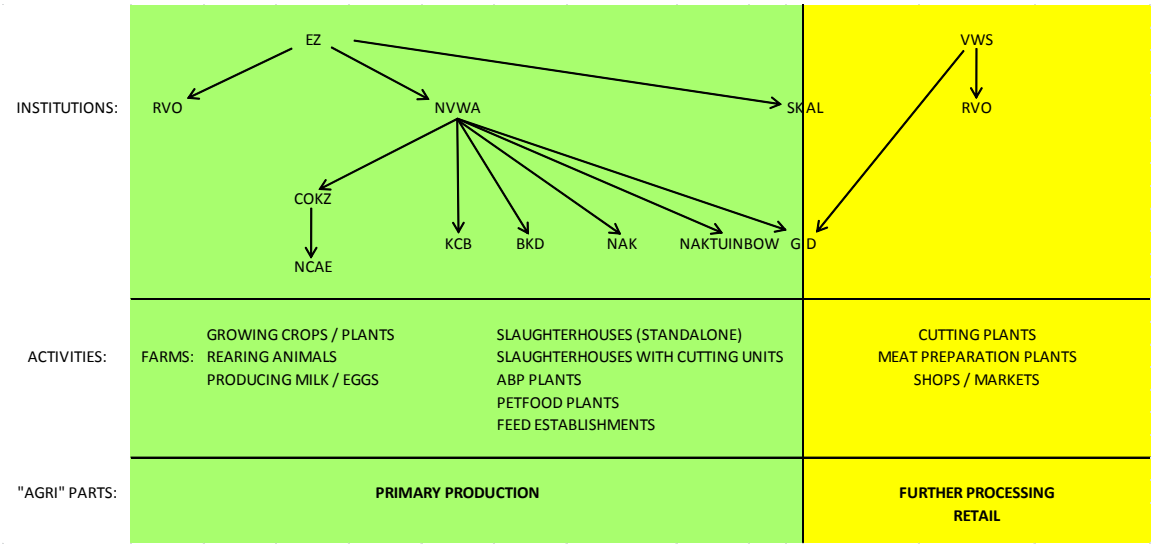
The split of competences, responsibilities and tasks of authorities and control bodies over the whole agricultural sector divides the sector in two parts:

- the part of primary production; it includes arable and animal farms, eggs and milk production farms and standalone slaughterhouses, and
- the part of further processing and retail; it includes slaughterhouses with attached cutting units, standalone cutting plants, meat processing plants, wholesalers, shops and markets.

The competences, responsibilities and tasks mirror the division within the agriculture sector, and are the following:

- EZ, NVWA and ZBOs (subordinated to NVWA) act within the part of primary production,
- VWS and RVO.nl act within the part of further processing and retail.

The organigram below presents the split of competences, responsibilities and tasks within the agricultural sector.



1.2 Description of competent authorities, control bodies and laboratory network

- The Ministry of Economic Affairs (EZ)

The Minister is supported by an Executive Board responsible for long-term policy development, policy implementation and management. The Board comprises the Secretary-General, five Directors-General and the NVWA Inspector-General.

The main departments involved in policy setting and implementation of legislation with relevance to food and feed safety, animal health and welfare and plant health are: Animal Supply Chain and Animal Welfare Department, Plant Supply Chain and Food Quality Department, European Agricultural and Fisheries Policy and Food Security Department and Legislative and Legal Affairs. NVWA and RVO.nl are responsible for the implementation of the Ministry policy.

- The Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sports (VWS)

VWS is responsible for the NVWA consumer health protection activities. It is also responsible for drafting most of the food safety legislation in consultation, as necessary, with EZ and NVWA. The Ministry provides approximately one third of the NVWA budget.

- The Ministry of Finance (MF)

Tasks of the ministry limit to "on-the-field" activities of the Customs services that are part of MF. Customs operate in four customs districts with a centralised management

structure. Customs officers in Rotterdam port are authorised to act as the NVWA personnel as part of their duties. The duties concern border inspection controls over the whole range of products and materials originated or destined to both parts of the agricultural sector.

- The Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority **(NVWA)**

NVWA is an independent agency commissioned by the VWS and the EZ. It is under the administrative responsibility of EZ but functions as an executive delivery body for both Ministries.

The NVWA role is to protect animal and plant health, animal welfare and the safety of food and consumer products. It also verifies rules concerning primary production and thus monitors the whole production chain, from raw materials and processing, to end products and consumption.

The three main tasks of NVWA are supervision, risk assessment and risk communication in the areas of food and product safety. It is also responsible for: incident and crisis management, including animal health and disease control issues, and policy advice to the EZ and VWS. A significant part of its work involves liaising with other ministries and maintaining international contacts.

NVWA consists of seven sectors: five divisions, a staff management and the Office for Risk Assessment & Research program. NVWA has a centralised structure but there are a number of support offices set up to provide office space and equipment for official staff when carrying out tasks in the local areas.

The organization is headed by an Inspector-General (IG). The Inspector General has overall responsibility and is assisted by the Deputy IG. Three divisions are led by chief inspectors. The other sectors are led by a Director. Three divisions are responsible for enforcing. NVWA enforcement puts an emphasis on domains. A domain is an area where specific laws and regulations, policies and sectors / target groups come together.

The domains are linked to the following divisions:

- Veterinary and Import
- Agriculture and Nature
- Consumer and Safety

The core of the domain-oriented divisions is to supervise compliance with all relevant regulations for the domain in the areas food safety, animal welfare, animal feed, plant health, product safety, environmental and European agricultural policy. This includes import and export, inspection, certification (also for import and export), granting approvals and authorizations and tasks in the context of monitoring plants and animals.

Activities carried out by NVWA, including delegated tasks, are the subject of internal reporting to NVWA management and external reporting to the EZ on the implementation of its tasks for the specific year.

NVWA has introduced a new "effective monitoring" approach for the organisation of official controls. Its objective is to reduce the supervisory burden on business through official controls. Thus, the focus is on the highest risk areas and establishments which do

not use approved quality-assurance systems or which systematically show a poor record of compliance.

Two other activities carried out by NVWA resulted in establishing the following

- The Office for Risk Assessment and Research Programming (BURO)

Office for risk assessment and research programming provides independent advice to the Minister and Inspector General about public and animal health risks. The advisory board monitors the scientific quality of risk assessment and their underlying research.

- The Directorate for Criminal Investigations (NVWA-IOD)

Within NVWA a specific directorate is responsible for criminal investigations within the NVWA domains. This directorate works closely together with the police-forces and the official prosecutor.

- The Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO.nl)

RVO.nl focuses on providing services to entrepreneurs. It encourages entrepreneurs in sustainable, agrarian, innovative and international business. It helps with grants, finding business partners, know-how and compliance with laws and regulations. RVO.nl aims to make it easier to do business using smart organisation and digital communication. The Agency works in the Netherlands and abroad with governments, knowledge centres, international organisations and countless other partners.

- SKAL Biocontrole (SKAL)

Skal Biocontrole is designated public control authority in the area of organic products. SKAL role is to ensure the reliability of organic products in the Netherlands.

SKAL monitors and controls the entire organic chain beginning from production, through processing, distribution (including import and export) and the retail.

SKAL carries out inspections and certifies organic operators in the Netherlands. SKAL issues the European organic production logo to the Dutch organic products.

- Product Boards

Since 1 January 2015 Product boards – "statutory trade organisations" that had been authorised by the government to formulate statutory rules in some specific areas of the agricultural sector, have stop their activities. EZ and NVWA overtook the legal tasks of the Boards.

- The Netherlands Controlling Authority for Milk and Milk Products (COKZ)

COKZ is an independent administrative control authority, reporting to NVWA. The authority ensures safety and quality of dairy products produced in the Netherlands. COKZ offers assessment of quality systems and the quality of dairy products in the entire dairy chain, from the raw material until the delivery to the final consumer.

COKZ/NCAE is directly appointed by EZ as the authority responsible for the controls on protected designation of origin (PDO), protected geographical indication (PGI) and traditional specialities guaranteed (TSG) of dairy products in the dairy sector.

- The Animal Health Service (GD)

GD is a private non-profit foundation set up by farmers to eradicate certain animal diseases. It works for EZ on a contract basis, carrying out specific tasks in relation to animal disease monitoring and control programmes, and routine diagnostic laboratory work. GD performs the laboratory test which results are the basis for NVWA certification on the health status of animals and holdings. The Service runs a national database on livestock health status and provides support to NVWA by: participation in expert groups; supplying of additional expert staff to NVWA in the event of animal disease suspicions and outbreaks; provision of autopsy facilities; and transport of post mortem samples.

- The Quality Control Bureau (KCB)

KCB is an independent administrative control body, supervised by EZ and reporting to NVWA. The main task of KCB is to conduct import and export inspections of fresh fruits and vegetables, cut flowers and potted plants / ornamentals *(Note: phytosanitary export inspections and issuing phytosanitary certificates is the task of NVWA)*.

KCB also monitors the quality of fresh fruits and vegetables traded into the Netherlands and carries out controls on PDO, PGI and TSG of fruit and vegetables and potatoes.

- The Flower Bulb Inspection Service (BKD)

BDK is an independent administrative control body, supervised by EZ and reporting to NVWA. BKD is in charge of checks on the quality of all flower bulb crops in the Netherlands (with the exception of Freesia and Nerine) on both quality defects and quarantine pathogens. It also performs import and export inspections and laboratory analyses.

- The Netherlands General Inspection Service for Agricultural Seeds and Seed Potatoes (NAK)

NAK is an independent administrative control body, reporting to NVWA. NAK is in charge of inspections on agricultural seeds and seed potatoes carried out on the request of the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Food Quality (Ministerie van Landbouw, Natuurbeheer en Voedselkwaliteit – LNV). The NAK is an independent organisation, managed by representatives of growers, breeders and traders. The organisation controls the quality requirements for the seed potato that in the Netherlands are far stricter that required by relevant legislation of the European Union.

- The Netherlands Inspection Service for Horticulture (Naktuinbouw)

Naktuinbouw is an independent administrative control body, reporting to NVWA. Naktuinbouw is a Dutch centre of expertise, with primary focus on propagating material used in the horticultural sector. Naktuinbouw acts as a quality inspection service and as a research institute that performs research into varieties, pests and diseases.

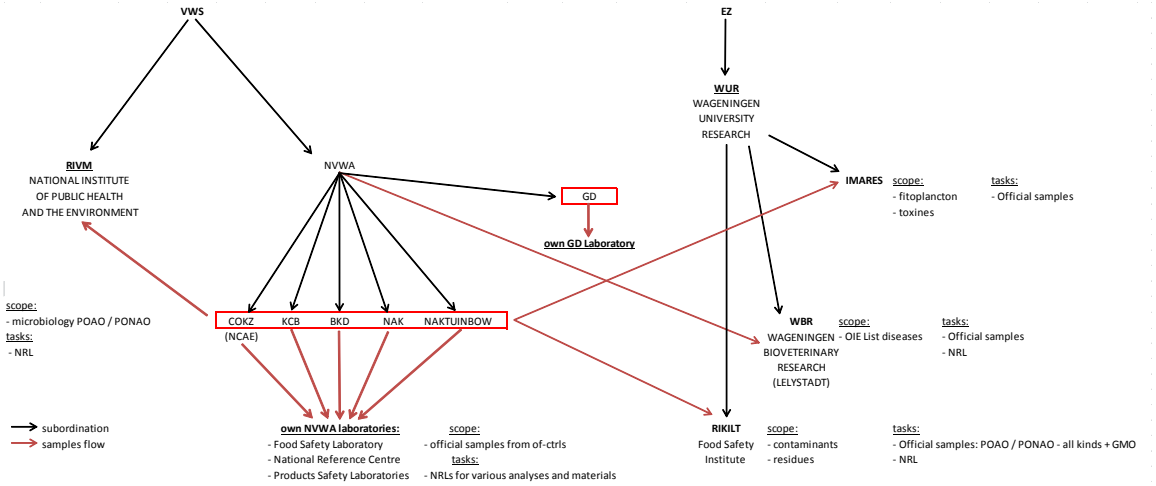
- The Animal Sector Quality Inspection Foundation (KDS)

KDS (Kwaliteitskeuring Dierlijke Sector) is an independent accredited control organisation. Its main activity is to deliver to NVWA official assistants to carry out the post mortem inspections in all red meat slaughterhouses.

KDS also samples of slaughtered cattle for official examination for bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE)

Laboratory network

The chart below presents laboratory network and their subordination to authorities.



- RIKILT Wageningen University & Research (WUR)

RIKILT is part of the international knowledge organisation Wageningen University & Research centre (WUR). As an institute with statutory tasks for the Dutch government RIKILT conducts independent research into the safety, composition and authenticity of primary and processed agricultural products for feed and food and works on detection, functionality and effects of contaminants and other bio-active substances found in feed and food. An important part of this research is carried out for EZ and NVWA.

RIKILT is the National Reference Laboratory (NRL) for milk and milk products, genetically modified organisms, animal proteins, water content of meat and almost all chemical substances related to food and feed safety (e.g. dioxins/PCBs and antibiotics; in total 19 NRL functions). RIKILT is also European Union Reference Laboratory (EURL) for substances with hormonal activity, mycotoxins and sedatives in food of animal origin.

RIKILT uses a wide range of accredited methods in its research and has ISO 17025 and ISO 17043 accreditation.

- Wageningen Bioveterinary Research (WBR)

WBR is placed in Lelystad and consists part of WUR. It is a private research institute performing statutory tasks for the Dutch government and is also the NRL for OIE listed animal diseases and the NRL for Campylobacter. EZ provides main funding to WBR on a contract basis. In return WBR provides specialist diagnostic services to EZ (including NVWA and ZBOs). On-call arrangements are in place to ensure the availability of veterinary specialists and diagnostic teams at all times. The laboratory is accredited to ISO 9001 and most of the diagnostic tests used for foot and mouth disease and classical swine fever are accredited to ISO 17025.

- Animal Health Service laboratory (GD laboratory)

The GD laboratory carries out sample analyses for monitoring programmes assigned by the EZ laboratory which has been accredited by the Dutch National Accreditation Board

(RVA) to ISO 17025. Approximately four million analyses are carried out each year for its customers in both the private and public sectors.

- The National Institute of Public Health and the Environment (RIVM)

RIVM is an agency of VWS and plays a role in the enforcement of food safety legislation by providing specific advice in cases of new risks to public health. RIVM is the NRL for microbiology and the EU reference laboratory for Salmonella. It conducts research which contributes to the formulation of Dutch government policy.

NVWA's laboratory network

- *Food safety laboratory*

NVWA has one food safety laboratory (part of C&V Division) based in Wageningen in the same building as RIKILT. It carries out routine microbiological and chemical analyses for food safety controls. The laboratory operates divided into 7 teams: 3 teams dealing with microbiological issues and 4 teams dealing with chemical issues. The laboratory carries out analyses for all the NVWA Divisions. The laboratory is the NRL for pesticides in fruit and vegetables and cereals.

- *The National Reference Centre for Pests and Diseases of Plants*

The National Reference Centre consists of three sections (Diagnostic methods, Pests and Diseases) each of which is equipped for diagnosis of harmful organisms for plants and plant products. It is also the knowledge centre on diagnosis, taxonomy, biology and ecology of these organisms. The National Reference Centre is based in Wageningen. It covers the following areas: bacteriology, mycology, virology, nematology, entomology, invasive plants and disease vectors.

- *Product safety laboratories*

NVWA has two laboratories dealing with product safety.

One laboratory for chemical and microbiological product safety is based in Groningen. It organises ring tests and prepares reference materials. This laboratory is NRL for food contact materials.

The second laboratory is responsible for consumer product safety analysis for physical, mechanical and electrical aspects and is based in Zwijndrecht.

1.3 Resources for performance of official controls

The NVWA 2015 annual report on implementation of MANCP, in particular its Chapter 2 and Chapter 3, contains information on the number of staff carrying out official controls, running laboratory analyses, etc. The report is available at:

https://english.nvwa.nl/about-us/contents/multi-annual-national-control-plan-mancp

1.4 Organisation and implementation of official controls

Official controls are generally organised on the basis of annual inspection plans. The plans establish the allocation of official controls at different stages of the production chain, and also distribute the number of samples and analyses. The NVWA annual plans

are drawn up taking account of EZ and NVWS allocated budgetary resources. The NVWA Divisions propose project protocols to implement the national control plans. Those agreed projects, which contribute to the NVWA work programme, are available on the intranet.

Chapter 2. contains details of the organisation and implementation of official controls in each of the specific area.

1.5 Enforcement measures

NVWA has at its disposal an extensive range of enforcement instruments facilitating tasks performance. The Administrative law and the Criminal law set up provisions for these instruments. The enforcement instruments reflect the requirements of Articles 54 and 55 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004. NVWA may: impose corrective measures and administrative sanctions (penalties); withdraw approvals and authorisations; issue warnings; restrict or prohibit placing on the market, import or export of feed, food or animals.

Since July 2010, the amended Administrative Law extends the administrative power to some areas previously not covered (animal health, feed and animal welfare). The law updates the level of fines which may be applied to take account of annual inflation criteria. In 2015 new amendments were made to increase the level of fines for fraudulent violations up to € 810.000.

Specific enforcement arrangements are implemented for animal welfare during transport.

Systematic follow-up of non-compliances forms part of the planning tool. The system automatically flags the follow-up inspections. Under the Commodities Act (food), non-compliances may lead to a second inspection which must be paid for by the operator. Three possible procedures may be applied for infringements: 1) administrative record, 2) follow-up visit, 3) fine and, if needed, withdrawal of approval.

The inspectors have written instructions to guide them on enforcement issues. Inspectors may seize products from the market (Criminal law) and detain them (Administrative law). The Legal Department coordinates these cases and issue letters confirming that products are under detention.

Provisions have been introduced to provide operators with: written notification of enforcement measures; the reasons for the decision; the corrective actions needed; and the right of appeal.

NVWA has established a Multi-annual Enforcement strategy for 2012-2016 which covers all authorities' competence areas. This NVWA strategy has identified new elements:

- Risk based approach applying with particular focus on regular offenders,
- Agreements signed with industry organisations to exchange industry's self-control information,
- "Naming and shaming" principle introduced through publishing inspection results (currently applied only for catering establishments).

On 1 January 2012 the adopted "Law on animals" introduced administrative fines into the animal domain. This new provision covers areas of animal health, animal welfare, feed,

animal by-products and slaughterhouses. The new administrative fine process is now simpler and faster.

All enforcement activities are harmonised within NVWA. Enforcement instructions are available in the quality system and implementation is monitored by NVWA internal auditors. All non-compliances are categorised into A-B-C-D grades (D being minor non-compliances). This grading system is applicable throughout all NVWA domains. Based on such grading further enforcement measures are determined. The follow-up inspections generally are to be carried out within 4 months (depending on the risk they could be earlier). Enforcement progress and results are regularly monitored by the teams that in turn produce monthly internal reports.

NVWA-IOD acts as an Intelligence and Investigation Service, which is responsible for criminal investigations on the NVWA domains. It operates under the Investigative Services Act which provides extensive investigative powers (equal to those of the police) for gathering intelligence and carrying out investigations. Its main focus is on serious forms of complex, international and organised crime. NVWA-IOD has the powers to seize illegally obtained profits. Investigations are carried out under the aegis of the National Public Prosecutor's Office for Financial, Economic and Environmental Offences (PPO) in order to pursue prosecution by the PPO through the courts. The 2015 annual report on implementation of MANCP contains some information related to food fraud controls.

1.6 Verification and review of official controls

Verification of controls

In 2011, NVWA started new pilot project in 5 domains to measure the effectiveness of official controls. The main objective of this project is to deliver value for money and periodically measure if policies were successful.

In 2012, the working group advised NVWA management to appoint responsible colleagues, develop better designs for measuring effectiveness and recruit scientific personnel and/or train personnel in order to enhance the quality of measurement of effectiveness. In 2012, specific training in risk analysis, target group analysis and measuring effectiveness was delivered to staff involved in these pilot projects. Five colleagues followed a master class on "measuring effectiveness" at the Nijenrode University. The advanced training courses for staff are to be continued in 2013.

In 2013, the project was extended and now covers 10 different domains (assembly centres, identification and registration of live animals, animal welfare during transport, plant protection products, imports of food of plant origin, etc.).

In 2013, NVWA started a project with VWS and EZ where the goal is to formulate objectives/indicators for specific domains.

There are other elements in place to verify effectiveness of official controls: compliance rates are set in different sectors that are monitored, fact sheets (reviews) are regularly submitted to the management to report on progress implementing programmes and identifying problems. Internal audits also contribute to verification of effectiveness of official controls.

The OVs supervise daily the work of auxiliaries provided by Animal Sector Quality Inspection Foundation (KDS) in slaughterhouses. The KDS auxiliaries are appraised by

OVs and records are kept at the FBO. The assessment of NVWA staff is performed annually.

Audit

NVWA has an independent Internal Audit Department (Interne Audit Dienst – IAD) that directly and independently report to the Inspector General and the Audit Committee. IAD has 11 auditors to perform its tasks. IAD has the following tasks:

- Give assurance to the board of directors;
- Help improve internal control;
- Make the organisation more accountable;
- Support the audit department of the ministries;
- Monitoring Regulation (EC) Nr. 882/2004 audits carried out by the divisions

Each Division or Board has 1-3 quality employees. Within each division they carry out internal quality audits (compliance audits and ISO) to assess compliance and improve the effectiveness of official controls. Corrective measures are also taken into account from previous audit reports.

In relation to Regulation (EC) no. 882/2004 NVWA uses a multi-annual audit programme which is risk based. More detailed annual plans include audits performed by IAD and quality employees.

On 23 April 2012, the Audit Committee was set up which is an advisory body to the Inspector General. The Audit Committee oversees management processes of NVWA and evaluates if business objectives have been achieved. The Committee consists of three external members (including the chair), Inspector General and deputy Inspector General, director Staff, director Business Administration & Support, head IAD and secretary. The Committee organizes meetings four times a year.

The most recent DG SANTE audit on the organisation of the national audit system in the Netherlands took place in 2015; the audit report is available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/food/audits-analysis/audit_reports/details.cfm?rep_id=3575

1.7 Multi-annual national control plan

The Dutch authorities have developed the 2014 – 2018 single integrated multi-annual national control plan (MANCP) for the Netherlands.

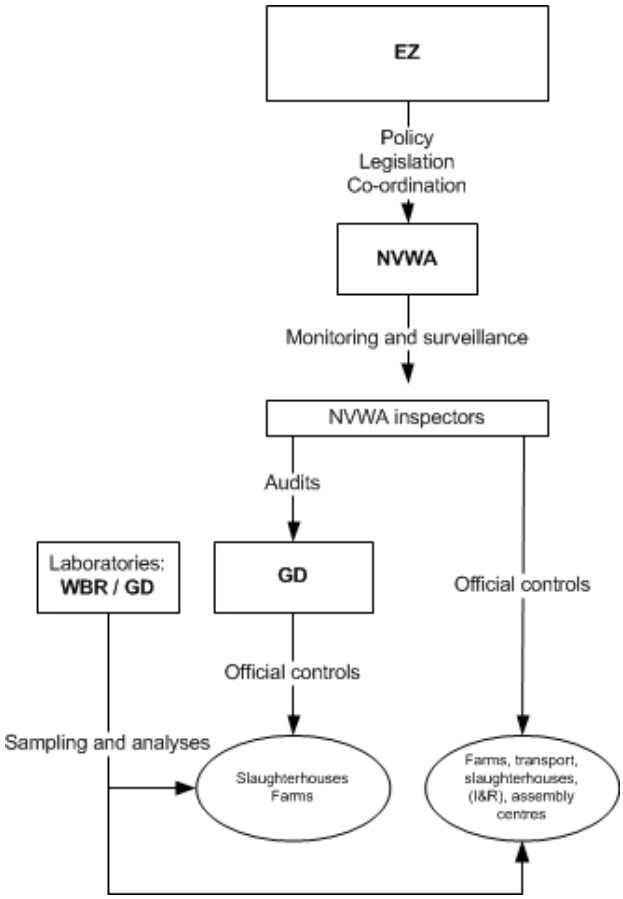
NVWA submitted to the European Commission its 2015 Annual report on MANCP implementation.

The following table gives an overview of the distribution of responsibilities in relation to control systems and operational levels.

Sector	Policy coordination	Coordination of controls	Implementation of controls	Laboratories	Risk assessment, scientific advice	Administrative activities
1. Animal Health	**EZ-NVWA**	**NVWA, RVO.nl**	**NVWA, GD**	**WBR, GD**	**NVWA, WBR**	**RVO.nl**
2. Food of Animal Origin	**EZ, VWS – NVWA**	**NVWA, COKZ,**	**NVWA, COKZ,**	**NVWA, RIVM**	**NVWA, COKZ, RIVM**	**NVWA**
3. Imports of animal and food of animal origin	**EZ, VWS – NVWA, Customs**	**NVWA, Customs**	**NVWA, Customs**	**NVWA**	**NVWA**	**NVWA**
4. Feedingstuffs and animal nutrition	**EZ – NVWA**	**NVWA**	**NVWA**	**RIKILT**	**NVWA**	**NVWA**
5. TSEs/ABP	**EZ, VWS – NVWA**	**NVWA**	**NVWA**	**WBR**	**NVWA, WBR**	**NVWA**
6. Veterinary medicines - authorisation, marketing &distribution	**EZ, VWS – NVWA**	**NVWA**	**NVWA, HIS, PDV**	**RIKILT**	**VWS, NVWA, RIKILT**	**CBG-BD**
Veterinary medicines - residues	**EZ, VWS – NVWA**	**NVWA**	**NVWA**	**NVWA, RIVM**	**NVWA, RIKILT**	
7. Foodstuffs and Food hygiene, GMO	**EZ, VWS – NVWA, VROM**	**NVWA, COKZ, NAK**	**NVWA, COKZ, NAK**	**NVWA, RIKILT, RIVM**	**NVWA, RIKILT**	**NVWA**
8. Imports of food of plant origin	**EZ, VWS – NVWA, Customs**	**NVWA, Customs**	**NVWA, Customs**	**NVWA**	**NVWA**	**NVWA**
9. Plant protection products – authorisation, marketing and use	**EZ, VWS, CTGB**	**NVWA**	**NVWA**	**RIKILT**	**CTGB, RIKILT**	**CTBG**
Plant protection products – residues	**EZ, VWS – NVWA**			**NVWA**	**NVWA, VWS**	**NVWA**
10. Animal Welfare	**EZ – NVWA**	**NVWA**	**NVWA**		**NVWA**	**NVWA**
11. Plant Health	**EZ**	**NVWA**	**NVWA, NAK, BKD, KCB, Naktuinbouw**	**NVWA, NAK, BKD, Naktuinbouw**	**NVWA**	**NVWA**
12. PGO, PDI, TSD	**EZ**	**EZ**	**COKZ, KCB, NVWA**			**RVO.nl**
Organics	**EZ**	**SKAL**	**COKZ, KCB, NVWA, SKAL**			**SKAL**

2 COMPETENT AUTHORITIES AND DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONSIBILITIES IN RELATION TO INDIVIDUAL CONTROL SYSTEMS

2.1. Control system for animal health



EZ	Ministry of Economic Affairs
NVWA	Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority
GD	Animal Health Service
WBR	Wageningen Bioveterinary Research
I&D	Animal identification and registration

Competent Authorities

The EZ Department of Legal Affairs in close cooperation with the Department for Food, Animal Health and Welfare and Consumer Policy is responsible for drafting animal health legislation and for transposing relevant EU legislation into national legislation. It is also responsible for policy and strategy in relation to the control of animal diseases. EZ is also responsible for: the implementation of farm subsidy schemes; identification and registration of livestock and holdings; and management of the central database.

NVWA is responsible for the execution of veterinary tasks in relation to animal disease prevention and control, under the authority of the EZ. This includes: approval and supervision of assembly centres, transporters, slaughterhouses and other food establishments and registration of dealers; responsibility for animal identification and registration controls at slaughterhouses; and issuing health certificates for intra-Union trade. The local offices are responsible for the follow-up of supervision, and act as the contact point for operators and producers.

GD implements a monitoring programme for swine vesicular disease as well as an annual monitoring on behalf of the EZ of wild boars for foot and mouth disease, classical swine fever, Aujeszky's disease and trichinellosis. It also provides veterinary advice to farmers and carries out field research.

Holding registration, animal identification and movement controls

The Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO.nl) of the EZ operates a central database of farm registrations as well as the bovine and sheep and goat databases. The GD operates the central pig holding registration and pig batch movement control database.

AVINED (KIPNED) is in charge of poultry farm registration and flock numbers, and is also responsible for monitoring laws on pig health status and movements.

Planning for controls on farms and other holdings/assembly centres is the responsibility of the NVWA inspection teams. NVWA veterinarians perform identity checks on animals once they are assembled for despatching for export and 8 - 10% of imports are also selected at random for checks. In slaughterhouses, the official veterinarian must verify the identity checks carried out by the operator by random checking of the holding number on the animal ear tag against the movement documents.

Animal health controls

NVWA official veterinarians within the Veterinary and Import Division control embryo transfer teams, semen collection centres, intra-union trade, assembly stations, perform export certification checks and import checks. On the spot farm surveillance is mainly through contracted private veterinarians (working for NVWA and GD).

NVWA has a permanent Incident and Crisis Centre (NVIC). NVIC is available 24 hours a day seven days a week to deal with all notifications of notifiable diseases and outbreak eradication. NVIC drafts operational manuals and working instructions linked to the contingency plans, carries out risk assessments following disease outbreaks in other countries, collates and reports monitoring data to the Commission and other international organisations and defines the requirements for contracts with suppliers and laboratories. It is also responsible for organising and training the Expert Teams which are sent out to investigate all notified suspicions and Front Teams which handle (on site) the first 72 hours of a confirmed outbreak. NVIC has access to specially trained personnel who can be called upon to deal with a suspicion or an outbreak.

Animal Health Status

The Netherlands is officially free of bovine tuberculosis, brucellosis and enzootic bovine leucosis. An annual monitoring programme is implemented for *Brucella melitensis*. Monitoring for classical swine fever involves: laboratory sampling of pig tonsils post mortem; blood sampling when herd medication is prescribed; and a routine programme of blood sampling in rearing herds. Avian influenza is monitored on all poultry holdings at least once a year, based on PVE legislation. In addition, EZ legislation requires poultry businesses to notify reduced food and water intake or decreased production and increased mortality to their veterinarian and/or NVWA. Wild bird monitoring is carried out by NVWA and a number of private organisations.

Contingency plans

The contingency plans for classical swine fever and foot and mouth disease have been approved by the Commission. Contingency plans have also been drawn up for: African horse sickness; bluetongue; epizootic haemorrhagic disease of deer; lumpy skin disease; ovine rindpest; rift valley fever; rinderpest; sheep and goat pox; swine vesicular disease; vesicular stomatitis; avian influenza; and Newcastle disease.

Laboratories

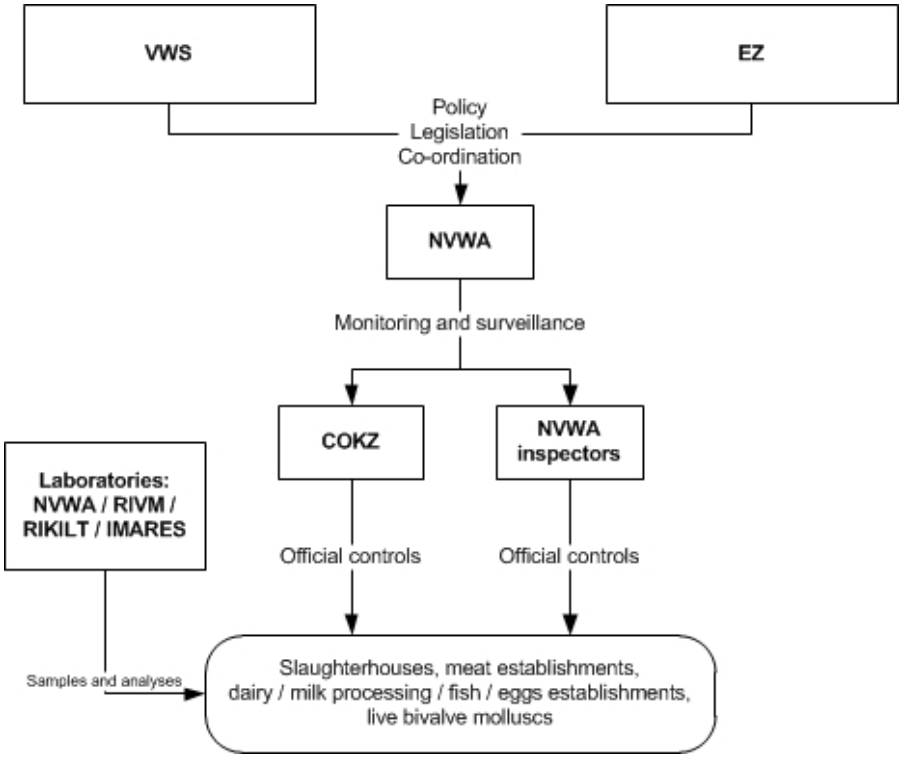
WBR

The WBR is the National Reference Laboratory for OIE listed diseases. The laboratory currently carries out approximately 100,000 classical swine fever serological analyses each year, as part of routine checks on breeding and gilt rearing herds, for export purposes, or following notification of suspicion of classical swine fever. In addition, some hundreds of samples from shot wild boar are examined for classical swine fever, swine vesicular disease, foot and mouth disease and Aujeszky disease. A new computer system interface has been developed to provide NVWA with improved access to WBR laboratory results.

GD laboratory

The GD laboratory carries out sample analyses for certain EZ monitoring programmes for African swine fever, Aujeszky's disease, Avian influenza, Bluetongue, Brucellosis (Brucella abortus), Brucellosis (Brucella melitensis), Classical swine fever, Enzootic bovine leucosis, Foot and mouth disease, Mycoplasmosis (Mycoplasma gallisepticum, Mycoplasma meleagridis en Mycoplasma synoviae), Newcastle disease, Salmonellosis (Salmonella Enteritidis, Salmonella Typhimurium, Salmonella Gallinarum, Salmonella arizonae, Salmonella Pullorum) and Trichinellosis..

2.2. Control system for food of animal origin



EZ	Ministry of Economic Affairs
NVWA	Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority
VWS	Ministry of Health, welfare and Sports
RIVM	National Institute of Public Health and Environment
COKZ	Controlling Authority for Milk and Milk Products
RIKILT	Institute of Food Safety
IMARES	Institute for Marine Resources and Ecosystem Studies

Competent Authorities

The Department for Nutrition, Health Protection and Prevention of the VWS is responsible for food hygiene legislation, except in relation to meat inspection which is the responsibility of the EZ.

NVWA is the central competent authority for the meat and milk sectors and is responsible for official controls in the meat sector. The Department of Supervision and Development (slaughterhouses team) is the lead NVWA planning and coordinating centre for the meat sector. Auxiliaries who are employed (engaged) by KDS carry out post-mortem inspections for red meat under the responsibility of official NVWA veterinarians. NVWA carries out supervision in the meat sector by established working teams (daily supervision) and one team for system-audit and system-inspection activities.

COKZ acts as competent authority for the dairy sector under the responsibility of NVWA and is accredited to EN 45004. The Dutch Supervisory Authority Eggs (NCAE), a separate service of COKZ, is the competent authority under NVWA in the egg sector. NVWA approves the annual programmes of COKZ/NCAE and have access to inspection reports from areas falling under NVWA supervision. Formal contracts, cooperation and procedures are in place.

VWS and EZ approve technical legislation on live bivalve molluscs and fishery products. NVWA draft the legislation and also coordinates its implementation. NVWA is designated as the competent authority for classification of live bivalve mollusc production areas under the Commodity Act of the Ministry of VWS. The control of fishery products and live bivalve molluscs in the Netherlands is carried out by two NVWA "fish teams", one based in the south (in Yerseke) and the other in the north (in Ijmuiden).

Registration and approval of establishments

Databases from municipalities, ministries and trade organisations have been used to register all primary production food establishments. Instructions and information to register food establishments on-line are available on the competent authority's webpage. Lists of approved establishments for all commodities are provided on the NVWA website: https://www.nvwa.nl/onderwerpen/english/dossier/approved-establishments1

NVWA grants approvals to meat establishments and COKZ/NCAE is authorised by NVWA to approve dairy and egg / egg products establishments.

Official controls and inspection at establishments

Official controls for meat establishments are organised through national projects. The structural and hygiene conditions of establishments are assessed at least once a year. NVWA categorises the establishments into three groups, according to their level of compliance. The frequency of re-assessment depends on the category assigned, the production volume and type of establishment. HACCP systems used by the establishments are audited and verified. The audit and verification frequency varies with the type of establishment and the non-compliances found, but minimum frequencies apply.

NVWA also carries out supervisory visits to establishments. These comprise hygiene checks and system inspections by the official veterinarian in slaughterhouses and by the official veterinarian and official assistants in cutting plants. These official controls are the responsibility of the Veterinary and Import Division. In meat preparation plants and meat processing plants, these supervisory visits and other inspections are the responsibility of the Customer and Safety Division. Checklists for such visits are in place.

For slaughterhouses NVWA has a specific model for risk based controls. General and specific hygiene requirements (e.g.: animal welfare provisions, areas of specific risk, disinfection, cleaning of means of transport, slaughter hygiene, temperature controls, handling of animal by-products and traceability) are factors used for profiling of each establishment. For each risk area, NVWA developed specific check-lists. Enforcement measures undertaken in the risk areas determine the frequency of controls. Other factors, (e.g.: the species to be slaughtered and the speed of the slaughter line) also are taken into account.

Official assistants provided by KDS assist the official veterinarian during post-mortem examination at slaughterhouses for domestic ungulates and farmed game. The official veterinarian supervises work of these official assistants. The supervision frequency is once per week in the larger slaughterhouses; for small slaughterhouses it is based on slaughter line speed, the number of animals slaughtered per week and their species.

In the dairy sector, COKZ/NCAE set the frequency of controls at one complete audit every three years and partial audits yearly. In the fishery sector, NVWA have two staff to carry out inspections at fresh fish auctions. No inspections are carried out at landing sites.

Official controls on identification mark and traceability

Traceability has been included as a specific issue in the new checklist for the meat sector, especially in the sector of cold stores. Previously traceability checks were largely on beef labelling.

Laboratories

The NVWA laboratory performs chemical and microbiological analysis. The microbiological analyse of the conditioning plots (*verwaterpercelen*) are outsourced to an accredited private laboratory.

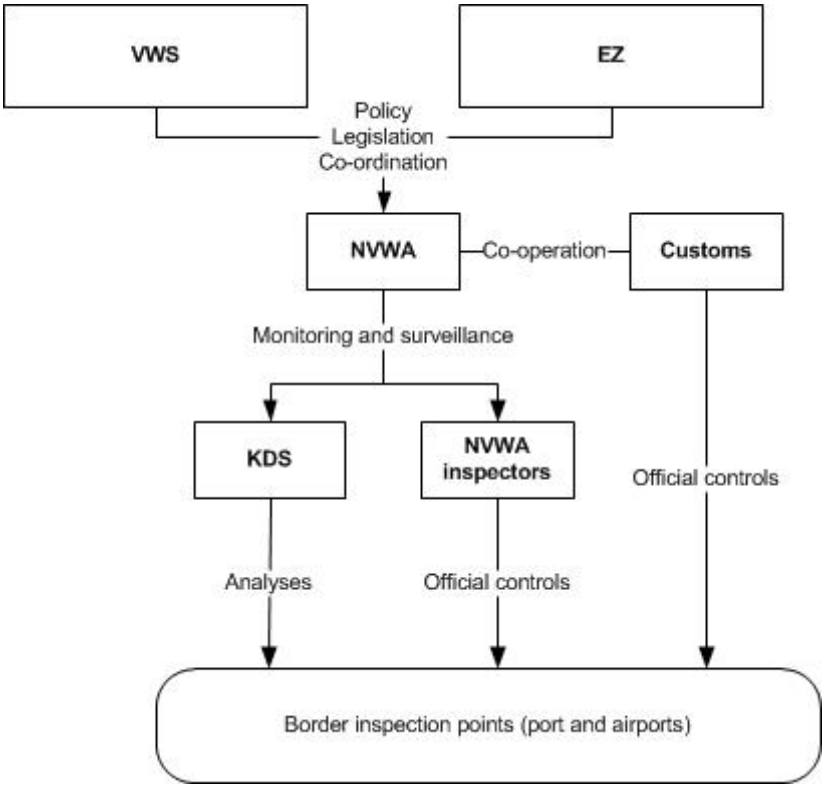
COKZ/NCAE outsource laboratory analyses from ISO 17025 accredited private laboratories, such as: Qlip B.V. (scope: microbiology, chemical macro / micro components, residues and contaminants), Triskelion (scope: chemical micro-components), Merieux (scope: microbiology) and RIKILT (scope: dioxins).

RIVM is the NRL for bacteriological and viral contamination in bivalve molluscs and also performs analyses on fishery products.

RIKILT is the NRL for biotoxins and chemical contaminants in bivalve molluscs performs analyses within this scope.

IMARES performs phytoplankton analyses.

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



EZ Ministry of Economic Affairs
NVWA Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority
VWS Ministry of Health, welfare and Sports

Competent Authorities

EZ is responsible for policy and legislation relating to import controls for animals and feed of animal origin.

VWS is responsible for policy and legislation relating to import controls of food of animal origin.

NVWA is the competent authority for implementation of Regulations (EC) No 206/2009 and 567/2013, and is responsible for the management of import controls and BIPs.

Customs performs controls on products of animal origin in personal luggage and in mail and pet movement.

Import Controls

NVWA import control system for animals and food of animal origin is accredited to ISO 17020. NVWA has a centralised management structure, with a chain of command from the central NVWA to staff at BIPs. Personnel are deployed by NVWA in BIPs according to the anticipated numbers of consignments.

Co-operation between NVWA and Customs is described in the Annex to the agreement between EZ and MF on tasks and responsibilities in relation to import controls.

Joint teams of Customs and NVWA carry out documentary and seal checks on veterinary consignments. Full identity checks and physical checks are carried out by the NVWA staff, that has overall responsibility for import/transit control. Checks on products of animal origin in passenger luggage and in mail are performed by Customs as part of their anti-smuggling activities (the agreement between EZ and MF).

Customs staff acting as the NVWA agents received access to databases and all other sources of information in order to carry out checks on manifests in relation to incoming consignments in Rotterdam port. A new electronic system containing pre-arrival information has been introduced by Customs.

The responsibility for checks at free/customs warehouses and ship suppliers approved/authorised, lies with the NVWA staff. Responsibility for checks in the warehouses in proximity to the BIP of Rotterdam rests with the BIP staff.

Responsibility for the implementation of the requirements with respect to disposal of catering waste from internationally operating means of transport lies with NVWA. The port authorities are responsible for collection and disposal of ship catering waste.

Checks on non-commercial pet animals are carried out by Customs staff performing personal consignments checks. Training is provided to the staff under the Customs training programme. The specific modules related to pet animal movements are developed in consultation with NVWA.

All relevant data on consignments, checked in BIPs, are entered in the VGC national system.

An annual monitoring plan for sampling imported consignments at BIPs drawn up by NVWA, contains targets for the number of samples to be taken for various substances at each BIP. The detailed implementation of sampling, including: type of product; targeted third countries; number of samples to be taken; and laboratory analyses is determined jointly by the team leaders in the inspection teams in Rotterdam and Amsterdam. The detailed monitoring plan indicates the number of samples to be taken at each BIP.

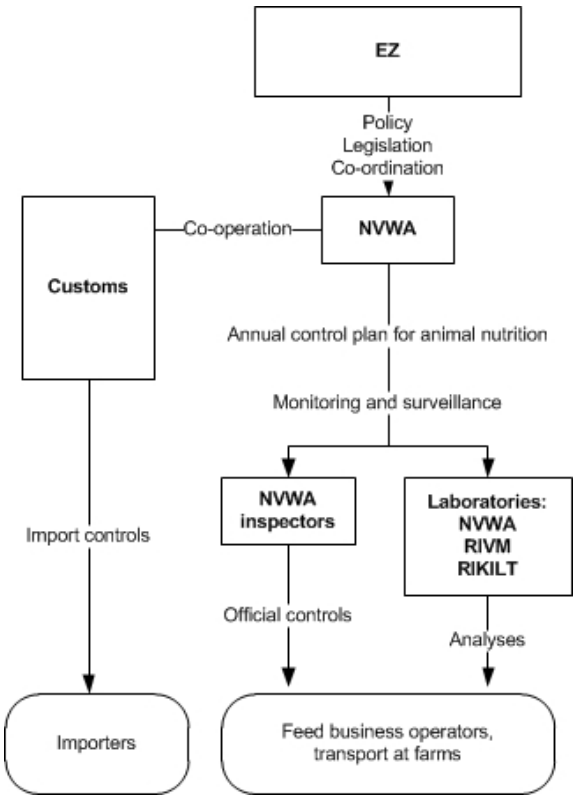
Veterinary checks are carried out in BIPs details of which are at:

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2009:296:0001:0058:EN:PDF

Laboratories

NVWA laboratory carries out analyses on samples taken at BIPs.

2.4. Control system for feedingstuffs and animal nutrition



EZ	Ministry of Economic Affairs
NVWA	Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority
KLPD	National Police Force
RIKILT	Institute for Food Safety
RIVM	National Institute of Public Health and Environment
VROM	Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and Environment

Competent Authorities

The EZ is responsible for legislation and policy in the field of animal nutrition.

Since 1-1-2013 the Feed Framework Act has been taken over into the Animals Act.

NVWA has responsibility for implementation of feedstuff inspections. Customs carry out import control in cooperation with NVWA.

NVWA has overall responsibility for animal nutrition controls, including drafting the annual national plan for feed. It is also responsible for approvals and registrations of all feed business operators throughout the country. NVWA is responsible for feed hygiene inspections on livestock farms.

Registration and approval of establishments and intermediaries

Operators acting in the feed sector (producers of compound feedingstuffs, producers of feed additives or pre-mixtures of additives, hauliers of feed, ships, traders, third country representatives and some other) are approved and/or registered by NVWA. The list(s) of those operators are available at:

https://www.nvwa.nl/onderwerpen/english/dossier/approved-establishments1/animal-feed-sector.

Official controls

The annual control programme for animal nutrition is drafted on the basis of: legislative requirements; previous results of inspections; and a risk assessment based on: mapping of the feed sector; gaps in the coverage of the industry; critical control points; and RASSF notifications and information from Quality Assurance Schemes. NVWA is considering using information from quality assurance systems within the feed sector (accounting for 95% of feed businesses) to assist in the targeting and reduction of its sampling activity.

Feed producing companies are inspected annually. Traders and transport companies are inspected less frequently. Companies with high risk production, such as medicated feed and coccidiostats are inspected twice a year. Imported feed is subject to a risk based control and the controls regarding the Regulation (EC) No. 669/2009.

The annual national plan includes, on average, 4.000 analyses comprising: animal proteins; heavy metals; pesticides; dioxins; mycotoxins and veterinary medicines and coccidiostats, GMO and botanical impurities.

Good Hygiene Practice Guides

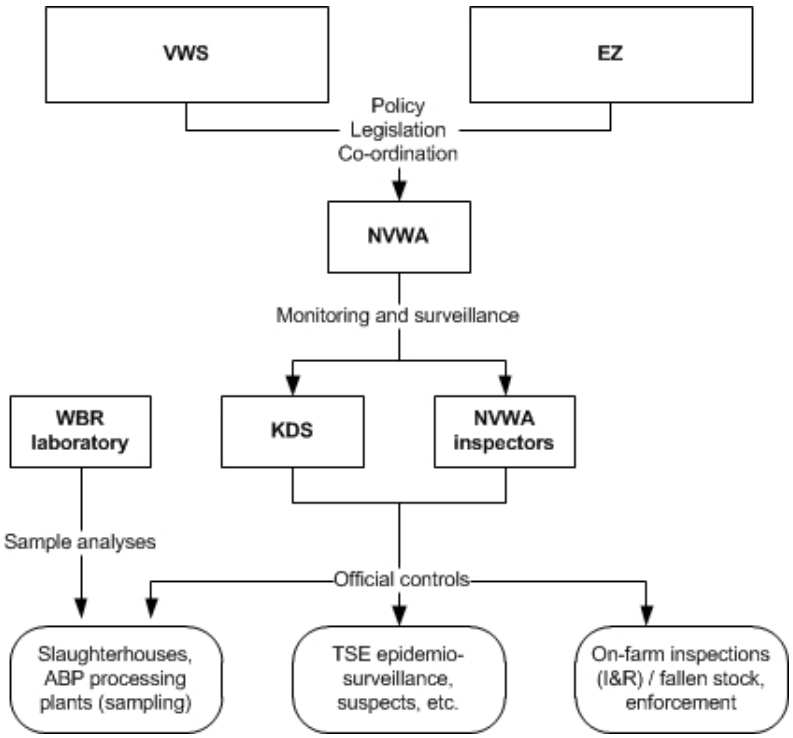
Several national codes of good practice for feed have been assessed by EZ and subsequently published. They cover transport, inland navigation, feed materials cultivation and intermediate trade. National codes of good practice for pig and small ruminant farms, containing guidance on feed have also been approved.

Laboratories

RIKILT is the NRL for feed additives and dioxins; it performs analyses of all official samples collected during official control. Moreover, there are three, ISO 17025 accredited, laboratories designated to perform analyses of official samples of feed that ensure additional examination capacity (if necessary).

2.5. Control system for TSEs/ABP

TSE



EZ	Ministry of Economic Affairs
NVWA	Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority
VWS	Ministry of Health, welfare and Sports
KDS	Animal Sector Quality Inspection Foundation
WBR	Wageningen Bioveterinary Research
TSE	Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy
I&D	animal identification and registration

Competent Authorities

Food Quality and Animal Health and the Agriculture Departments of EZ are responsible for policy on transmissible spongiform encephalopathy's (TSE): bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) and Scrapie. VWS have a legislative input in relation to food safety aspects. NVWA is the competent authority for implementing measures relating to TSE.

NVWA is responsible for TSE controls in slaughterhouse, including ante-mortem inspection and release of carcasses after TSE testing. KDS works under contract with, and under supervision of NVWA, and assists it in official tasks relating to TSE.

Epidemio-surveillance

NVWA is responsible for dealing with positive cases and it supervises and reports on epidemiological monitoring programmes.

KDS carries out TSE sampling of ruminants at slaughterhouses under NVWA supervision and at the sole rendering plant. It is also responsible for the transport of samples and accompanying documentation. Heads of animals sampled at slaughterhouses under the active monitoring of TSE are kept in cold stores until the arrival of the test results. If tested positive, the head is sent to the NRL for confirmatory testing.

The results on TSE monitoring are at:

http://ec.europa.eu/food/food/biosafety/tse_bse/monitoring_en.htm

Passive surveillance

NVWA regional staff investigates suspect cases of TSE. Heads of suspect cases are sent to WBR for testing and carcasses are sent to the sole ABP processing plant.

Active surveillance

The rendering company manages the system of carcass collection of fallen stock for cattle, horses, sheep and goats. All cattle at the age 48 months or older and cattle from Croatia, Romania and Bulgaria (age of 24 months or older) are tested for BSE. In addition, 1.500 sheep and 1.500 goat samples are tested for TSE.

At slaughterhouses samples are taken from cattle from Romania and Bulgaria (30 months or older). As regards emergency slaughter the cattle tested 48 months or older (cattle from Romania and Bulgaria 24 months or older). At slaughterhouses no sheep or goat are tested.

Specified Risk Material (SRM)

Implementation of SRM controls in approved slaughterhouses and cutting plants is carried out by NVWA, assisted by KDS. NVWA supervise operators' compliance. KDS activities are subject to audit by both NVWA and external private organisations. KDS report their activities daily to NVWA. NVWA is also responsible for audits and inspections on slaughterhouse HACCP systems, including for SRM.

Total Feedban

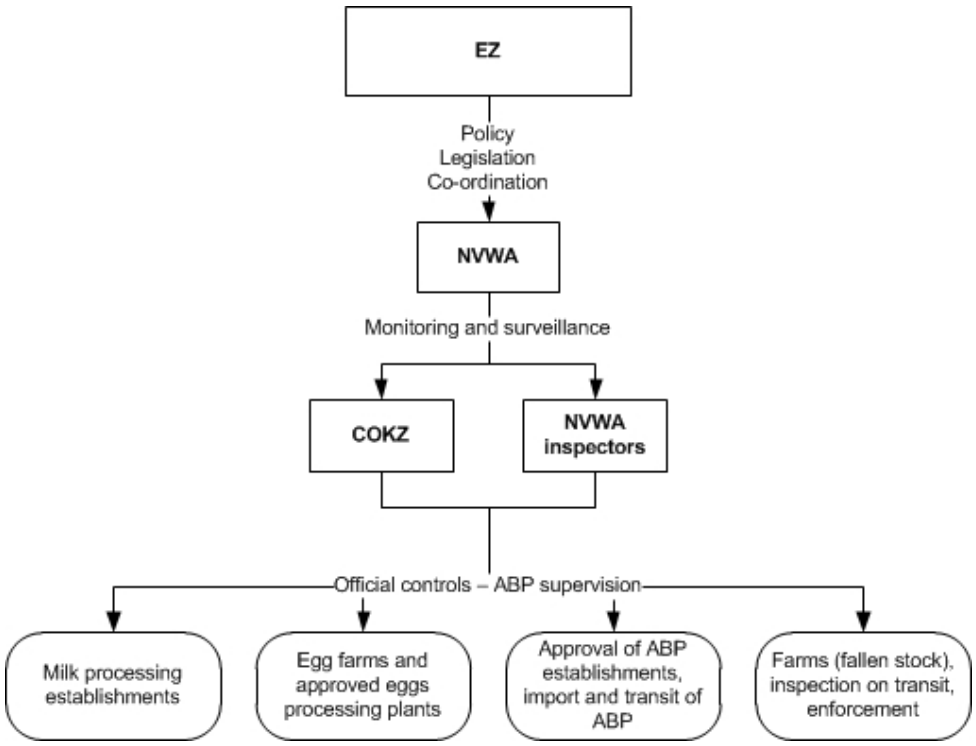
Sampling of processed animal proteins is included in the annual control programme for animal nutrition. Within this programme, the annual national plan for feed includes around 1.000 analyses to determine animal species. NVWA is responsible for all sampling on processed animal protein. More detailed information on this can be found in chapter 2.4.

Laboratories

WBR Lelystad is the NRL for TSE and has a contract with the EZ for TSE testing. WBR carries out BSE tests on fallen animals (cattle and small ruminants – sheep and goats), and carries out Scrapie genotyping for monitoring purposes.

NVWA approved one private laboratory that carries out BSE tests on healthy slaughtered cattle (Bulgarian, Rumanian, Croatian) and emergency slaughtered cattle). WBR organizes ring tests for the laboratory and monitors its activity (random visits).

ABP



EZ	Ministry of Economic Affairs
NVWA	Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority
COKZ	Controlling Authority for Milk and Milk Products
ABP	Animal by-products

Competent Authorities

EZ Policy Department is responsible for policy and legal matters. NVWA is responsible for control and supervision of animal by-products (ABP).

NVWA is responsible for the supervision of collection, storage, handling, processing, export, use, and placing on the market of ABP. NVWA is responsible for approval or registration of establishments and controls on imports and transit of ABP. NVWA Department Consumer & Safety is responsible for the surveillance coordination of ABP controls. NVWA is responsible for controls on domestic catering waste and investigation and law enforcement.

NVWA has delegated two tasks to another inspection service: supervision of ABP at approved milk plants, egg farms and approved egg processing plants to COKZ. COKZ inspectors are appointed by the NVWA Inspector General as inspectors of NVWA.

NVWA performs inspection on farms (e.g. fallen stock) and transport of ABP.

Regular meetings are held between the EZ, the environmental authorities and NVWA headquarters. The ABP senior coordinating inspector and the policy officers of the NVWA central office meet monthly to discuss policy, plans for the following year and ongoing matters. The NVWA regional inspectors meet monthly with the ABP senior coordinating inspector and NVWA central policy officers to be updated and give feedback on all ABP matters, particularly approvals and inspections. At regional level, the senior auditing inspector acts also as an information source for staff of the NVWA teams on interpretation, legislative, procedural and enforcement issues.

Approval of ABP plants and other premises

EZ delegated to NVWA a power to approve ABP plants and authorise / register the ABP users and collection centres. Plants requiring approval or authorisations apply to NVWA headquarters which hands out the request to the local NVWA inspectors. Local inspectors carry out on-the-spot an approval visit and report results to the headquarters. There, all results of approval and authorisation visits are entered in the ISI database. Favourable outcome of the approval visit results in an official approval/registration letter that the NVWA Inspector-General sends to the plant.

The lists of approved ABP plants and establishments are available at:

https://www.nvwa.nl/onderwerpen/english/dossier/approved-establishments1/animal-byproducts

Official Controls

NVWA drafts an annual inspection plan in agreement with the EZ in which the controls and projects to be carried out are described. Based on this plan NVWA prepares an annual supervision plan with projects for the organisation of controls.

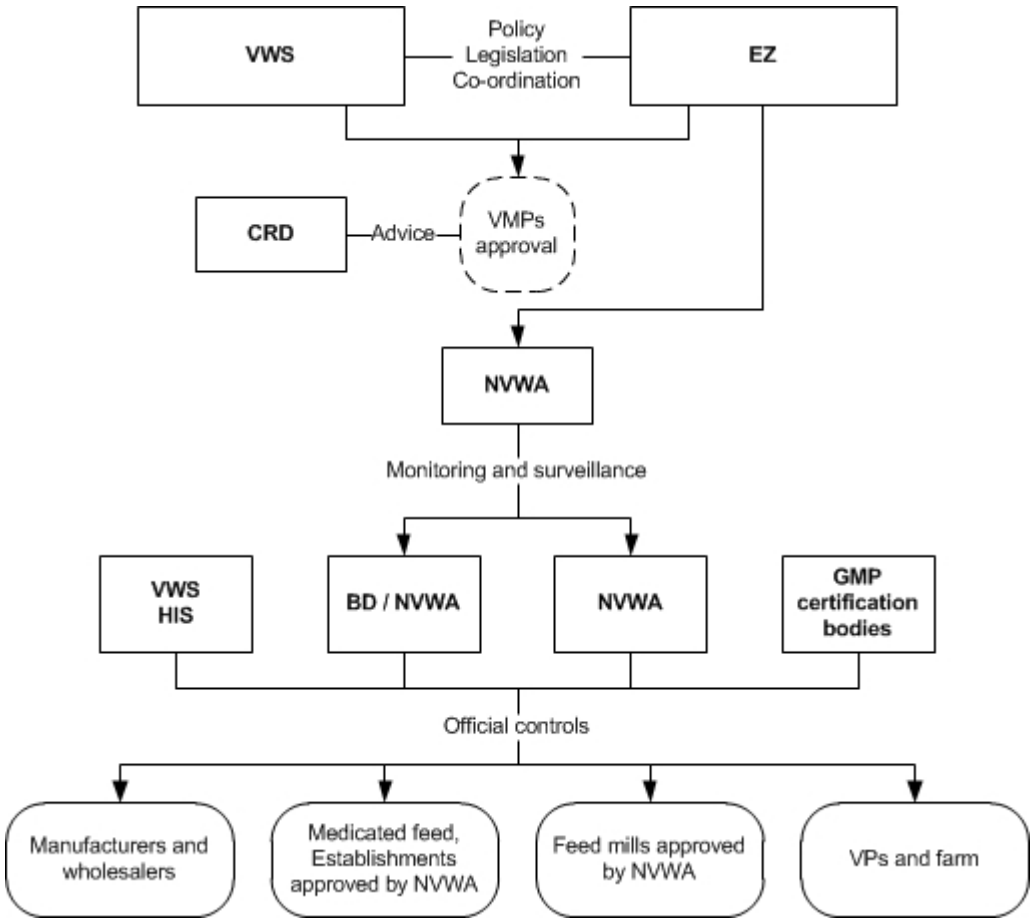
Annual supervision plans also include a series of research projects covering different ABP areas. Research projects include details of the personnel and financial resources needed. These projects taken together with the plant type and data on the operators' past performance, determine the frequency of visits to ABP plants and premises ranging from one to six times per year.

In general, official controls on approved and registered ABP plants are unannounced. They include three activities: inspections on approval requirements; audits on HACCP systems (announced); and controls on tracking and tracing requirements. Central specialists may accompany the teams of local inspectors involved in supervising the ABP chain to acquire an overall picture of the situation in their respective regions. In addition to the veterinary inspectors who supervise intermediate, processing or incineration plants, food inspectors supervise the collection, storage and handling of ABP in retailers and wholesalers.

Follow-up of inspection results is determined by the seriousness of the findings and the risks identified by the inspector. The results of inspections are reported in fact sheets by head office and are, if appropriate, reviewed by the Departments of Communication and Risk Analysis.

2.6. Control system for veterinary medicines and residues

Veterinary Medicinal Products (VMP)



EZ	Ministry of Economic Affairs
NVWA	Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority
VWS	Ministry of Health, welfare and Sports
CRD	Dutch veterinary Medicines Board
BD	Veterinary Medicinal Products Unit
HIS	Health Care Inspection Service
VP	Veterinary practitioners
GMP	Good manufacturing practice

Competent Authorities

The EZ is responsible for marketing authorisations and related issues for VMP. The VWS is responsible for user safety in relation to VMP.

Authorisation of VMP

The Dutch Veterinary Medicines Board (Commissie voor Registratie van Diergeneesmiddelen - CRD) of the EZ advises both the Minister of EZ and the VWS regarding applications for marketing authorisation of VMP, and related issues.

CRD advice is based on an evaluation/assessment dossier, compiled by independent assessors from scientific institutes and the Agency of the Medicines Evaluation Board (College ter Beoordeling van Geneesmiddelen – CBG). The Veterinary Medicinal Products Unit (BD) of CBG is a secretariat for CRD. VMP are approved by a joint decision of the EZ and VWS and the authorised list is published on the BD website.

The list of authorised VMP is available at:

http://db.cbg-meb.nl/ords/f?p=111:1:0:::SESSION:P0_DOMAIN,P0_LANG:V,EN

Official controls on marketing/use

Production and distribution of VMP require a licence at all levels. EZ handed over the power for licensing and inspection of distributors of VMP (i.e. wholesalers and retailers) to BD.

Veterinary practitioners are granted licences; they are registered by the Central Health Professions Centre – CIBG (Centraal Informatiepunt Beroepen Gezondheidszorg), which is an implementing organization of the VWS. Veterinary medicinal products are distributed to farms directly by veterinary practitioners, who may purchase the products from manufacturers or wholesalers. Medicines that do not require prescription (over-the-counter products) are distributed to farms by licensed distributors who may purchase the products from manufacturers or wholesalers. Pharmacies usually do not distribute VMP for food producing animals. Regarding prescription-only medicines for food-producing animals veterinary practices may distribute and use all categories of VMP, whilst licensed distributors may distribute prescription-only medicines solely against endoparasites and ectoparasites, antimycotic drugs, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) and sedatives.

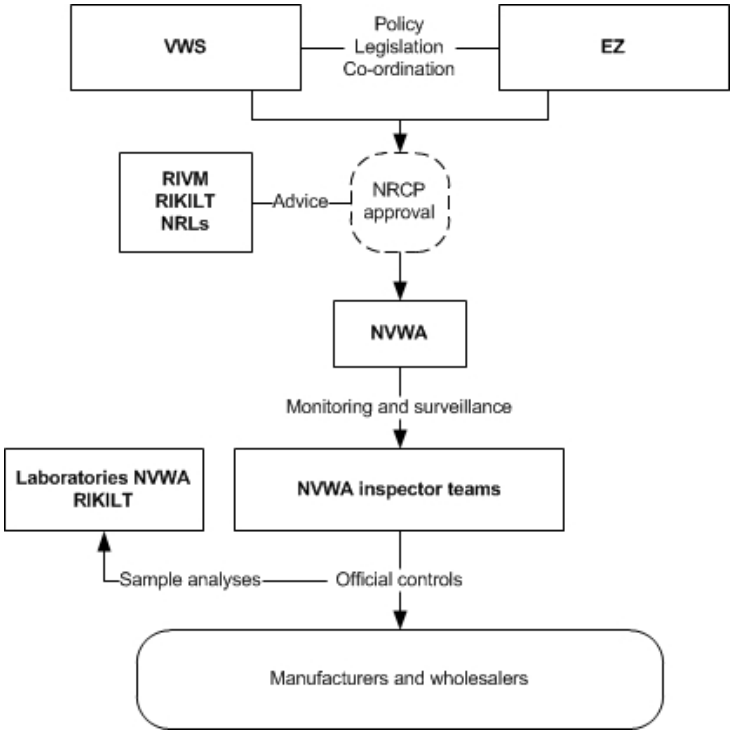
Medicated premixes for the manufacture of medicated feedingstuffs, prescribed by VP, go directly from the wholesaler to authorised feed mills. NVWA authorises and controls those feed mills that produce medicated feed.

Manufacturers and wholesalers are subject to Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) inspections every 2 to 3 years by pharmaceutical inspectors from the Health Care Inspection service of the VWS. These checks are announced and may also involve the BD.

BD is responsible for pharmaco-vigilance and surveillance of adverse reactions.

NVWA carries out inspections on VP activities and at farms. Most of the farms are members of private quality systems; in consequence most of the farms are also inspected by a private control body.

Residues



EZ	Ministry of Economic Affairs
NVWA	Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority
VWS	Ministry of Health, welfare and Sports
NRCP	National residues control plan
NRL	National Reference Laboratory
GMP	Good manufacturing practice
RIKILT	Institute for Food Safety
RIVM	National Institute of Public Health and Environment

Competent Authorities

EZ (plant supply chain and the Food Safety Department) and VWS share responsibility for the residue monitoring.

NVWA is the central competent authority, responsible, between the others, for co-ordination of the drafting and implementation of the National Residue Control Plan (NRCP). The NVWA headquarters is in charge of policy and management decisions and operational planning; initiatives and implementing measures come from the headquarters.

Official controls on residues

The NRLs, RIVM, and RIKILT provide an input into the NRCP. These bodies together with the EZ, NVWA and VWS meet throughout the year to determine the policy for the following year's plan. Several elements, including usage pattern of VMP, are taken into account in order to improve the design of the plan. The plan defines, for each month of the year, number of samples, tissues and commodities and the scope of analyses.

The NVWA laboratory formulates the sampling allocation for the NRCP. It issues sampling requests and determines the sampling frequency (depending on commodity).

The NVWA sampling teams receive requests and carry out sampling. Requests for samples, to be taken at slaughterhouses, are sent on a monthly basis. Since 2012 the NVWA feed teams carry out on-farm sampling (e.g. feed, water, hair, urine, fish, eggs, milk and honey) also on a monthly basis, in order to improve even distribution of sampling all over the year.

The NVWA laboratory prepares a monthly report on the progress of sampling and investigations carried out under the NRCP. Corrective action is taken when samples fail to arrive in time, and the remaining sampling scheme is adjusted accordingly. The laboratory informs all relevant authorities about non-compliant results.

NVWA is responsible for the collection of NRCP results and submission of information to the European Commission.

In addition, the meat and dairy sectors have comprehensive own-check programmes for residues. Operators of the meat and dairy sectors are obliged to inform the competent authority of all non-compliant results of their own-checks, including the presence of β-lactams in the milk.

On a project basis NVWA investigates the use of illegal substances on farmed animals. These investigations are conducted on a risk-based manner.

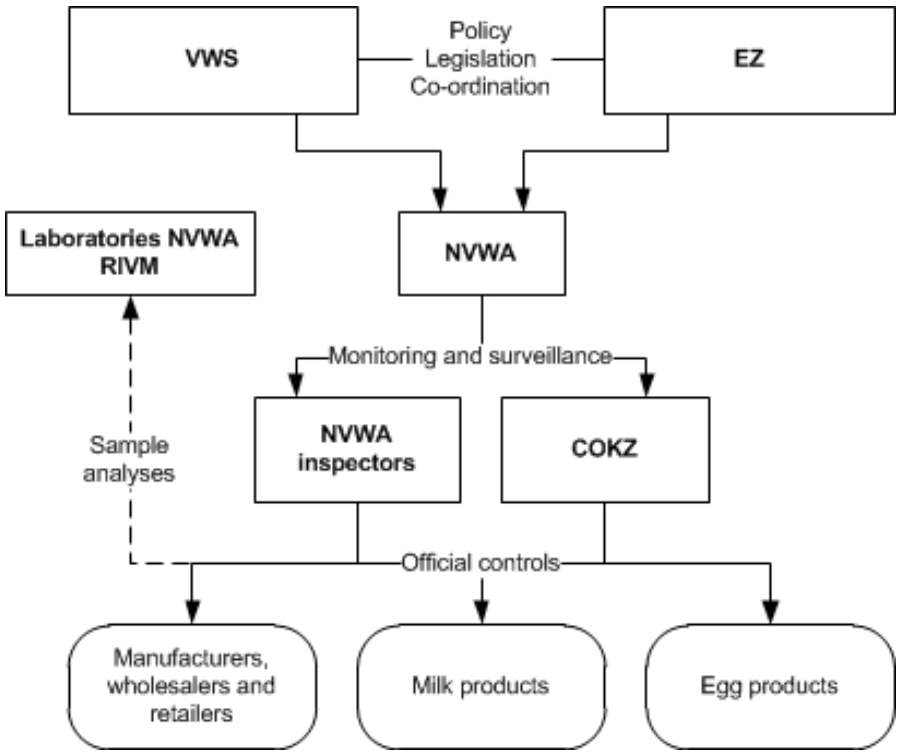
Laboratories

Two laboratories provide analytical services under the NRCP: the NVWA laboratory and RIKILT laboratory. Both laboratories are accredited to ISO 17025.

RIKILT is the NRL for all substances/substance groups of Annex 1 to Council Directive 96/23//EC. RIKILT is responsible for the analysis of all milk samples for all relevant substance groups and for other tissues/commodities analyses for non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs, B2e), pesticides (B2c, B3a, B3b), chemical elements (B3c), and certain specific substance/matrix combinations.

2.7. Control system for foodstuffs and food hygiene

Food Hygiene



EZ	Ministry of Economic Affairs
NVWA	Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority
VWS	Ministry of Health, welfare and Sports
COKZ	Controlling Authority for Milk and Milk Products
RIVM	National Institute of Public Health and Environment

Competent Authorities

NVWA and VWS are the main competent authorities in this sector.

NVWA is responsible for: policy advice; coordination and supervision of the enforcement of legislation; coordination of training; risk assessment; and communication and co-ordination of research.

The Policy Unit of VWS is responsible for drafting legislation and funding of NVWA activity relating to food safety, excluding meat inspections.

NVWA drafts annual inspection plans and inspection protocols. The National Institute for Health and Environment (Rijksinstituut voor Volksgezondheid en Milieu – RIVM please check the Dutch name) of the VWS plays a minor role in the enforcement of food safety legislation but it provides specific advice in case of new risks to public health.

COKZ is responsible for official controls over milk and egg products (see Chapter 2.2 for more detailed information).

Licensing and Registration of food premises

All food businesses are registered in a database compatible with the ISI database. In the database operators are recorded taking into account the scale of their operation. They are registered in two groups:

- small operators: catering, small retail shops and supermarkets, and small businesses as family run butchers, bakers, etc., and

- large operators: food manufacturers, wholesalers, storage premises (registered).

Official controls of food premises

NVWA prepares tri-years policy programmes (linked with MANCP) which serve as a basis for annual inspection and sampling and risk categorisation. Annual reviews take into account the results of the previous year. The review process is facilitated by regular communication in the form of quarterly and annual reports on inspection results and performance, from the regional to the central inspectorate who in turn produces internal fact sheets and an annual report of NVWA. This process is facilitated by the NVWA ISI database.

In general, inspection strategy is divided between small and larger businesses. Inspections on small businesses focus on specific critical processes based on guides to good practice. Random spot checks are made at the main office of large companies with multiple outlets. More intensive audits of critical control points and HACCP systems are carried out in larger food manufacturers.

Inspections with the same target and scope are summarised in each project. NVWA is in the process of categorising all food businesses using a risk pyramid which divides businesses into three categories: negligible risk; some risk; and permanent risk. Inspection frequency, type of inspection and follow up activity, are based on this categorisation. In general the risk is more related to the FBO than the product. The CA is considering relying more on FBO certification systems.

A food safety database is being developed to collate all of the information available on inspections, sanctions and NVWA performance.

In order to minimise the burden on the industry and operators NVWA inspectors are being trained to perform additional inspection tasks in parallel to those of food / feed safety. Additional tasks are the following: a) health and safety inspections, b) alcohol and excise controls.

Good Hygiene Practice Guides

Draft guides are assessed by the Advisory Committee to the Minister of Health and having received a favourable opinion, are approved by the VWS. A total of 33 guides have been approved and notified to the Commission. They are being revised to comply with new legislative standards.

Guides are based on HACCP principles and must incorporate: a) an industry specific hazard analysis, b) the identification of critical control points, and c) setting of critical limits to maintain proper process control and/or to meet legal requirements.

Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed – RASFF

NVWA is the national contact point for RASFF. It also is the contact point for consumer complaints. Alerts are disseminated to the divisions by e-mail or via the NVWA IT system. In the IT system all alert- and complaint- notifications are administered, together with the follow up actions. When NVWA receives an alert notification from the Commission or from other routes, like companies or own inspections, it does the first assessment of the alert at central level in order to classify the notification and to initiate appropriate action.

The teams within the NVWA Divisions are responsible for RASSF management except in the case of a crisis, in which case the VWS and EZ take over responsibility.

Laboratories

NVWA has a centrally located laboratory for foodstuffs and food hygiene located in Wageningen and performing chemical and microbiological analysis. The laboratory has 130 full time employees and is accredited to ISO 17025. In addition, the staff of the NVWA Quality Departments from the divisions and the central levels perform internal audits.

GMO

Competent authorities

VWS is responsible for genetically modified organisms (GMO) legislation in the area of food.

EZ is responsible for GMO legislation in the feed and seed area, excluding environmental aspects.

I&M is responsible for GMO legislation covering environmental aspects.

The Dutch GMO Bureau is responsible for processing applications for GM food and feed authorisations. However, the VWS and the EZ are the competent authorities, respectively for food and feed use.

NVWA carries out inspection and sampling for GMO in food and feed on the domestic market as well as for imported products and primary products.

The Inspectorate of the Ministry of the Environment carries out inspections with regard to environmental issues.

EZ is responsible for propagating material. Its service – NAK is responsible for seed testing, including controls for the presence of GMO (excluding environmental aspects).

Official controls of GMOs in food, and feed including at import

NVWA is in charge of coordination, planning and carrying out controls on GMO presence in the foodstuffs available on the market. NVWA is also responsible for reporting the results of these controls.

The group dealing with animal feedstuffs of the central NVWA unit is responsible for planning and reporting on inspection activities on GMO in feedstuffs on the market and at the point of import. NVWA programmes are in place to examine the labelling of "GMO free" feedstuffs throughout the country and to examine product certification and authenticity at ports. Samples are sent to RIKILT for analyses. Since 2007 the focus of controls on GMO is specifically on non-authorised GMO from third countries.

Official controls of GMO in propagating material

Tests on adventitious presence of GMO in conventional seed have been carried out since 2000. At least 30 lots of maize seed are tested annually.

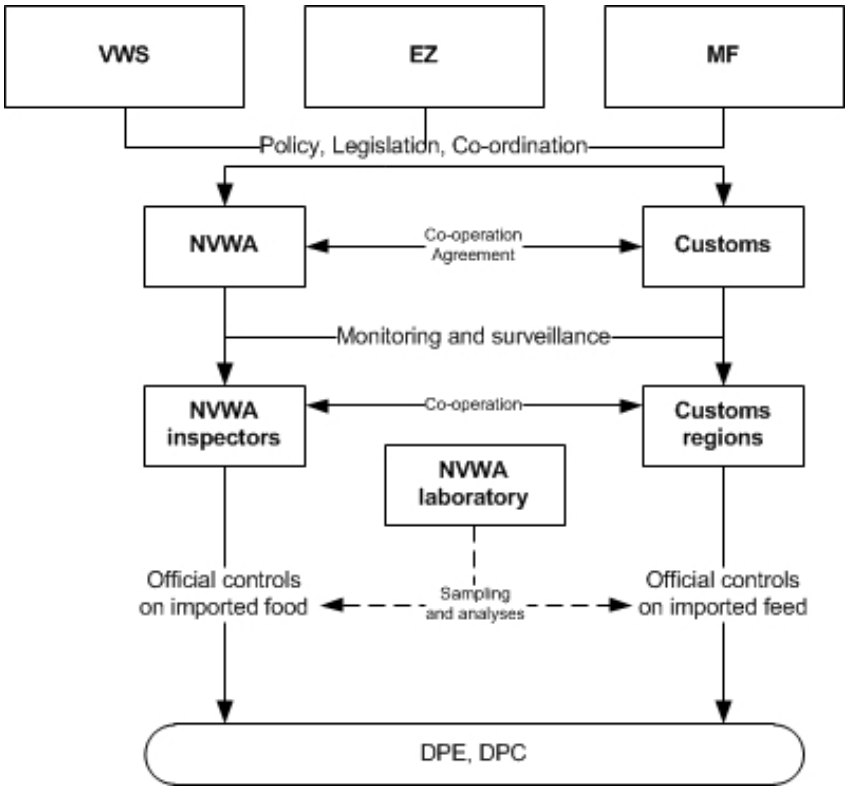
Laboratories

Two laboratories (one private and one public) provide official GMO analysis of food and/or feed.

RIKILT is accredited to ISO 17025; the scope of accreditation covers GMO analytical methods. These are: real time polymerase chain reaction (PCR) analysis on feed, and screening, identification and quantification with construct-specific methods.

The NVWA laboratory, which performs GMO analysis in food, is accredited to ISO 17025 and its accreditation scope covers GMO analytical methods. The laboratory is a member of the European Network of GMO Laboratories, collaborating with the EURL on a number of studies and scientific initiatives. It also participates in working groups within ISO and CEN (the European Committee for Standardization) on technical issues regarding GMO.

2.8. Control system for imports of food of plant origin



EZ	Ministry of Economic Affairs
NVWA	Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority
MF	Ministry of Finance
VWS	Ministry of Health, welfare and Sports
DPE, DPC	Designated points of controls and entry

Competent authorities

NVWA and Customs are the main competent authorities responsible for import controls on food and feed of non-animal origin. VWS is responsible for import legislation on high risk non-veterinary products such as pistachios and genetically modified (NVWA has full responsibility for supervision, risk assessment and risk communication. Controls and coordination on imports from third countries are handled by the Import Control Team in Zwijndrecht. The NVWA headquarters in Utrecht has overall responsibility for official feed controls, including the annual control programme for feed and cooperates with Zwijndrecht on import controls.

The relationship between NVWA and Customs in relation to food is set out in an agreement on procedures and exchange of information. Coordination meetings between NVWA and Customs are held on a regular basis to discuss the agreement and issues relating to the list of high-risk products.

To ensure the coordination of activities, regular monthly meetings are held between central and regional NVWA staff. In addition, the central authorities provided to the regional units standard operating procedures and written guidelines. ISI system is used to facilitate the planning of activities, communication and quarterly reporting between the centre and the regions.

Import procedure

Food of non-animal origin

The import and entry procedure for food of non-animal origin is the same for all imported food products, regardless of whether the products are subject to special Regulation (EC) No 669/2009 on import or to an increased level of official controls.

Official controls at DPEs aim to ensure that food and feed originating in non–EU countries comply with appropriate EU requirements. The CAs list of plant products and third countries identifies commodity/country combinations considered to be of high risk taking into account results from previous years. In the case of entry into the EU under Regulation (EC) No 669/2009, decision on sampling is made by the electronic system of NVWA, based on data about commodities, hazards and frequency of controls, incorporated into the system.

Decisions on sampling at the DPEs under the annual control plan are based on the information on expected consignments in the Customs electronic system to which the NVWA inspectors have access. In addition, at Rotterdam port, the list of high risk commodity and country of origin is incorporated into the Customs system. Customs clearance of these consignments takes place only after the sampling has been performed. Customs are responsible for the transmission of the necessary documents for imported foods to the Import Control Team. They in turn are responsible for carrying out identity and physical examinations. Routine information on high-risk consignments declared at Customs is exchanged daily. Customs have access to the NVWA's intranet. NVWA carry out physical inspections on high risk products notified to them by Customs.

Samples taken at import or at point of entry are considered as high priority. Analytical results are provided by laboratory within 72 hours. While waiting for the results, consignments are detained under Customs supervision. If a maximum residue level (MRL) or a maximum level (ML) exceedance is identified, the consignment is rejected. Disposal or re-dispatch or other options based on Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 is a matter for the importer.

Feed of non-animal origin

Customs are responsible for documentary checks and identity checks on behalf of NVWA. Physical checks at the point of entry are carried out by NVWA as determined in the NVWA annual control programme for feed. The programme contains the criteria set out in the Commission Recommendation for a coordinated control programme in the field of animal nutrition, including mycotoxins. RASFF notifications and previous monitoring results are also taken into account.

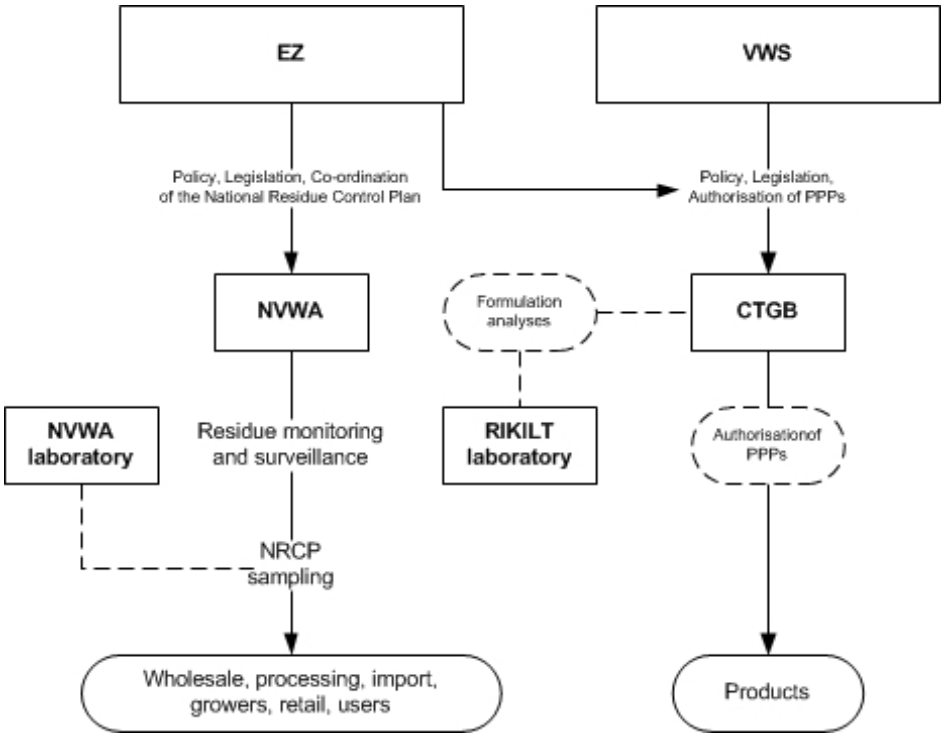
Laboratories

The NVWA laboratory performs food analyses and another laboratory (RIKILT) performs analyses for imported feed. The feed laboratory performs a wide range of analyses *inter alia* for: mycotoxins, heavy metals, dioxins and veterinary antibiotics. An agreement between the feed laboratory and NVWA provides for additional laboratory capacity in the event of emergencies.

All the laboratories involved in official import controls are ISO 17025 accredited.

2.9. Control system for plant protection products

PPPs



EZ	Ministry of Economic Affairs
NVWA	Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority
VWS	Ministry of Health, welfare and Sports
CTGB	Board for Authorisation of Pesticides
RIKILT	Institute for Food Safety
PPPs	Plant protection products
NRCP	National Residues Control Plan

Competent authorities

The EZ is the competent authority for legislation relating to plant protection products (PPPs). VWS is the competent authority for legislation relating to, and setting of, maximum residue limits (MRLs) in foodstuffs of plant origin.

The Board for Authorisation of Pesticides (College voor de toelating van gewasbeschermingsmiddelen en biociden – CTGB) authorises PPP. CTGB is co-funded by EZ, VWS, I&M and SZW.

Authorisation of PPP

There are two parts to the EU PPP approval process: the active substance(s) must be approved at EU level, and subsequently the formulated product must be authorised at a Member State level.

Before being placed on the market, all active substances are evaluated by experts in one of the EU's national regulatory authorities. Preliminary evaluation results are then peer-reviewed by the European Food Safety Authority –EFSA, before the active ingredient is considered for approval by the European Commission's Standing Committee Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed – SCPAFF[1]. Once an active substance has

been approved at EU level, the formulated product containing it must then be registered in each Member State[2].

MRLs are proposed by CTGB when authorising PPPs. VWS performs the toxicological evaluations and, following consultation with EZ, proposes MRLs to SCPAFF.

In cases where the Netherlands is the responsible Member State to evaluate a pesticide, CTGB is consulted for evaluation of the supporting documentation when import tolerances have to be evaluated. CTGB publishes a list of authorised products, and product descriptions on its website.

Official controls on marketing/use

NVWA is responsible for implementing controls on marketing and use of PPPs.

Planning of controls on marketing and use of PPPs is based on risk analysis; target groups (operators) are divided into three categories: high, medium and low risk.

Operators involved in the marketing and use of PPPs are required to have adequate technical knowledge and to have attended specific training in order to be licensed for the trade and use of PPPs. Traders of PPPs are required to record their sales to professional users together with data on the purchasers. Glasshouse production growers are required to keep records of PPPs applied to protected crops.

PPPs residues

See the flow chart above.

Competent Authorities

NVWA is the competent authority responsible for controls on pesticides residues in food of plant origin. NVWA is responsible for the monitoring plan on residues in food of plant origin for risk assessment on MRLs exceedances and decisions on the enforcement measures to be taken by inspectors as well as possible notification via RASFF.

Official controls on residues

NVWA is responsible for planning the annual monitoring of pesticide residues and for coordinating the sampling activity.

A risk–based annual control plan for pesticide residues specifies the products to be sampled; that includes fresh fruit and vegetables, cereals, processed food and baby food. The number of samples to be taken is broken down by regions of origin, as follows: i) domestic produce originating from the Netherlands, ii) produce coming from EU Member States, and iii) produce imported from third countries. In addition, the plan specifies the methods of analyses and pesticides to be analysed. The plan takes into account the requirements of the coordinated EU monitoring programme as well as additional criteria such as: a) the level of consumption, b) production or import of the commodities, d) results of the previous years, e) applicability of a multi-residual-method, and f) the relative contribution of a pesticide in the context of chronic risk evaluation. In

1 Until 2015 the Committee beard a name the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health – SCFCAH

2 Copied from www.ecpa.eu

drawing up the plan, NVWA considers the results of auto-control activity performed by business operators.

Sampling is coordinated on a monthly basis, with detailed instructions concerning number of samples, commodities to be sampled and their origin. Samples are taken at all levels, except the retail. Teams of food inspectors carry out sampling. Food inspectors are authorised to enter premises to check for necessary information and, in case of non-compliance, may impose sanctions. A specialised team for import control carries out sampling for pesticide residue analysis at ports and airports.

Approximately 4.000 samples are analysed on an annual basis. The ISI database is a tool to record data on inspections and sampling and the transmission of analytical results to inspectors. Information regarding the NVWA plan is published on its website.

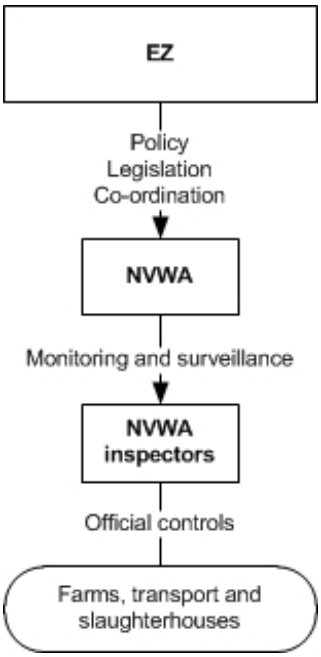
Laboratories

The NVWA laboratory is the single laboratory designated for pesticide residues and is ISO 17025 accredited.

It is the official laboratory for the analysis of pesticide residues in food of plant origin. It does not analyse private (operators' own-checks) samples. The NVWA laboratory uses the ISI database to record and reports results to NVWA headquarters and enters follow up on actions taken.

A broad analytical scope of about 400 pesticides is in place. The main focus is to analyse using multi-residue methods. Single residue methods are applied for analysing dithiocarbamates (in 10 % of the samples) and chlormequat (in relevant crops).

2.10. Control system for animal welfare



EZ Ministry of Economic Affairs
NVWA Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority

Competent authorities

EZ is the competent authority for animal welfare policy and legislation.

NVWA is responsible for inspections in: slaughterhouses, at farms, markets and during transport, international transport prior to departure, laboratory animals and animal welfare during disease outbreaks.

EZ has designated a public service provider as the body responsible for examination of transporters. EZ mandated another public service provider for granting certificates of approval of means of transport for animal movement.

The Livestock Transport Bureau of NVWA is responsible for checks on all returned journey plans and satellite navigation data. The Bureau also facilitates enforcement on infringements found by the field inspectors or by the Bureau itself.

A specialised unit in the NVWA central office provides support to the official veterinarians in slaughterhouses and field staff on animal welfare issues and projects. This unit cooperates with units dedicated to other areas such as meat hygiene and zoonotic diseases.

Each year the policy departments of EZ and NVWA propose an annual programme for animal welfare inspections at farms, at slaughterhouses and during transport. The Executive Board of EZ decides on the final working plan for the agencies, setting targets in terms of staff resources.

The NVWA inspectors enter reports of animal welfare inspections in ISI or/and SPIN and M-Spin databases. This data forms the basis of four-monthly and annual reports to EZ.

Official controls at farm

Regional NVWA teams carry out regular controls at farms to check on welfare requirements for pigs, calves, broilers and laying hens. Organisation of these teams varies, depending on the type of farming. Teams verify compliance with different types of legislation e.g.: animal welfare, identification and registration.

Two national teams are, in particular, dedicated to animal welfare controls.

Official controls during transport

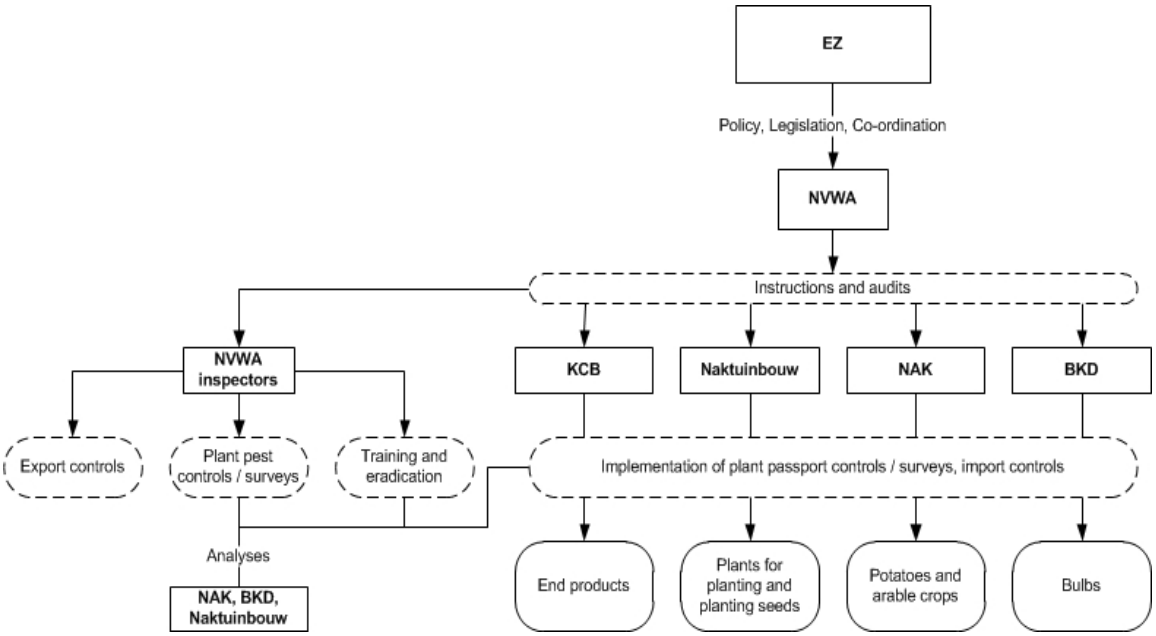
NVWA inspectors carry out animal transport checks mainly on the road; however, checks may also take place at the place of destination, slaughterhouses and markets.

Infringements detected during inspections result in different types of measures; these may be: a warning or, in the case of a more serious infringement, an administrative penalty. In some, more severe, cases a report may be sent with a view to prosecution.

Official controls at slaughter

Every slaughterhouse is included in an annual control plan. The frequency of NVWA audits depends on the results of a risk assessment. Supervision within slaughterhouses covers all controls including those for animal welfare. NVWA has updated instructions, integrating animal welfare checks and emphasising the importance of proper stunning and bleeding.

2.11. Control system for plant health



EZ	Ministry of Economic Affairs
NVWA	Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority
BKD	Flowerbulb Inspection Service
KCB	Quality Control Service
Naktuinbouw	The Netherlands Inspection Service for Horticulture
NAK	The Dutch General Inspection Service for Agricultural Seed and Seed Potatoes

Competent Authorities

NVWA acting as the National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) is the single Competent Authority (article 1-4 of Council Directive 2000/29/EC) for plant health in the Netherlands, and is an integral part of the EZ.

The Phytosanitary Policy Unit of EZ is responsible for plant health policy.

NVWA is the responsible official body in charge of: a) internal market checks, b) import controls, c) imports for trial and scientific purposes, and d) control and follow-up of outbreaks. In addition NVWA monitors inspections and surveys of the trading network and production.

NVWA is primarily responsible for: risk assessment, advising the commissioning authorities in the plant health and plant protection departments, and representing the Netherlands (on behalf of the departments) on various international committees.

NVWA is the supervising authority for compliance with the Plant Diseases Law (including related regulations). In order to carry out their functions, inspectors (NVWA, BKD, KCB, NAK, Naktuinbouw) have the authority to: enter premises; take samples; request information; and take measures where a plant health may be compromised.

EZ has delegated plant health inspections, in particular import and plant passport checks to the following four bodies:

- BKD, responsible for plant health checks of flower bulbs;
- KCB, responsible for plant health checks for final products (e.g. cut flowers, vegetables, fruit);
- NAK, responsible for plant health checks of arable crops (e.g. potatoes, maize);
- Naktuinbouw, responsible for plant health checks of horticultural crops (in particular propagation material).

NVWA staff is in charge of phytosanitary export checks and export certification.

Plant passport system and internal market checks

Four public control bodies: BKD, KCB, NAK and Naktuinbouw share responsibility for issuing the plant passport.

The activities of these services consist of inspection for the plant passport to be issued, registration of the results of the inspection, registration of establishments which may issue plants' passports and the administrative controls of these establishments.

NVWA itself carries out the inspections and registration of establishments for the plants' passport to be issued for products which do not come under the mandate of the four other bodies (e.g. citrus plants).
NVWA coordinates the implementation of plant passport inspections by the four bodies and draws up instructions for carrying out the inspections. The nature and frequency of inspections vary for each combination of pest and host plant. Inspections are planned by the inspection services themselves.

NVWA supervises inspections and routine testing by the inspection services by means of audits. Audits are planned in accordance with the multi-annual audit plan (approved by EZ) and take place annually.

NVWA supervises the measures imposed at import and monitoring and survey inspections. NVWA together with the inspection services supervise measures applied in connection with findings during plant passport inspections.

Import controls

All phytosanitary inspections in the Netherlands are carried out at places of destination; these include:

- Warehouses of forwarding agents in the vicinity of airports and ports.
- Warehouses at or around auctions (for example flower auction Aalsmeer). Individual companies (forwarding agents, traders, growers) rent small customs units at the auction which include specific phytosanitary inspection facilities approved by the Dutch NPPO.
- Warehouses of traders throughout the Netherlands.
- Warehouses at places of production throughout the Netherlands.

NVWA does not differentiate between inspections at or near the point of entry and at the place of destination. In either case requirements on minimising risk of harmful organisms have to be met. Where a place of destination is a grower the requirements are even more stringent. All locations that are recognized as being an approved place of inspection are listed in the Client Import system. Based on this, the forwarding of the import inspection to the place of destination will be approved automatically by the system.

Approximately 2.800 places of inspection are officially recognized for completion of phytosanitary import inspections.

NVWA carries out registration and approval of inspection places. It has a form of specific pre-approval audit. For each approved place NVWA carries out annual documentary checks.

Importers or agents acting on importers' behalf are obliged to register with NVWA, which also compiles a national register. Only registered entities may use the CLIENT system and submit a notification of import or request an inspection. The requirements for registration include relevant import fees payable to NVWA.

Documentary, identity and plant health checks on imported goods are carried out by inspectors of the relevant four other public bodies. Once the plant health check has been completed, the results are recorded in the CLIENT system or in the Plant Health Movement Document, which permits the consignment to be cleared out by Custom.

Importer must pre-notify import for a minimum of four hours prior to consignment arrival. This pre-notification also requests that the import checks to be carried out.

Custom performs documentary checks for transit consignments destined to another Member State, in cases where the written notification procedure is used instead of the electronic declaration using the CLIENT system. Custom also carries out some controls of wood packing material. Custom and NVWA formalised their co-operation in a means of bilateral agreement.

Laboratories

NVWA, NAK, BKD and Naktuinbouw laboratories analyse official samples. Five private laboratories analyse soil samples to determine the presence of potato cyst nematodes *(Globodera palida* and *Globodera rostochiensis)* and stem nematode *(Ditylenchus dipsaci*).

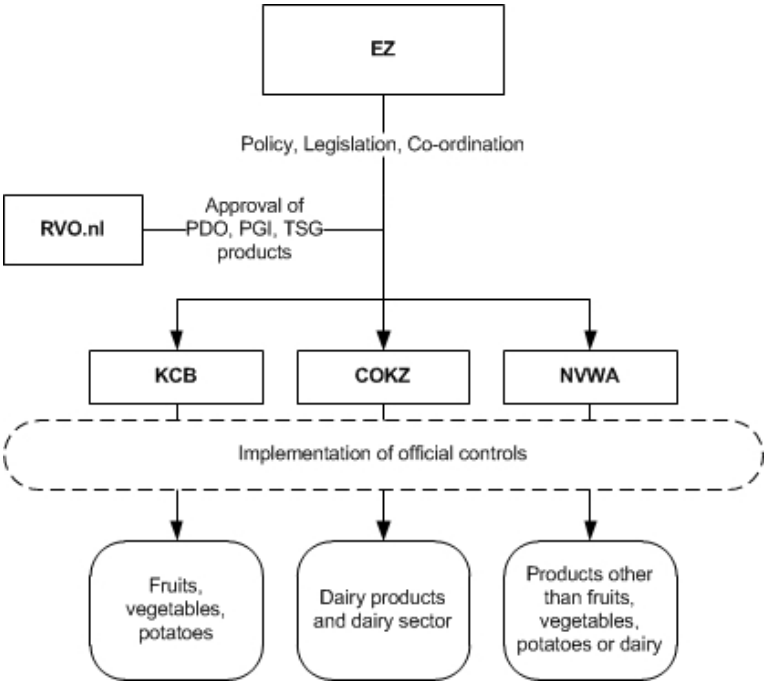
Naktuinbouw Accredited Laboratories – NAL® is a system for the accreditation of private seed laboratories. NAL® impacts on all critical aspects of testing seed quality. Naktuinbouw accredited some specialised seed laboratories for carrying out testing of seeds for the presence of specific pests regulated in Council Directive 2000/29/EC. These laboratories also carry out tests on imported seed material or on seed produced in the Netherlands.

NAK and Naktuinbouw carry out routine import and internal market checks; when necessary they perform primary diagnostic examinations to complete inspection tasks. NVWA mandated bodies to carry out a limited number of verifications and identifications as stipulated in protocols approved by NVWA.

With the exception of the above mentioned circumstances and, in particular, when the presence of a harmful organism is suspected, the diagnostic examination must be carried out or completed by NVWA.

2.12. Control system for quality labelling

Control system for Protected Designation of Origin (PDO), Protected Geographical Indication (PGI) and Traditional Specialities Guaranteed (TSG) for agricultural products and foodstuff.



EZ	Ministry of Economic Affairs
NVWA	Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority
KCB	Quality Control Bureau
COKZ	Controlling Authority for Milk and Milk Products
RVO.nl	Netherlands Enterprise Agency

Competent Authorities

EZ policy department is responsible for policy and legal matters.

COKZ is responsible for the controls of PDOs, PGIs and TSGs of dairy products in the dairy sector. It provides assurance about safety and quality of dairy products produced in the Netherlands.

NVWA is responsible for the controls of PDOs, PGIs and TSGs (in other products than fruit, vegetables, potatoes or dairy products). Further on NVWA is responsible for the controls in the retail.

KCB is responsible for the controls on PDOs, PGIs and TSGs of fruit and vegetables and potatoes.

During 2014 KCB developed a system for carrying out controls in the area of quality labelling, i.e. the method of control, the frequency, etc. KCB did it in close cooperation with EZ.

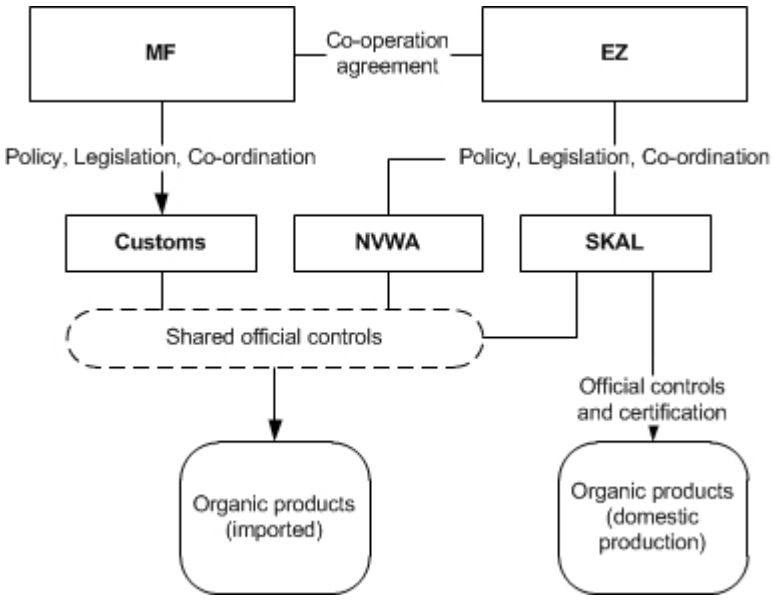
During 2015 KCB intents to begin official controls on the product specification for the PGI Westlandse Druif.

Approval of PDO, PGI and TSG, carried out by RVO.nl in close cooperation with EZ:

There is a National Application procedure for Geographic Protection of agri-products. The procedure is the following:

1. A producer (or group of producers) submits a request for registration of a product to the Advisory Committee on Geographical declarations, designation of origin and specificity certification (AGOS) secretariat. Request has a form of a standard European template. AGOS Secretariat, hosted by RVO.nl, supports the applicant for EU protection.
2. The producer (or group of producers) also reports the audit organization its wish to produce in accordance with PDO / PGI or TSG requirements.
3. AGOS and EZ investigate together if the specification meets the requirements of the Regulation (EU) No 1151/2012.
4. AGOS approves the application and published it in the "Staatscourant" (the Dutch Official Legal Journal). Two months publication time allows for the national objection procedure, if needed.
5. Application that does not receive objections is forwarded to the EZ
6. EZ sends the specification to the European Commission in Brussels.
7. The European Commission investigates whether the application meets all requirements of the Regulation (EU) No 1151/2012. Satisfactory application is translated into all the languages of the community and published in the Official Journal of the EU.
8. After publication and registration of the PDO / PGI or TSG the producer (or group of producers) notifies the inspection body.

Control System for organic production



EZ	Ministry of Economic Affairs
MF	Ministry of Finance
NVWA	Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority
SKAL	SKAL Biocontrole

SKAL Biocontrole is designated Single Control Authority responsible for the inspection and certification of organic companies in the Netherlands, within the context of Regulations: (EC) Nr. 834/2007, (EC) Nr. 889/2008 and (EC) Nr. 1235/2008. The control system set up is indicated as system B: System of a designated public control authority.

The legal base for organic controls in the Netherlands is found in Article 8 of the Act on Agriculture Quality (Landbouwkwaliteitswet). The Agriculture Quality decree (Landbouwkwaliteitsbesluit 2007) is based on this Act. Article 17 of the Decree assigns EZ as the Competent Authority within the meaning of article 27 point 1 of Regulation (EC) 834/2007. Article 15 of the Decree designates the private foundation SKAL as the Single Control Authority in the Netherlands.

SKAL is a Private Administrative Autonomous Public Authority. SKAL is therefore not part of the EZ. However, in the performance of its legal duties, it is accountable to EZ and it reports to the Minister (primary political responsibility).

Being the Control Authority SKAL is responsible for the implementation and administration of the European organic rules in the primary sector, as well as for the organic controls on processed food producers, importers and trading companies. SKAL inspects and awards organic certification to farms and businesses that meet the organic standards. The objective of SKAL is to offer consumers assurance that a product with an organic label/logo indeed had been produced in accordance with the standards for organic products. SKAL inspects each of the certified farms and businesses at least once a year. SKAL also carries out random spot inspections, which can be unannounced.

Monitoring of imports

Because the Netherlands is an important importing country for organic products, SKAL has a strong focus on the organic quality of imported products. SKAL has a commitment with Customs (through EZ) and NVWA. These three bodies perform the controls designated (within their competences) and the respective outcomes are shared jointly.

EZ and MF have a co-operation agreement. It defines the Customs responsibilities for import controls of organic products.

Sampling of organic produce

NVWA publishes reports on the analytical results from laboratory projects concerning pesticide residues in food. These reports also cover organic food.

SKAL takes samples of organic products (imported or produced in the Netherlands) and keeps also a list of designated laboratories for residue analysis. The laboratories are all accredited for ISO/IEC 17025 with an adequate scope of accreditation and accredited methods used.

ANNEX I – ACRONYMS, ABBREVIATIONS AND SPECIAL TERMS

ACRONYM	DESCRIPTION
ABP	Animal by-products
BD	Veterinary Medicinal Products Unit
BIP	Border Inspection Post
BKD	Flower Bulb Inspection Service
BSE	Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy
CA	Competent Authority
CEN	European Committee for Standardisation
CIBG	Central Health Professions Centre :
CLIENT	National IT system for certification
COKZ	Controlling Authority for Milk and Milk Products
CP	Contingency Plan
CRD	Dutch Veterinary Medicines Board
CRL	Community Reference Laboratory
CTGB	Board for Authorisation of Pesticides
WBR	Wageningen Bioveterinary Research
DG SANCO	Directorate General for Health and Consumers
DPE	Designated point of entry
EU	The European Union
FBO	Food Business Operator(s)
FVO	Food and Veterinary Office
GD	Animal Health Service
GMO	Genetically modified organism
GMP	Good Manufacturing Practice
HACCP	Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point
HIS	Health Care Inspection Service
KCB	Quality Control Service
KDS	Animal Sector Quality Inspection Foundation
KLPD	National Police Force
IMARES	Institute for Marine Resources and Ecosystem Studies
LIMS	Laboratory Information System
EZ	Ministry for Economic Affairs
MANCP	Multi-annual national control plan
MF	Ministry of Finance
MRL	Maximum residues limits
NAK	Dutch General Inspection Service for Agricultural Seed and Seed Potatoes
Naktuinbouw	Netherlands Inspection Service for Horticulture
NRCP	National Residues Control Plan
NRL	National Reference Laboratory
NVIC	NVWA Incident and Crisis Centre
OIE	World organisation for animal health
OV	Official Veterinarian
PPPs	Plant protection products
RASFF	Rapid Alert System for Feed and Food
RIKILT	Institute of Food Safety
RIVM	National Institute of Public Health and the Environment
RVA	Dutch National Accreditation Body

ACRONYM	DESCRIPTION
SCFCAH	Standing Committee of Food Chain and Animal Health
SCPAFF	Standing Committee on Plant, Animals, Food and Feed
SKAL	SKAL Biocontrole - Organic Inspection Body
SRM	Specified Risk Material
TRACES	Trade Control and Expert System introduced by Commission
TSE	Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy
VGC	National IT system for import controls
VP	Veterinary practitioner
VROM	Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and Environment
NVWA	Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority
VWS	Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sports
ZBO	Independent Administrative Public Body