

# **Official control system of veterinary and food safety services in Austria**

BvZert – Office for Veterinary Certification

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# Introduction

This document has been drafted by the Office for Veterinary Certification (BvZert, Büro für veterinärbehördliche Zertifizierung) with the aim to provide basic information on the organisation of the veterinary and food safety official control system within Austria. It is based on the national Food Safety Report, the multiannual national control plan (MANCP) and the Country Profile provided to the Directorate General for Health and Food Safety of the European Commission. It is designed to help foreign authorities in understanding the organization and structure of the Austrian official control system for veterinary and food safety services.

This document is divided into four parts:

**Part I** describes the administrative structure of Austrian competent authorities and shall clearly draft inter-relationships between the responsibilities of the different official bodies. It also describes the base for arrangements to implement official controls applicable to veterinary and food safety services.

**Part II** gives a more detailed description on the different levels of official control systems for veterinary and food safety authorities (with a focus on official control systems for food).

**Annex I (Part III)** lists figures (organisational charts), which are referred to in Part I and Part II.

**Annex II (Part IV)** lists National Reference Laboratories (NRL) for animal diseases, foodstuff, feedstuff and veterinary residues in Food and Feed.

This document is being regularly updated and abbreviations are used extensively throughout this document for the sake of brevity.

Part I -  
Arrangements  
for the  
implementation  
of official  
controls

# 1 Administrative structure of Austrian competent authorities

## 1.1 Political structure in Austria

Austria is a Federal Republic comprising nine Provinces (Burgenland, Carinthia, Lower Austria, Upper Austria, Salzburg, Styria, Tyrol, Vorarlberg and Vienna) and 94 political Districts as administrative units. At federal level, the government consists of the Federal Chancellor and the Federal Ministers (FM). In each province there is an executive body composed of a Provincial Governor (LH) and Provincial Councillors. Political districts are headed by a District Commissioner who is appointed by the LH.

## 1.2 Distribution of competencies in the public health system

The Federal Constitutional Law (B-VG, Bundesverfassungsgesetz), FLG No. 1/1930 constitutes the general distribution of competencies according to the national legislation and the further implementation of legal provisions between the federal and the provincial level.

According to Art. 10 (1) 1 Z 2 and Z 12 B-VG, issues of animal and public health (including food safety with veterinary and pesticide residues, contaminants and genetically modified organisms), feed stuff, plant health and plant production products as well as veterinary medicines are assigned in both legislation process and legal implementation to the federal level. In absence of any directly executing Federal Authority as declared in Art. 102 B-VG, the LH implements with Provincial and District Authorities legal regulations for the Federal Government (so called **indirect federal administration**).

In this context, competent authorities within the public health system could be divided into:

- Central Competent Authority (CCA) at federal level
- Provincial Competent Authority (PCA) at provincial level
- District Competent Authority (DCA) at district level

The implementation of legal provisions at federal level (so called **direct federal administration**) is realised in Austria through following Federal Offices:

- Federal Office for Food Safety (BAES, Bundesamt für Ernährungssicherheit);
- Federal Office for Consumer Health (BAVG, Bundesamt für Verbrauchergesundheit);
- Federal Office for Safety in Health Care (BASG, Bundesamt für Sicherheit im Gesundheitswesen);
- Federal Forest Office (BAW, Bundesamt für Wald).

These Federal Offices are, with exception of the BAW, administrative integrated within the Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety (AGES, Agentur für Gesundheit und Ernährungssicherheit) and have the power to implement and execute legislation and carry out official controls. *For more information on AGES and its Federal Offices please refer to Part I Chapter 1.4.*

*An illustrated overview of the distribution of competencies within the public health system is provided with Annex I Figure 1.*

## **1.3 Central Competent Authority**

The Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection (BMSGPK, Bundesministerium für Soziales, Gesundheit, Pflege und Konsumentenschutz) and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management (BML, Bundesministerium für Land- und Forstwirtschaft, Regionen und Wasserwirtschaft) are the CCA's within the public health system.

### **1.3.1 BMSGPK**

The Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection (BMSGPK) is responsible for Austria's Public Health Care System, Consumer Protection and Public Health. BMSGPK represents the CCA for animal health, food, animal welfare, animal by-products and residues of veterinary medicinal products and contaminants.



Within the BMSGPK, the Division III is responsible for consumer protection, veterinary and food safety related affairs. It is led by Austria's Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) and World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) Delegate Dr. Ulrich Herzog.

Division III is structured into following Subdivisions and Departments:

#### Subdivision III/A - Consumer Policy, Food Law and Technological Risk in Food

- Department III/A/2 – Product Safety, Food Law and Environment Related Consumer Interests
- Department III/A/6 – Food Safety and Consumer Protection: Chemical and Technological Risk, Genetic Engineering

#### Subdivision III/B – Consumer Health & Veterinary Affairs

- Department III/B/10 – Animal Health and Disease Control, Border Control Service and Trade in Live Animals
- Department III/B/11 – Animal Welfare
- Department III/B/12 – Meat Hygiene and Animal By Products, Export Affairs
- Department III/B/13 – Food Safety and Consumer Protection: Control, Hygiene and Quality
- Department III/B/15 – Zoonosis, Veterinary Drug Use, International Coordination and MANCP
- Department III/B/16 – Veterinary Law per se.

#### Subdivision III/9 – Crisis Prevention & Crisis Management in Veterinary and Food Affairs

(amongst others contingency plans are carried out by this subdivision)

Within the preparation of the multiannual national control plan (MANCP), Department III/B/15

- co-ordinates the preparation of the multiannual national control plan (MANCP) and the annual report on the MANCP as the single body related to Art. 109 (2) of Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 March 2017 on official controls (OCR);
- takes initiatives in order to harmonise the development of the control system (developing the strategies, objectives and horizontal aspects of the MANCP);

- operates as independent observing body concerning scrutiny of the audit processes;
- supports co-operation with AGES and BMSGPK;
- co-ordinates the AGES working plan and projects;
- operates as central Austrian contact point to European Commission, Directorate General Santé Food and Health Safety (DG Santé) for horizontal aspects;
- co-ordinates the preparation of general audits carried out by DG Santé.

The Federal Health and Food Security Law (GESG, Gesundheits- und Ernährungssicherheitsgesetz), FLG I No. 63/2002, laid down the basis to establish the Office for Veterinary Certification (BvZert, Büro für veterinärbehördliche Zertifizierung). As a “joint-institution” of AGES, BMSGPK and BML, it is responsible for export affairs of live animals, products of animal origin and animal by-products (ABP) at federal level. In this function, the BvZert:

- is the contact point for PCA and DCA in export clearance affairs;
- communicates with foreign authorities;
- acts as coordinating body between the Austrian Commercial Representation and the CCA in the negotiation of veterinary certificates;
- verifies the fulfilment of veterinary certificate requirements (and clarifies questions with foreign authorities);
- provides up-to-date information to establishments exporting in Third countries (not EU) and veterinary authorities via the Communication Platform Consumer Health (kvg, Kommunikationsplattform VerbraucherInnengesundheit)<sup>1</sup>.

The Federal Office for Consumer Health (BAVG) and the Federal Office for Safety in Health Care (BASG) report directly (within direct federal administration) to the BMSGPK. *For more information on the implementation tasks of BAVG and BASG please refer to Part I Chapter 1.4.2. and 1.4.3.*

### **1.3.2 BML**

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management (BML, Bundesministerium für Land- und Forstwirtschaft, Regionen und Wasserwirtschaft) is the

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.verbrauchergesundheit.gv.at/>

CCA for feed safety and plant health. Following Divisions of the BML are responsible for feed safety and plant health:

#### Division I - Law

- Department Law 1 – European Law, Agricultural & Subsidization Law
- Department Law 2 – Legal Affairs & Food Security

#### Division II - Agriculture & Rural Development

- Department 5 – Plant products
- Department 6 – Products of Animal Origin
- Department 7 – Fruits, Vegetables, Wine, Special Cultures
- Department 8 – Agricultural Value Chain & Food
- Department 9 – International Agricultural & Trade Policy

#### Division III – Forestry & Sustainability

- Department 3 – Forest Protection, Forest Development & Forestry Subsidies

As CCA, the BML is responsible for legislation in feed safety control and the coordination of implementation tasks of the Provinces (PCA) and the Federal Office for Food Security (BAES). The BAES is the competent authority for official controls on commercial feed production, product conformity and its placing on the market, whereas the official controls for feed production and feeding on the farm holding itself are in the responsibility of the LH and the PCA.

Regarding issues of plant health, the BAES officially controls plant imports [according to Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 on protective measures against pests of plants]] and the placing on the market of plant protection products (PPP). Comparable to the provincial competence of feed safety controls on the farm holdings, the PCA is also responsible for the use of PPP on the farm holdings itself.

*For more information on the implementation tasks of BAES please refer to Part I Chapter 1.4.1.*

In plant health and forestry matters, the BML is also responsible for legislation, whereas the direct administration and implementation of legal provisions is carried out by the Federal Forest Office (BAW)<sup>2</sup>.

## 1.4 Agency for Health and Food Safety (AGES) and Federal Offices

The Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety (AGES, Agentur für Gesundheit und Ernährungssicherheit) was founded in 2002 upon the Federal Health and Food Security Law (GESG, Gesundheits- und Ernährungssicherheitsgesetz), FLG I No. 63/2002. It is a state-owned private company with limited liability and a public service mission. The owners of the AGES are BMSGPK and the BML. AGES executes federal state tasks in the areas of agriculture, food and feed safety control, control of infectious diseases, veterinary medicinal drugs, radiation protection, medical devices and pharmaceuticals. The main functions of AGES are to provide laboratory capacity, scientific risk assessment and risk as well as consumer information. In order to ensure optimum efficiency and workflow, the main disciplines along the food chain are organised in six business areas within the AGES: Food Security, Food Safety, Animal Health, Public Health, the Austrian Medicines and Medical Devices Agency and Radiation Protection. Special Units like Data, Statistics and Risk Assessment (AGES DSR), Risk Communication and Knowledge Transfer & Research Coordination support AGES in the fulfilment of its federal state tasks.

Furthermore, laboratory services for official samples and associated services are provided by the following organisational units of the AGES:

Table 1 Organisational units of AGES, which provide laboratory services for official samples and associated services

<b>Business Area Food Safety (AGES LMA)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Institute for Food Safety Vienna (Food of Animal Origin, Cosmetic Products, Consumer Goods, Beverages)</li><li>• Institute for Food Safety Linz (Special Goods, Toys)</li><li>• Institute for Food Safety Innsbruck (Food of Plant Origin)</li></ul>

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<sup>2</sup> Official Homepage BAW: <https://www.bundesamt-wald.at/en/>

- National Contact Point and National Coordination Salzburg (for RASFF/RAPEX, AAC, AAC FF, OFIS, INFOSAN, internet searching point)<sup>3</sup>
- Coordination Unit Consumer Deception and Food Experts Graz

#### **Business Area Animal Health (AGES IVET)**

- Institute for Veterinary Disease Control Mödling
- Institute for Veterinary Disease Control Linz
- Institute for Veterinary Disease Control Innsbruck

#### **Business Area Food Security**

- Institute for Sustainable Plant Production Vienna
- Institute for Animal Nutrition and Feed Vienna
- Institute of Plant Protection Products Vienna
- Institute for Seed and Seedlings, Plant Protection Service and Bees Vienna & Linz

Source: DG Health and Food Safety; Country Profile - Organisation of Official Controls (2021-7150 July 2022)

All AGES laboratories are accredited according to EN ISO/IEC 17025.

Art. 6 of GESG provides the legal basis for the establishment of BAES<sup>4</sup>, BAVG<sup>5</sup> and BASG<sup>6</sup> as Federal Offices organisationally integrated within the AGES.

### **1.4.1 BAES**

The Federal Office for Food Security (BAES, Bundesamt für Ernährungssicherheit) implements and executes legal provisions for agricultural production by direct federal administration.

The BAES has essential tasks and powers in the control and supervision of farms that place agricultural inputs on the market. This control of placing on the market is carried out according to a risk-based control plan by specially trained authorities. The Federal Office is also responsible for monitoring imports of agricultural inputs (phytosanitary import inspection, marketing standards) and fishery products.

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<sup>3</sup> For more information on electronic databases used in the official control system see Part I Chapter 5.4.

<sup>4</sup> Official Homepage BAES: <https://www.baes.gv.at/en/>

<sup>5</sup> Official Homepage BAVG: <https://www.bavg.gv.at/en/>

<sup>6</sup> Official Homepage BASG: <https://www.basg.gv.at/en/>

Furthermore, the BAES is responsible for sovereign tasks relating to the approval of agricultural products (seeds, plant varieties, plant protection products and fertilizers), the certification of seeds and seedlings as well as testing facilities according to the Federal Chemicals Act (FLG I No. 53/1997). The approval process and decision making always take place in close cooperation with AGES and is based on expert opinions and legal tests.

### **1.4.2 BAVG**

The official control responsibilities of the Federal Office for Consumer Health (BAVG, Bundesamt für Verbrauchergesundheit) include:

- import control of live animals, food of animal origin, food of plant origin (according to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/1793), products of animal origin, organic products, commodities and cosmetic products;
- the issuance of export permission to food establishments and related official controls;
- official controls of Internet traded products subject to the Federal Food Safety and Consumer Protection Act, FLG I No. 13/2006 (LMSVG, Lebensmittelsicherheits- und Verbraucherschutzgesetz)

The legal framework of import, transit (= commercial purposes as a reason for import) and re-import from third countries is harmonised within the European Union. This means that EU Regulations apply to all member states, in order to guarantee, with regard to the common market and independent of the individual member states, a uniform control and the fulfilment of the health conditions of the imported or transited animals, food and goods. Restrictions and controls also apply to the transport of live animals, foodstuffs and goods of both animal and non-animal origin as well as organic products by private individuals. The controls at the Austrian border inspection posts (Vienna International Airport and Linz Airport) are carried out by border veterinarians and/or control bodies of the Import Control Department of the BAVG, in cooperation with the customs authorities.

The enforcement of border controls is based on

- the EU Community Law;
- the national Animal Health Act 2024 (FLG I No. 53/2024);
- the LMSVG and the regulations based on them, in particular the Veterinary Import Ordinance, FLG II No. 480/2022.

*More information on the official import control system is provided in Part II Chapter 3.*

Additionally, the BAVG is the competent authority for granting export authorisations and the issuance of export permission for certain third countries. The basic prerequisite for the export of animal products to third countries is, in addition to compliance with European regulations (Art. 12 of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002), compliance with the veterinary import and basic regulations of the destination country. The aim of the approval process of export authorisation (including the maintenance of this authorisation) is to register food establishments exporting to third countries. At the same time, the BAVG carries out supervisory authority controls and confirms that the specific requirements of the third country are met and that the production establishment is suitable for export to the respective third country.

As of 1 January 2022, the BAVG takes over parts of the official Internet control in Austria within its area of responsibility. Pursuant to GESG Art. 6c (1), the BAVG is the competent authority for the official control of all goods that are subject to the LMSVG and are offered for sale in Austria via the Internet or other distance selling channels from contracting states of the EU, European Economic Area (EEA) states or third countries.

### **1.4.3 BASG**

The Austrian Medicines & Medical Devices Agency deals with the assessment of medicinal products for human and veterinary use, medical devices and pharmacovigilance. In parallel to the Austrian Medicines & Medical Devices Agency, the Federal Office for Safety in Health Care (BASG) has been established.

Furthermore, the BASG is responsible for the inspection of pharmacies and the release of addictive drugs in accordance to the annual inspection plan of the BMSGPK and the inspection of the supply of human medicinal products by public pharmacies through sale at a distance. In the context of addictive drugs, the BASG officially controls companies, which are authorised to own, to buy, to manufacture, to manipulate, to convert or to distribute addictive drugs according to the Federal Addictive Drug Act, FLG I No. 112/1997, concerning their handling of these products. On request, the BASG also provides scientific advice on the development of medicinal products.

In the veterinary sector, the BASG is responsible for controls of manufacturers and wholesalers of veterinary medicines and feed mills producing medicated feed.

## 1.5 Provincial Competent Authority

At provincial level, official control responsibilities are shared between the Provincial Veterinary Services (PVS), the Provincial Food Inspectorates (PFI) and the Provincial Plant Protection Services (PPS).

### 1.5.1 Provincial Veterinary Services

The Provincial Veterinary Services (PVS) are part of the Provincial Government Office and headed by the Provincial CVO. Staff of the PVS is composed of official veterinarians (State Veterinary Officers – SVO) permanently employed by the Provinces. Each Province consists of several political districts, which are respectively headed by a District Commissioner. This means at local level, the PCA are organised into District Competent Authorities (DCA) with local official veterinarians. The District Commissioner is appointed by the LH and responsible for the respective local DCA.

As already mentioned, Art. 10 (1) 1 Z 2 and Z12 B-VG, FLG No. 1/1930, assigns legislation process and legal implementation of animal and public health issues to the Federal Government. In consequence, it is important to distinguish between the organisational (administrative) and functional role of an official veterinarian.

The implementation of legal provisions on animal and public health (including food safety with veterinary and pesticide residues, animal by products (ABP), contaminants and genetically modified organisms), feed stuff, plant health and plant protection products as well as veterinary medicines lies within the responsibility of the Federal Government. In the system of indirect federal administration, official veterinarians (PCA or local DCA) carry out official controls in the indicated areas organisationally as PCA or local DCA, but functionally as CCA.

In issues of animal health, the PVS supervises and coordinates animal transports, animal disease responses and the public rendering service within its Province. Provincial laws based on EU regulations (Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009 and Commission Regulation (EU) No 142/2011) and the national Animals Material Act, FLG I No. 141/2003 regulate the disposal of animal by products. The local official veterinarians (DCA) carry out official hygiene controls in ABP rendering and processing establishments within indirect federal administration.



*More information on the official control system for ABP is provided in Part II Chapter 4.*

As to areas related to veterinary medicinal products, the official veterinarians of the DCA are responsible for official controls of veterinary practices and clinics and dispensaries and for 'on-farm' mixing of medicated feeding stuffs. The official control responsibilities for veterinary residues are shared between the PVS (live animals, fresh meat and aquaculture products) and the PFI (milk, eggs and honey). Based on the National Residue Control Plan (drawn up by Department III/B/12 and Department III/A/6 of the BMSGPK), the respective LH is responsible for setting up and executing more detailed provincial sampling plans in co-operation with AGES DSR.

The official controls on the use of veterinary medicinal products and on veterinary residues are implemented within indirect federal administration and lie in the responsibility of the LH.

*More information regarding the official control system for the use of veterinary medicinal products and veterinary residues is provided in Part II Chapter 6.*

### **1.5.2 Provincial Food Inspectorates and co-operation with PVS**

The control of goods subject to the LMSVG (food, potable water, food contact materials, toys, and cosmetic products) is organised indirectly as part of the federal administration. Jurisdiction is in the hands of the CCA, while the enforcement of laws is subject to indirect federal administration in Austria's Provinces. The Provincial Food Inspectorates (PFI) and the official veterinarians (DCA) perform their control activities in food establishments under the responsibility of the LH.

The PFI are part of the provincial administration. Unlike the PVS, PFI do not have further organisational units at district level. In some cases, PFI are employed by the municipal administrations. In the provinces of Vorarlberg and Vienna, tasks of veterinarians within the framework of the LMSVG (Hygiene Package) have been assigned to the PFI. In the provinces of Upper and Lower Austria, the PVS and the PFI have been merged.

The PFI and the official veterinarians of the DCA inspect food business operators on a regular basis in line with the requirements stated in the audit section of the multiannual national control plan (MANCP). Apart from AGES, two food inspection institutes

(accredited according to EN ISO/IEC 17025) in the Provinces are also responsible for testing and analysing official foodstuff samples:

- Institute for the Environment and Food Safety of the Province of Vorarlberg
- Carinthian Institute for Food Analysis, Veterinary Medicine and Environment of the Province of Carinthia

AGES assists the BMSGPK and the Provinces in the development of the MANCP and their reporting duties with statistical and specialist know-how and ensures the transfer of information between provinces as well as the reporting to the European Commission (RASFF, RAPEX, ICSMS).

According to Art. 12 of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002, food and feed exported from the European Union for placing on the market of a third country shall comply with the relevant requirements of European food law, unless otherwise requested by the authorities of the importing country or established by the laws, regulations, standards, codes of practice and other legal and administrative procedures as may be in force in the importing country. To ensure the fulfilment of corresponding legal requirements, food and feed of animal origin intended for export is official controlled by veterinarians of the local DCA before shipping (within indirect federal administration).

*More information on the official control system for food of animal origin is provided in Part II Chapter 2.*

### **1.5.3 Provincial Plant Protection Services**

The organisation of provincial services in relation to controls on plant health and pesticide use at farm level varies from one province to another. In some provinces, Plant Protection Services (PPS) are attached to the Chambers of Agriculture, while in others they are part of the Agricultural Department of the Province.

## 2 Human resources for the performance of official controls

As regards the mechanisms to ensure that staff is free from any conflict of interest, most official controls are carried out by full-time civil servants, who are bound by civil service rules to act in public interest. The Federal Civil Service Act and Provincial Civil Service Laws prohibit public servants from undertaking political or personal activities that may result in a conflict of interest within their duties, all potential conflicts must be openly declared by any officer concerned.

Official controls for animal health are predominantly carried out by full-time official veterinarians, who need an official authorisation before undertaking any private practice. Although private veterinary practitioners may be authorised to carry out official duties, the role of these authorised veterinarians is limited amongst others to performing identity checks, ante and post mortem inspections in slaughterhouses and collecting diagnostic samples on farm holdings. They may perform inspections on their clients' animals but, in order to avoid a potential conflict of interest, they may not carry out the final health inspection and are not entitled to issue health certificates. The following list gives an overview on human resources for the performance of official controls:

Table 2 Overview on human resources for the performance of official controls

Staff	Full-time equivalent personnel <sup>7</sup> /number of persons
<b>Provincial Competent Authorities</b> (cited 31 December 2023)	
Provincial Food Inspectorates (incl. physicians and official veterinarians)	<b>210,29 (VZK)</b>
Official Veterinarians (OV) in total	<b>239,58 (VZK)</b>
OV according to Art. 6 of the national Animal Health Act 2024	<b>58</b>

<sup>7</sup> Full-time equivalent personnel = Vollzeitkräfteäquivalente (VZK)

OV commissioned to fight Tuberculosis	67
OV commissioned according to Animal Transport Act 2007	19
OV commissioned according to Bovine Virus Diarrhea Act 2007	73
OV commissioned according to Poultry Hygiene Act 2007	63
Official bee experts	363
Other animal welfare controlling bodies	3
<b>Border Inspection Posts (BIP)</b> (cited April 2024)	
OV commissioned to border control inspection	4,9 (VZK)
<b>Ante-mortem and post-mortem inspection (SFU)</b> (cited 31 December 2023)	
SFU Veterinarians in total	791
official auxiliaries in total	31
official auxiliaries for Trichinella examination in total	40
<b>National reference laboratories</b> (cited 31 December 2023)	
AGES business area of Food Security	307,70 (VZK)
AGES business area of Food Safety	177,30 (VZK)
AGES business area of Animal Health	123,20 (VZK)
Institute for the Environment and Food Safety of the Province of Vorarlberg	13,55 (VZK)
Institute for Food Analysis and Quality Control of the Province of Carinthia	19,49 (VZK)
Provincial BVD- laboratories	23,40 (VZK)
<b>Official Plant Protection Services</b> (cited 6 June 2018)	30,9 (VZK)

Source: MANCP (<https://www.ages.at/themen/mehrjaehriger-integrierter-kontrollplan>)

*For more detailed information on the number of staff for official controls please refer to Chapter IV Annex 6 of the current MANCP (<https://www.ages.at/themen/mehrjaehriger-integrierter-kontrollplan>).*

# 3 Training for official veterinarians

## 3.1 Authorised veterinarians and official auxiliaries

The Official Controls Regulation (EU) 2017/625 form the legal base for qualification and skills of authorised veterinarians [authorized veterinarians according to Art. 24(4) LMSVG]. The Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/624 lays down the specific minimum requirements including training requirements for authorised veterinarians, official auxiliaries and other staff designated by the competent authorities are laid down to ensure adequate performance of the tasks described in Art. 18 of OCR Regulation (EU) 2017/625. The national Food Safety and Public Health Act (FLG I No. 13/2006,) and the Regulation according to the LMSVG on Education and Training of Food Experts (FLG II No. 275/2008) implement the mentioned EU legal requirements.

According to Art. 13 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/624, the **authorised veterinarians performing tasks provided for in Art. 18 of OCR Regulation (EU) 2017/625** comply with the following minimum specific requirements set out in Chapter I of Annex II:

1. The competent authorities may appoint as an official veterinarian only veterinarians who have passed a test meeting the requirements set out in point 3.
2. The competent authorities must make arrangements for the test for candidates applying to be appointed as an official veterinarian.
3. The test must demonstrate knowledge of subjects, specifically targeted to the tasks of official veterinarians (legal requirements, international organizations, food technology and food processing, food safety, surveillance and statistics, TSE and ABPs, animal welfare, zoonosis and official controls in general).
4. Candidates may acquire the required knowledge as part of their basic veterinary training, or through training undertaken or professional experience acquired after qualifying as veterinarians. If the competent authorities are satisfied that a candidate has acquired all the required knowledge as part of a university degree, or through continuing education resulting in a postgraduate qualification, professional experience or other qualifications, it shall waive the requirement for a test.

5. The official veterinarian must have aptitude for multidisciplinary cooperation.
6. Each official veterinarian must undergo practical training for a probationary period of at least 200 hours before starting to work independently. Relevant training during veterinary studies may be included in the probationary period. During this period the probationer has to work under the supervision of existing official veterinarians in slaughterhouses, cutting plants and on holdings. The training must concern the auditing of Good Hygiene Practices and procedures based on the HACCP principles in particular.
7. The official veterinarian must keep up-to-date and keep abreast of new developments through regular continuing education activities and professional literature in the areas referred to in point 3. The official veterinarian must, wherever possible, undertake annual continuing education activities.

According to Art. 13 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/624, the **official auxiliaries performing tasks provided for in Art. 18 of OCR Regulation (EU) 2017/625** comply with the following minimum specific requirements set out in Chapter II of Annex II:

1. Only people who have undergone training and passed a test in accordance with the requirements set out in point 5 are allowed to carry out the tasks of an official auxiliary.
2. The competent authorities shall make arrangements for the tests referred to in point 1. To be eligible for these tests, candidates must prove that they have received: at least 500 hours of training, including at least 400 hours of practical training (covering the areas referred to in point 5) and any additional training required to enable official auxiliaries to undertake their duties competently.
3. The practical training referred to in point 2 must take place in slaughterhouses, game-handling establishments and/or cutting plants under the supervision of an official veterinarian.
4. Training and tests must concern principally red meat or poultry meat. However, people who undergo training for one of these two categories and pass the test must only be required to undergo abridged training to pass the test for the other category.

The training and tests must cover wild game, farmed game and lagomorphs, where appropriate.

5. Training for official auxiliaries must cover, and tests must confirm knowledge of subjects in relation to holdings, slaughterhouses, game-handling establishments and cutting plants.
6. The official auxiliary must have aptitude for multidisciplinary cooperation.
7. Official auxiliaries must keep up-to-date and abreast of new developments through regular continuing education activities and professional literature. The official auxiliary must, wherever possible, undertake annual continuing training activities.
8. If official auxiliaries carry out only sampling and analysis in connection with examinations for *Trichinella* and microbiological criteria, the competent authorities are only required to ensure that they receive training appropriate to these tasks.

## **3.2 Official veterinarians**

Official veterinarians contracted by the authority on central, provincial or district level have to absolve the “Veterinary Public Health Qualification” training course. This programme is a postgraduate university-level training course to help students (the graduation of the university diploma for veterinary medicine is preconditioned) to prepare for the Veterinary Public Health Examination. The successful completion of the course and the examination is a prerequisite for veterinarians to work in the public veterinary administration as official veterinarians. The practical application of the knowledge imparted should enable the participants to perform the activities required in public veterinary administration at a high professional level, with a solid foundation in the latest developments in veterinary medicine and a knowledge of the relevant legal provisions. Participants acquired extensive professional competence, supported by case studies and discussions.

The course is divided into six modules (Law, Animal Welfare, Veterinary Medicinal Products, Animal Diseases, Food, Soft Skills) over a period of three semesters. In addition to the theoretical training (43 ECTS points), the students have to absolve 240 hours (8 ECTS points) of practical training in the field of veterinary public health. The Veterinary

Public Health Qualification course entitles successful graduates to use the “Academic Expert on Veterinary Public Health Services” title.



## 4 Enforcement measures

In the area of food, the PFI have the right and the duty, according to the LMSVG, to impose appropriate, proportional measures in case of infringements (these measures include: a ban on importing a product, seizure, an obligation to recall the product or the imposition of corrective measures to the FBO). PFI may also forward evidence of infringements to the competent judicial authorities. Sanctions in respect of infringements are provided in Art. 35 (7) of the LMSVG.

In the animal health area, the competent authority (local DCA acts functionally as CCA) is directly empowered to issue warnings and take other administrative actions (e.g. movement restrictions and the suspension or withdrawal of approvals) if animal keepers or business operators fail to comply with EU or national requirements. The actions to be taken as well as type and extent of penalties are determined by the national veterinary regulations on the base of the AHL.

In the feed area, the BAES has the right and the duty to impose appropriate measures in case of infringements (these measures include: withdrawal from the market, seizure, the imposition of corrective measures on the establishment, including the operators obligation to report immediately on the implementation of the measures, adaption of labelling, packaging or advertising material). In case of minor deficiencies, the BAES may file a written objection and charge for the cost of sampling and analysis. In more serious cases, the BAES files a complaint to the penal authorities who fine operators in case of culpable actions.

Enforcement measures for non-compliance with requirements for ABP in the context of food legislation are laid down in the LMSVG and the Animals Materials Act (TMG, FLG I No. 141/2003). If deficiencies are detected, the official veterinarian (DCA) may request in writing that the establishment takes the necessary action to rectify the situation. The LH (indirect administration) may order measures to be taken to correct any breaches of food legislation within specified deadlines if the business operator does not respond to a request.

In the area of plant health, the PPS are responsible for determining the measures to be taken in cases of non-compliance. For this, the AGES has issued guidance and

recommended measures for a number of harmful organisms. After an inspection at farm level, a written record is issued and communicated to the farmer or farm's representative together with the official orders given by the inspector. If the farmer does not comply with these orders, the competent authority produces an official letter and a complaint is issued. In the event of an offence, the PPS reports this to the competent district authority, so that administrative penalty proceedings may be undertaken.

In the area of control of marketing and use of plant protection products (PPP), the BAES has the right and the duty to impose appropriate measures. These measures include: prohibition of placing on the market, disposal or return to the supplier, withdrawal from the market, obligation to report immediately on the implementation of the measures, adaption of labelling, packaging or advertising material, destruction of advertising material, revocation of advertising material or implementation of operational measures. Inspectors may temporarily confiscate a PPP, if provisions of the Plant Protection Products Act 2011 (FLG I No. 10/2011) are not in compliance or measures ordered were not properly followed up within defined deadline. In case of temporarily confiscation, the inspectors have to notify the competent district authority. Sanctions in respect of infringements are provided in the provincial laws on PPP.

# 5 MANCP and verification of official controls

## 5.1 MANCP

The preparation of the risk-based multiannual national control plan (MANCP) has its legal base in Art. 109 of the OCR and is prepared in cooperation with the BMSGPK, the BML and the Ministry of Finance (BMF) under the responsibility of the respective FM (as defined in Art. 30 of the national LMSVG). More precisely, Department III/B/15 of the BMSGPK is the national central contact point (Art. 109 (2) OCR) for the preparation of the MANCP.

The MANCP applies to a period of three years and is updated annually in form of a rolling wave planning. The plan for the years 2023-2025 is published on the following webpage: <https://www.ages.at/themen/mehrjaehriger-integrierter-kontrollplan>.

It is publicly available and shall guarantee transparency of official controls in the public health system.

In principle, the MANCP evaluates respectively the aim of implementation of legal acts concerning official controls and states the basis for establishment of official control plans, monitoring programs and special control campaigns or focus-actions (SCC or SPA, Schwerpunktaktion), e.g. in food inspection. The MANCP covers official controls on food, feed, animal and plant health, organic production, animal welfare, ABP's, genetic modified organisms (GMO), PPP's, organic production and quality schemes as to the indication of traditional foods, e.g. the distinctive symbol of the Protected Geographical Indication (g.g.A., geschützte geographische Angabe).

As the verification of the effectiveness of controls takes place at different authority levels and by various means, it is necessary to establish a control system, which unites risk based official controls along the food chain in an integrated planning approach. The integrating character of the MANCP with its overall conclusion (regarding to Art. 113 OCR) is an important guideline for the ongoing and future consideration and progress of different aspects, providing scientific and risk-based approach for the verification of Austria's official control system. Important tools to ensure official control's effectiveness are risk

categorisation, audit systems and the use of common electronic databases. In addition, the identification of compliance with planned arrangements is considered to be an important element of the further verification of both effectiveness and efficiency of the entire system.

## 5.2 Risk categorisation

As defined in Art. 9 OCR, competent authorities have to control establishments regularly with a risk-based approach in an appropriate frequency. This legal duty covers official controls on food, feed, animal and plant health, animal welfare, ABP's, genetically modified organisms (GMO), PPP's, organic production and indications as to quality schemes. For the preparation of risk-based official controls, it is necessary to consider different operational characteristics as well as the nature and size of the FBO's to be controlled. The risk evaluation considers plant size, number of animals, production quantity or number of products and its nature, annual turnover as to quantities processed, product origin, ways of distribution, type of production (primary production or processing), results of earlier official controls and establishment's self-inspection and the participation or commitment regarding private certification systems (regarding to Art. 9 (1) lit c and lit d OCR). The higher the assigned risk category for an establishment, the higher is its frequency in official controls.

*For further information on the risk categorisation of establishments please refer to Chapter IV Annex 5 of the current MANCP (<https://www.ages.at/themen/mehrjaehriger-integrierter-kontrollplan>).*

Not only the official control plans, but also the official control plans for sampling itself are elaborated and issued with a risk-based approach. The sampling of foodstuff, feedstuff, fertilisers and seeds is assigned to groups. These groups are risk-categorised considering results of earlier official controls, the placing on the market and the assessment of technical experts.

This risk assessment for official controls of establishments and official sampling plans is carried out by AGES DSR.

### 5.3 Internal Audits

Audits systems enable an ongoing quality assurance of official controls and are legally required in Art. 6 OCR. The Audit Manual (Handbuch Audit) is an internal guideline for the Austrian competent authority (Provinces – more precisely the LH; BMSGPK; BML) and the European Commission (EC) for implementation of the legal requirements. Additionally, the guidance document on the implementation of the provisions for the conduct of audits under Art. 6 of OCR (Commission Notice 2021/C 66/02) constitutes a legal base to carry out internal audits on official controls. The national competent authorities are supported in the implementation of internal audits by the AGES unit “Audit-Servicepoint OCR” (regarding to Art. 9(2) GESG).

According to the Austrian Federal Constitution, the provinces are responsible for the performance and verification of official controls (in areas with full competence or indirect federal administration) unless the official control is in the responsibility of a federal authority (BAES, BASG, BAVG, BFW). In areas of indirect federal administration, the federal authorities can launch specific control campaigns or focus actions in order to get a clearer picture of the compliance level.

Audit systems of competent authorities have to be based on a written procedure, nationally there are seven audit systems established for the following sectors: food safety agency (LMA, Lebensmittelaufsicht), veterinary services (VET, Veterinärwesen), plant protection services (PPS, Pflanzenschutzdienste), BAES, BASG, BAVG and BFW.

The control program for the audit systems is risk-based as well. The audit systems LMA, VET and PPS review the official control system under the responsibility of the Provinces, in these official control systems one audit of all competent authorities is planned within 3 years. For the official controls performed by the federal authorities BAES, BASG, BAVG and BFW one audit of all departments is planned within 5 years.

These internal audits are performed either by experts of the respective authority (BAES, BASG, BAVG and BFW) or by auditors from a different Province (LMA, VET and PPS). For the food and veterinary sector (LMA and VET), there is a pool of about 60 trained auditors in the provinces available for this purpose. An audit team consists of 3-4 auditors, one team leader from the provinces, 1-2 experts from the Provinces and one observer from the federal level. Their independence is ensured through the binding declaration, which has to be signed (VET) or according to the Civil Servant Statute (LMA). For the food sector,

the working group “AG QM-System für die amtliche Lebensmittelüberwachung” prepares the annual audit plan and the documented procedures and checklists for audits (SOP), which can be found in the according “Quality management handbook” (QMHB). This working group consists of representatives of the Provinces and the BMSGPK.

*For further information on the qualifications of auditors, audit experts and the special requirements for the national audit systems please refer to Chapter IV Annex 7 of the current MANCP (<https://www.ages.at/themen/mehrjaehriger-integrierter-kontrollplan>).*

The final audit report of the audited official control system is internally published on the information platform of the AGES unit “Audit-Servicepoint OCR” and on the national Communication Platform for Public Health (kvg, Kommunikationsplattform VerbraucherInnenengesundheit).

Art. 6 OCR and the Commission Notice 2021/C 66/02 requires an independent control of internal audits: for the official control systems in the responsibility of the BMSGPK (BAVG, BASG), the independent control is performed by BMSGPK Department III/B/15. The BML Department Internal Revision independently controls the internal audits of the BAES and BFW (in responsibility of the BML).

Furthermore, the EC carries out Health and Food Audits in EU member states (as well as in non-EU countries exporting to the EU) aimed at assessing the implementation and enforcement of EU legislation on food and feed safety, animal health, animal welfare, plant health and in certain areas of human health protection.

*For more detailed information on EC Health and Food Audits please refer to the Website of the EC<sup>8</sup>.*

## **5.4 Electronic databases**

In order to ensure a systematic approach across the sectors in Austria and to guarantee the effectiveness of official controls, the competent authorities implemented a target comparison. Following agreement with Provinces in November 2010, it was decided to

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<sup>8</sup> [https://food.ec.europa.eu/horizontal-topics/official-controls-and-enforcement/health-and-food-audits-and-analysis\\_en](https://food.ec.europa.eu/horizontal-topics/official-controls-and-enforcement/health-and-food-audits-and-analysis_en)

make use of already existing data in their data systems of VIS for the veterinarian sector und ALIAS for the food sector.

#### **5.4.1 Consumer Health Information System**

In general, the Consumer Health Information System (VIS, Verbrauchergesundheitsinformationssystem) database is used for controls on animal health, trade in live animals and animal welfare, ABP plants, residues and ante and post-mortem inspection (indirectly via external software tools). The Federal Institute of Statistik Austria (STAT) operates the VIS database under the authority of the BMSGPK. The Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2016 on transmissible animal diseases (AHL, Animal Health Law), the national Animal Health Act 2024 (FLG I No. 53/2024) and the LMSVG constitute the legal base for the VIS database. Furthermore, the national Control and Digitalisation Implementation Act (FLG I No. 171/2023) updated and expanded the legal basis of VIS as national official control database. The BMSGPK has access to all VIS data, while LH and Provincial Veterinary Services (PVS) have access to all VIS data within their remit and area of competence.

The VIS database is structured into following sections:

##### The VIS register:

- Since the administrative competence is assigned to and often executed jointly by both the Veterinary Services and the Food Inspection Authorities, the establishments subject to their legal competences are kept in a common register. In addition to the master data and activities of the establishments, the VIS register also contains information about their approvals (including export approvals), animal husbandry data, private program participations, information on organic production as well as applications and notifications to authorities.

##### Animal information:

- Individual animal and detailed livestock information is kept for bovine, ovine, caprine and equine animals and includes animal master data, stays and vaccinations. Events such as entry and exit (incoming/outgoing) of animals to/from establishments or animal losses are kept for pigs, sheep, goats, bovine animals and equidae.

### Official control activities:

- Official controls, surveillance and suspicion inspections on the establishments are documented in VIS, as well as ante-mortem and post-mortem inspections and microbiological meat inspections.

Due to the extensive networking of the data stored in the VIS database, these are the prerequisites for official measures and their documentation.

In the field of animal welfare, the Animal Protection Act (FLG I No. 118/2004) includes provisions for the obligatory input of control data (farm level) into the VIS database (VIS). At current, the implementation of checklists for control of animal welfare on farms into the VIS database is in process. For the animal health, ABP's and veterinary residue sector, the AGES DSR supports the Provinces by generating and evaluating VIS data. In case of any animal disease outbreak, the AGES DSR generates risk-based control lists for farms within the surveillance zone, which are available for the responsible official veterinarians in the VIS database. Furthermore, the VIS database enables GPS based zoning relates to an animal disease outbreak.

### **5.4.2 Food Information and Evaluation System**

The Provincial Food Inspectorates (PFI) use the nationwide Official Food Information and Evaluation System (ALIAS, Amtliches Lebensmittel Informations- und Auswertesystem) for official controls. For collection and update of FBOs master data, there is a direct connection/interface to the VIS register. OCs on all food of non-animal origin and all food of animal origin excluding meat are recorded in ALIAS. Controls on the retail level as butchers' shops, which are performed by PFI, are also recorded in ALIAS. The PFI have access to all master data of registered food establishments (incl. approval as particularly for milk, fish, egg products) under their control. In special cases, the PFI can access data on all establishments throughout the country. A mathematical model has been developed within ALIAS to assess the risk categorisation of establishments based on previous controls, and to adjust control frequencies accordingly.

### **5.4.3 Information Management System for Official Controls**

The Information Management System for Official Controls (IMSOC) enables the computerised exchange of information on official controls along the food chain at a



European level through different components. The four existing IMSOC system components managed by the European Commission are:

- Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF)
- Animal Diseases Information System (ADIS)
- Notification and Rapid Alert System for Plant Pests (EUROPHYT)
- Trade Control and Expert System (TRACES)

The EU Rapid Alert System for Dangerous Non-Food Products (RAPEX) and the Information and Communication System for Market Surveillance (ICSMS) complement IMSOC in the non-food sector.

The new TRACES NT (new Technology) was established on the legal basis of the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/1715 of 30 September 2019 laying down rules for the functioning of the information management system for official controls and its system components (the IMSOC Regulation) and has been in use since 31 December 2004. It is an European network for animal health, food safety, animal welfare and plant health, which monitors both the transport and the trade of live animals and certain animal products within the EU, as well as the import and export (third countries) of live animals, products of animal origin, certain foodstuffs of non-animal origin and import controls of the Official Plant Protection Service. TRACES supports traceability, especially epidemiological traceability in the event of animal disease outbreaks.

TRACES connects veterinary authorities and other competent authorities of the EU Member States and participating third countries with economic operators, both at central administration level and at decentralised control units (e.g. Border Control Posts, DCA). It contains multilingual health certificates in electronic form required for trade within the EU, as well as for imports and exports to third countries. In case of the transport of live animals or animal products, TRACES shall notify the place of destination from the place of origin (central and competent local authority), in the case of live animals also all intermediate places of residence. As a result, the course of a shipment can be traced seamlessly.

# Part II - Official control systems

# 1 Official control system for animal health

The Regulation (EU) 2017/625 (OCR) on Official Controls and the Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2016 on transmissible animal diseases and amending and repealing certain acts in the area of animal health (Animal Health Law, AHL) form the legal base for official controls on animal health. The legal requirements set up in the AHL are implemented in the national Animal Health Act 2024 (FLG I No. 53/2024). The AHL focuses on harmonised animal health standards within the European Union, animal disease prevention, new technologies on surveillance and on animal identification and the prevention of antibiotic resistance. Furthermore the AHL attributes more responsibilities in animal health matters to livestock holders, food establishments and veterinarians.

The BMSGPK is the CCA for official controls on animal health. Within the BMSGPK, following Departments are responsible for animal health:

- Subdivision III/9 – Crisis Prevention & Crisis Management in Veterinary and Food Affairs;
- Department III/B/10 – Animal Health and Disease Control, Border Control Service and Trade in Live Animals;
- Department III/B/15 – Zoonosis, Veterinary Drug Use, International Coordination and MANCP
- Department III/B/16 – Veterinary Law per se.

Within indirect federal administration, the LH is responsible to carry out official controls on the fulfilment of legal requirements regarding animal health. Following organisational units in the respective Provincial Government operate on behalf of the respective LH:

Table 3 Contact details

Authority	Address	Contact details
<b>Office of the Burgenland Provincial Government</b> <b>Department 10 – Health</b> <b>Subunit Veterinary Directorate and Animal Welfare</b> <b>(BURGENLAND)</b>	Europaplatz 1 7000 Eisenstadt	<a href="mailto:post.a10-veterinaer@bgld.gv.at"><u>post.a10-veterinaer@bgld.gv.at</u></a>
<b>Office of the Carinthian Provincial Government</b> <b>Department 10 – Animal Disease Prevention and Animal Health</b> <b>Subunit Veterinary Services</b> <b>(CARINTHIA)</b>	Kirchengasse 43 9020 Klagenfurt am Wörthersee	<a href="mailto:abt10.vet@ktn.gv.at"><u>abt10.vet@ktn.gv.at</u></a>
<b>Office of the Lower Austria Provincial Government</b> <b>Department LF5 – Veterinary Affairs and Food Control</b> <b>(LOWER AUSTRIA)</b>	Landhausplatz 1 Haus 12 3109 St. Pölten,	<a href="mailto:post.lf5@noel.gv.at"><u>post.lf5@noel.gv.at</u></a>
<b>Office of the Upper Austria Provincial Government</b> <b>Department Food Security and Veterinary Services</b> <b>(UPPER AUSTRIA)</b>	Bahnhofplatz 1 4021 Linz	<a href="mailto:esv.post@ooe.gv.at"><u>esv.post@ooe.gv.at</u></a>
<b>Office of the Salzburg Provincial Government</b> <b>Department 4 – Livelihood and Energy</b> <b>Subunit 4/03 – Regional Veterinary Office</b> <b>(SALZBURG)</b>	Fanny-v.-Lehnert-Straße 1 5020 Salzburg	<a href="mailto:veterinaerdirektion@salzburg.gv.at"><u>veterinaerdirektion@salzburg.gv.at</u></a>
<b>Office of the Styrian Provincial Government</b> <b>Department 8 – Health and Care;</b> <b>Subunit Veterinary Directorate and Veterinary Public Health</b> <b>(STYRIA)</b>	Friedrichgasse 9 8010 Graz	<a href="mailto:veterinaerwesen@stmk.gv.at"><u>veterinaerwesen@stmk.gv.at</u></a>

<b>Office of the Tyrolean Provincial Government</b> <b>Section Health and Social Affairs</b> <b>Regional Office for Veterinary Services</b>	Wilhelm-Greil-Straße 17, <a href="mailto:veterinaerdirektion@tirol.gv.at">veterinaerdirektion@tirol.gv.at</a> 6020 Innsbruck
<b>Office of the Vorarlberg Provincial Government</b> <b>Department Vb – Veterinary Services (VORARLBERG)</b>	Klostergasse 20 <a href="mailto:veterinaer@vorarlberg.at">veterinaer@vorarlberg.at</a> 6900 Bregenz
<b>Office of the Vienna Provincial Government</b> <b>Market Office (MA) 60 – Veterinary Services &amp; Animal Welfare (VIENNA)</b>	Thomas Klestil Platz 4, <a href="mailto:post@ma60.wien.gv.at">post@ma60.wien.gv.at</a> 1030 Wien

Official controls are carried out by the PVS or local official veterinarians (DCA). Monitoring and eradication programs are directly implemented by the PVS in coordination with the BMSGPK. Furthermore, the BMSGPK coordinates multiannual meetings on the current animal health situation with all Provincial CVOs attending.

The PVS is informed about suspicious cases either by official veterinarians (DCA) or by the national reference laboratories (NRL) and is obligated to report suspicious and confirmed cases to the CCA. In case of non-negative laboratory results, the NRL informs all veterinary authorities involved uploading the results in the VIS database. The responsible official veterinarian (DCA) has to acknowledge the results in VIS to officially confirm the outbreak. If an animal disease outbreak is confirmed in VIS, automated emails are sent to all involved veterinary authorities. The VIS database allows all involved authorities to monitor the actual situation incl. measures and actions taken. Additionally, the Central Establishment Register containing establishments along the food chain (ZBR, Zentrales Betriebsregister), the ante and post mortem inspection database (SFU, Schlachttier- und Fleischuntersuchungsdatenbank) and AMA (Agricultural Market Austria) bovine database (BDB) can be used for traceability after an animal disease outbreak.

To coordinate measures after the confirmation of an animal disease outbreak, the national disease control centre according to Regulation (EU) 2016/429 (AHL) is set up in the offices of the CCA. In the event of a suspected case and after confirmation, telephone/video conferences are organised by Department III/B/10 (BMSPGPK) with PVS, official veterinarians (DCA), animal disease experts and the NRL to discuss further disease

control measures. Furthermore, local disease control centres are being set up in the Federal provinces.

A general, generic contingency plan on how to deal with crisis situations – including animal health issues - within the CCA and the AGES is set up by Subdivision III/B/9 of the BMSGPK. Disease specific national contingency plans are drafted by the CCA in close cooperation with an animal disease expert group and its task force groups. The expert group's remit includes issuing guidelines for the provincial contingency plans, drawing up and evaluating instructions for official veterinarians on eradicating epizootic diseases, determining joint principles for improving crisis plans in the Provinces and co-operating with monitoring epizootic disease exercises. The members of the expert group comprise epizootic disease experts from the Provinces, the NRL's and epidemiologists from the University for Veterinary Medicine in Vienna (vetmeduni vienna) and other national and international experts.

*National Reference Laboratories for animal diseases are listed in Annex II.*

*For an illustrated overview of the official control system on animal health please refer to Annex I Figure 2.*

## 2 Official control system for food

The Food Safety and Consumer Protection Act (LMSVG, Lebensmittelsicherheits- und Verbraucherschutzgesetz) has been published on 20 January 2006 with FLG I No. 13/2006 and is the legal implementation act for Food Safety and Consumer Protection in Austria.

The LMSVG does not only serve to take into account EU legal requirements, but also the entire food chain, including primary production (i.e. the rules on post-mortem inspection as well as the hygiene rules for foodstuffs and their control). The LMSVG regulates the system requirements for official controls on food, drinking water, food contact materials, toys and cosmetic products and includes provisions as to sanctions and penalties if applicable. It applies at all stages of the production, processing and distribution. The Austrian food code (ÖLMB, Codex Alimentarius Austriacus) is designed to publish physical and content descriptions, definitions, methods of laboratory analysis and assessment principles, as well as guidelines for placing goods on the market (Art. 76 LMSVG). In legal terms, the ÖLMB is considered as an “*objectivated expert appraisal*”. It is not a legal regulation in the strictest sense. The Codex Commission has appointed subcommissions and task forces to support the commission and assist in the preparation of resolutions, including the use of experts who help develop guidelines for the code.

The operator's responsibility on food hygiene is already identified in Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 January 2002 laying down the general principles and requirements of food law, establishing the European Food Safety Authority and laying down procedures in matters of food safety (“General Food Law”) as a central element to ensure the safety of foodstuffs and is also stipulated in the LMSVG accordingly. Part of this responsibility is also to cooperate closely with the competent authority in case of non-compliance with legal requirements. The immediate introduction of appropriate countermeasures is another essential part of this concept.

The control of goods subject to the LMSVG (food, drinking water, food contact materials, toys, and cosmetic products) is organised indirectly as part of the federal administration. The competent authorities of the respective Provinces (PFI, PVS) perform their control activities under the responsibility of the LH (according to Art. 24 LMSVG).

In the food area, the CCA for controls of food of animal origin is the BMSGPK.

Within the BMSGPK, Department III/B/12 is responsible for the organisation of official controls at slaughterhouses and meat establishments. Official controls at slaughterhouses and meat establishments are implemented by the PVS. Controls on milk, eggs and fishery products are part of the control system for foodstuff and food hygiene under the responsibility of Department III/B/13. Official controls on milk, eggs and fishery products are implemented by the PFI.

*For an illustrated overview of the official control system for food please refer to Annex I Figure 3 (meat and poultry) or Figure 4 (milk, eggs, honey and fishery products).*

## **2.1 Approval and registration of food establishments**

Food establishments are approved by the LH following an inspection visit carried out by staff of the PVS or official veterinarians of the DCA. Approvals of new establishments are made by notice issued in accordance with the Food Hygiene Approval Regulation, FLG II No. 231/2009. Based on the “business portal” establishments which require approval are directly confirmed by the PVS into the ZBR. Additionally, food business operators need to notify the relevant activities of their establishments for its further processing in the VIS or ALIAS database.

## **2.2 Official control at slaughterhouses and meat establishments**

Official controls at slaughterhouses and meat establishments shall be designed and carried out in such a way that all establishments are regularly subject to official controls on a risk-based approach.

There are four types of controls provided for slaughterhouses and meat establishments:

- ante and post mortem inspection
- regular hygiene controls
- general hygiene inspections
- animal welfare controls at slaughter



Department III/B/12 (Meat Hygiene and Animal By Products, Export Affairs) is the CCA for ante and post mortem inspection, whereby ante and post mortem inspections in Austria's provinces are organised by the respective LH.

Following organisational units in the respective Provincial Government operate on behalf of the respective LH:

Table 4 Contact details

Authority	Address	Contact details
<b>Office of the Burgenland Provincial Government</b> <b>Department 10 – Health</b> <b>Subunit Veterinary Directorate and Animal Welfare</b> <b>(BURGENLAND)</b>	Europaplatz 1 7000 Eisenstadt	<a href="mailto:post.a10-veterinaer@bglld.gv.at"><u>post.a10-veterinaer@bglld.gv.at</u></a>
<b>Office of the Carinthian Provincial Government</b> <b>Department 10 – Animal Disease Prevention and Animal Health</b> <b>Subunit Veterinary Services</b> <b>(CARINTHIA)</b>	Kirchengasse 43 9020 Klagenfurt am Wörthersee	<a href="mailto:abt10.vet@ktn.gv.at"><u>abt10.vet@ktn.gv.at</u></a>
<b>Office of the Lower Austria Provincial Government</b> <b>Department LF5 – Veterinary Affairs and Food Control</b> <b>(LOWER AUSTRIA)</b>	Landhausplatz 1 Haus 12 3109 St. Pölten,	<a href="mailto:post.lf5@noel.gv.at"><u>post.lf5@noel.gv.at</u></a>
<b>Office of the Upper Austria Provincial Government</b> <b>Department Food Security and Veterinary Services</b> <b>(UPPER AUSTRIA)</b>	Bahnhofplatz 1 4021 Linz	<a href="mailto:esv.post@ooe.gv.at"><u>esv.post@ooe.gv.at</u></a>
<b>Office of the Salzburg Provincial Government</b> <b>Department 4 – Livelihood and Energy</b> <b>Subunit 4/03 – Regional Veterinary Office</b> <b>(SALZBURG)</b>	Fanny-v.-Lehnert-Straße 1 5020 Salzburg	<a href="mailto:veterinaerdirektion@salzburg.gv.at"><u>veterinaerdirektion@salzburg.gv.at</u></a>

<b>Office of the Styrian Provincial Government</b> <b>Department 8 – Health and Care;</b> <b>Subunit Veterinary Directorate and Veterinary Public Health</b> <b>(STYRIA)</b>	Friedrichgasse 9 8010 Graz	<a href="mailto:veterinaerwesen@stmk.gv.at"><u>veterinaerwesen@stmk.gv.at</u></a>
<b>Office of the Tyrolean Provincial Government</b> <b>Section Health and Social Affairs</b> <b>Regional Office for Veterinary Services</b>	Wilhelm-Greil-Straße 17, 6020 Innsbruck	<a href="mailto:veterinaerdirektion@tirol.gv.at"><u>veterinaerdirektion@tirol.gv.at</u></a>
<b>Office of the Vorarlberg Provincial Government</b> <b>Department Vb – Veterinary Services</b> <b>(VORARLBERG)</b>	Klostergasse 20 6900 Bregenz	<a href="mailto:veterinaer@vorarlberg.at"><u>veterinaer@vorarlberg.at</u></a>
<b>Office of the Vienna Provincial Government</b> <b>Market Office (MA) 59 – Market Service &amp; Food Safety</b> <b>(VIENNA)</b>	Thomas Klestil Platz 4, 1030 Wien	<a href="mailto:post@ma60.wien.gv.at"><u>post@ma60.wien.gv.at</u></a>

The ante and post mortem inspections, the regular hygiene controls and animal welfare controls are performed mostly by official veterinarians appointed and contracted by the LH and operating on the district level. The LH may appoint private veterinary practitioners (according to Art. 24 (4) LMSVG) who, while performing these tasks, act as official veterinarians (authorised veterinarians). The Provincial Government may train “official auxiliaries”, being non-veterinarians, to assist them. Official auxiliaries are subject to professional supervision and instructed by the authorised veterinarians. This option is applied to some of the larger abattoirs in some provinces. The PVS are responsible for general hygiene inspections at slaughterhouses and meat establishments. The frequency of official controls is determined according to the different types of businesses (nature) being conducted and their size (production volume).

One fundamental objective of ante-mortem and post-mortem inspections is guaranteeing meat that is fit for human consumption. Meat that is intended for human consumption (including game) must be examined before it is slaughtered (ante-mortem inspection) and afterwards (post-mortem inspection) or, in the case of game, straight after it has been killed, according to EU law. Thus, the health status and identity of each animal is checked

before slaughtering/killing. In such cases where suspicion of non-conformity with animal health standards exists, a slaughter ban might be declared or carcasses are examined after separate slaughter (e.g. microbiological testing).

In case of game the animal is examined before it is killed by taking a “good look” at it (visual inspection). The first post mortem inspection is carried out by trained persons (hunters with the appropriate qualification) immediately after the animal has been killed. An official post-mortem meat inspection is carried out afterwards at a game handling and processing establishment. Should any suspicion arise that the meat might be defective, additional examinations, such as microbiological analysis, the cooking and roasting of samples and other tests, might be conducted

Meat considered unfit for human consumption must be disposed of professionally (according to Regulation (EC) No 852/2004 and Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009).

Meat that is deemed suitable for consumption is labelled with a health mark at the slaughterhouse. This labelling is standard throughout the EU and is applied by the official veterinarian.

### **2.3 Official controls on products of organic production and with protected labelling**

One task carried out by the PFI is to ensure that products labelled “organic” are actually produced and placed on the market in line with the regulations for organic production (market controls). In addition, controls and inspections are in place on the correct use of protected geographical names or protected designation of origin (PGI) and the correct use of names of guaranteed, traditional specialties. This also includes monitoring the activities of control points authorised for the inspection of such production methods (e.g. Agricultural Market Austria).

### **2.4 Official food sampling**

Official food samples are taken by the regional authorities in line with the specifications of the sample section of the MANCP (e.g. according to company type, such as retailers, wholesalers, importers, and caterers; or according to specific product groups, such as

meat, dairy, fish, fruit, vegetables, cosmetics and toys). The samples are sent to AGES LMA or the respective food inspection institutes in Carinthia and Vorarlberg for examination and analysis.

*National Reference Laboratories for foodstuff are listed in Annex II.*

“Plan samples” are taken on a routine basis throughout the year and across the entire product range. They are categorised into market samples, which are passed on to the consumers without any further activity and provide an overview of the market; into targeted samples as part of focus campaigns (FC) and into samples from the in-house production (SIHP) of goods that are made, processed, or prepared at the operator’s facility. Both market samples and SIHP samples are planned using a risk-based statistical approach. The findings of these sampling activities make it possible to provide representative statements on food safety and on protection from fraud and adulteration.

Moreover, samples are also taken should there be any suspicion of non-conformity of an individual product or establishment (suspect samples), in addition to plan samples. These samples may be prompted by the competent authorities becoming aware of consumer complaints or official information and hints.

Results of official food samples are collected in ALIAS (goods subject to the LMSVG) database. Additionally, official test results collected during the post mortem/meat inspection in the SFU database are transmitted to the VIS database. The Food Safety Report (Lebensmittelsicherheitsbericht) summarises the results of official food sampling. The main focus is on the results of the National Control Plan. Within the National Control Plan, all establishments along the food chain (from primary production to retail and gastronomy) are officially controlled.

## **2.5 Frequency of official controls**

The PCA (PFI and PVS) inspect enterprises on a regular basis in line with the requirements stated in the audit section of the MANCP. Such audits include inspections to determine whether the hygiene conditions at the facilities monitored are in compliance with legal requirements via self-testing for products and manufacturing processes, and that all the requirements stated in the regulations of the European Union and Austria are complied with in full. Audits are carried out on a risk-based level. The actual frequency of

inspections and scope of control for each inspection is defined by the LH based on the allocated risk category and the concrete individual risk assessed in the company out of earlier inspections/audits.

Specific aspects of food safety are examined in detail as part of focus campaigns. Such campaigns may be initiated on a short-term basis, pertaining to the relevant situation. Moreover, there are FC that are part of monitoring programs specified by the European Commission.

FBOs processing meat, milk, and fish in large quantities (high-risk establishments) are subject to additional checks as part of focus campaigns. These campaigns are designed to evaluate whether general and specific hygienic requirements are being applied and to assess the company's "own—check" measures as a part of the implemented Food Safety Management System in licensed, high-risk enterprises. The results of these campaigns are important in discussions on special safety and fraud protection issues.

## **2.6 Export of food of animal origin to third countries**

According to Art. 12 of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002, food exported from the European Union to be placed on the market in a third country shall comply with the relevant requirements of European food law, unless otherwise requested by the authorities of the importing country or established by the laws, regulations, standards, codes of practice and other legal and administrative procedures as may be in force in the importing country. To ensure the fulfilment of corresponding legal requirements, food of animal origin intended for export is officially controlled and certified by veterinarians of the local DCA before shipping (within indirect federal administration). Documentary checks (complete documentation and compliance with the animal health requirements stated in the export health certificate) as well as identity checks of the goods (e.g. correct labelling) are the main components of the official export certification. If all control steps are positively passed, the official veterinarian signs and issues the official export health certificate.

Additionally, the BAVG is the competent authority for granting export authorisations and the issuance of export permission for certain third countries. The basic prerequisite for the export of animal products to third countries is, in addition to compliance with European regulations (Art. 12 of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002), compliance with the veterinary import and basic regulations of the destination country. The aim of the approval process

of export authorisation (including the maintenance of this authorisation) is to register food establishments exporting to third countries. At the same time, the BAVG carries out supervisory authority controls and confirms that the specific requirements of the third country are met and that the production establishment is suitable for export to the respective third country.

## **2.7 Measures in case of noncompliance**

Should violations of food law requirements become evident following inspections or evaluations carried out by AGES or the food inspection institutes in Carinthia and Vorarlberg, the PCA responsible must undertake the appropriate measures to remedy any shortcomings and urge the FBO to carry out a Root Cause Analysis (RCA) if necessary. Depending on the level of non-compliance and the possible impact on the Consumer's health, this includes the restriction or banning of the products on the market, temporary prohibition of using certain areas or rooms, or even the closure of an enterprise. Should products be assessed as harmful, the concerned operator must be urgently notified by the responsible authority. The operator must stop placing the products on the market immediately and withdraw the products using their own means (withdrawal or recall), inform their employees and warn the public if the product has already reached the end-consumer. Should the operator fail to comply with their obligations, the authority will have to seize the products.

*For an illustrated overview of the enforcement of food law please refer to Annex I Figure 5.*

# 3 Official control system for imports of animals and food of animal origin

The objective of import controls is to ensure that food and objects for daily use from non-EU countries comply with the conditions that apply to consignments within the EU. EU-wide harmonised regulations must be applied for these controls. Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404 of 24 March 2021 lays down the lists of third countries, territories or zones thereof from which the entry into the Union of animals, germinal products and products of animal origin is permitted.

The CCA for import controls on animals and food of animal origin is the BMSGPK. In the BMSGPK, Department III/B/16 is responsible for issuing general instructions and policy in relation to import controls, whereas Department III/B/10 is responsible for animal health/disease issues.

Since 1 January 2022, the BAVG is responsible for the implementation of import controls of animals and goods subject to the LMSVG. Import controls are carried out by the border veterinarians and inspection bodies of the BAVG.

*Please also refer to the website of the BAVG: <https://www.bavg.gv.at/en/import>*

*For an illustrated overview of the official control system for imports of animals and food of animal origin please refer to Annex I Figure 6, for a more detailed overview of the Austrian Border Control System for goods subject to the LMSVG refer to Annex I Figure 7.*

Pursuant to Art. 27(1) of the Veterinary Import Regulation 2022 (VEVO 2022, FLG II No. 480/2022), the entry and transit of consignments subject to inspection is permitted only through a BIP, which complies with the requirements of the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/1014. Since 1 January 2009, two BIPs have been authorised in Austria for the clearance of live animals, animal and plant foods, including biological products, animal by-products and feed:

- Vienna International Airport, 1300 Vienna
- Linz Airport, 4063 Horsching

*Further details on approved BIP may be found at the following web link:*

[https://food.ec.europa.eu/animals/veterinary-border-control/designated-border-control-posts-bcps\\_en](https://food.ec.europa.eu/animals/veterinary-border-control/designated-border-control-posts-bcps_en)

The Customs Authorities from the Ministry of Finance (BMF) are responsible for monitoring the regulations on prohibited and restricted goods concerning international travel. They execute import controls for freight and supervise BIPs and non-BIP crossing points for personal baggage checks, non-commercial pet animals and check for illegal imports of veterinary products and live animals. These tasks are carried out in close cooperation with the border veterinarians. If the Customs Authorities suspect any irregularities when clearing goods, they contact the relevant border veterinarians.

### **3.1 Veterinary border inspection of live animals**

The procedure for inspections of live animals is laid down in the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2130 of 25 November 2019 establishing detailed rules on the operations to be carried out during and after documentary checks, identity checks and physical checks on animals and goods subject to official controls at border control posts. This EU regulation is implemented by the VEVO 2022.

Each consignment of live animals entering the EU at any BIP shall be subject to documentary checks. Furthermore, each animal must be subject to identity checks (with corresponding exceptions).

For animals for which the EU law requires individual identification, at least 10 % of the animals or at least 10 animals representative of the consignment shall be selected. Where the consignment contains fewer than 10 animals, identity checks shall be carried out on each individual animal of the consignment. For animals for which EU law does not require individual identification, the identification of a representative number of units or containers shall be checked. If identity checks are not satisfactory, the number of animals checked shall be increased and may include all animals of the concerned consignment.

The clinical examination shall consist of an inspection of all animals and shall include at least:



- an examination of the animals, including a general assessment of their health status, their ability to move freely, the condition of their skin and mucous membranes and any signs of abnormal excretion;
- monitoring the respiratory and nutritional pathways;
- sample monitoring of body temperature;
- sampling if discrepancies in the investigations have been detected.

Further investigations (laboratory tests, official samples for the detection of residues) can be connected and support the final decision.

In addition, further checks due to outbreaks of animal diseases in third countries may be necessary. The legal step as an order is made either by EU legal acts or in the short term through the BMSGPK. However, there may also be increased controls due to RASFF notifications.

If the imported animal meets the requirements stated in the respective animal health certificate, the border veterinarians issue a Common Health Entry Document (GGED). In case of noncompliance, the shipment is rejected and not allowed for entry the European Union.

Measures in the event of a risk of animal disease spread within the intracommunity trade are regulated in Art. 13 of the Veterinary European Single Market Regulation (FLG II 473/2008). If non-compliance with animal health standards is detected, appropriate official measures are regulated in Art. 14 of the Veterinary European Single Market Regulation.

### **3.2 Veterinary border inspection of food of animal origin**

The control obligation of consignments of food of animal origin as well as the procedure for veterinary border checks of food of animal origin are set out in the VEVO 2022. These are consignments, which are considered to be subject to inspection at BIPs in accordance with Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/632.

The controls upon entering the EU include documentary checks, but also name checks and product control (to a certain degree). All consignments subject to inspection must be recorded in the TRACES (consignments are usually recorded by the responsible operators).

The entrepreneur is obliged to fill in Part 1 of the GGED for each consignment submitted to the inspection. The declaration of the consignment must be made via TRACES one working day before the actual arrival of the consignment at the BIP. If the consignment complies with all the regulations, the border veterinarian issues a GGED. A notification about the processing of the consignment is sent electronically to the local authority at the place of destination using the TRACES databank system.

As already mentioned, each consignment shall be subject to documentary checks by an border veterinarian, irrespective of its customs status, to determine whether the consignment complies with the particulars in the documents and, in the case of importation, the information contained in the veterinary certificates provide the required security. For each consignment, the official veterinarian of the BIP shall examine the customs use and destination. Official certificates transmitted through IMSOC shall comply with the requirements for the model official certificates containing the specific health guarantees required for entry into the Union in accordance with EU legislation.

The border veterinarian shall subject each consignment to a name check to make sure, that:

- the products comply with the information contained in the official certificates;
- in the case of consignments in containers the seals are intact;
- the official stamp, health or identity marking or other identifiers exist to identify the country of origin and establishment;
- the specific veterinary labelling is available for packaged or packaged products.

The procedure for the physical inspection (product control) is laid down in VEVO 2022 and the Union acts. The frequency of the physical inspection is defined on a risk-based approach (for example 30 % for poultry meat products). Furthermore, checks must be planned in such a way that the importer cannot foresee whether a particular product will be inspected.

The purpose of the physical inspection of animal products is to ensure that the condition of the products always corresponds to the intended use indicated in the veterinary certificate or in the veterinary document. It is therefore necessary to verify the guarantees of origin given by the third country. It is also necessary to check whether the required temperature range has been met and that the packaging material is intact.

Physical inspection is carried out by sensory testing, simple physical or chemical examination methods and laboratory tests to detect residues, pathogens and contaminants.

Should the consignment not apply to entry regulations, it will be rejected. In this case, the EU border inspection posts will be notified about the rejection via TRACES.

### **3.3 Measure 'risk-based focus campaigns'**

In addition to the existing import controls of consignments of goods required by EU rules, a control plan for a risk-based control of consignments not subject to regular checks at the EU external border is foreseen. The MANCP is used to identify the specific need for risk-based controls.

The following parameters are taken into account in the preparation of the control plan:

- type of consignment (composed products, canned goods, temperature-controlled consignments, etc.);
- hazard (heavy metals, histamine, Salmonella, Noroviruses, pesticides, etc.);
- risk collection (review of notifications from the RASFF, information from AGES and complaints from previous years;  
risk assessment (including the frequency of illegal consignment detection in the course of official controls in previous years and the consideration of the specific product groups carried out via the Austrian BIP's are introduced).

### **3.4 Measures against illegal import**

Animals or goods/items subject to veterinary border control inspection which have been brought into the Austrian territory without a veterinary border check, must be brought under official supervision to an appropriate Austrian BIP designated by the BAVG (according to Art. 36-37 of VEVO 2022).

The BAVG may waive the transfer to the BIP if the consignment is destroyed under official supervision at the expense of the responsible operator.. The competent Customs

Authority shall arrange the safe disposal of all confiscated goods which were subject to veterinary border control inspection (according to Art. 198 of the EU Customs Code).

## 4 Official control system for Animal by Products (ABP) and TSE

Art. 45 of the Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009 and the national Animal Materials Act (FLG I No. 141/2003) provide the legal base for official controls on establishments dealing with ABPs. The official controls shall be designed and carried out in such a way that all establishments are subject to regular and risk-based official controls. The official controls are structured in a modular system: The processing and compliance with microbiological standards as well as the traceability (origin of raw materials, separation along the food/feed chain and proper labelling) are subject to official control.

The CCA for controls on ABP is the BMSGPK. Within the BMSGPK, the main responsibilities for ABP and food unfit for human consumption are allocated to Department III/B/12. The BML is responsible for policy and legislation in relation to the use of ABPs as organic fertilizers, the feed ban, the official controls of composting and biogas plants and the collection of catering waste and unfit food as far as legislation on waste is concerned. The BAES is the competent authority for feed control in commercial production (in relation to ABPs: feed with animal components, e.g. pet food) and its placing on the market.

*A list of approved or registered ABP plants according to Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009 is provided at the following web link:*

<https://vis.statistik.at/vis/veroeffentlichungen/zugelassene-betriebe>.

### 4.1 Specific official control activities

The implementation of controls is delegated under the system of federal indirect administration to the LH. In the respective Provinces:

- the PVS and official veterinarians of the DCA are responsible for the approval of ABP plants;
- the PVS and official veterinarians of the DCA are responsible for official controls at the place of origin of ABPs (meat establishments) and for hygiene controls of all ABPs

establishments at the different stages of collection, treatment, use, processing and rendering;

- the PVS and official veterinarians of the DCA are also responsible for official controls of composting and bio gas plants if ABPs are used;
- controls of wholesale and retail establishments and caterings are in the responsibility of the PFI;
- the official veterinarians of the DCA are responsible for issuing export health certificates, when ABPs (pet food) is intended for export to third countries.

Following organisational units in the respective Provincial Government operate on behalf of the respective LH:

Table 5 Contact details

Authority	Address	Contact details
<b>Office of the Burgenland Provincial Government</b> <b>Department 10 – Health</b> <b>Subunit Veterinary Directorate and Animal Welfare</b> <b>(BURGENLAND)</b>	Europaplatz 1 7000 Eisenstadt	<a href="mailto:post.a10-veterinaer@bglld.gv.at"><u>post.a10-veterinaer@bglld.gv.at</u></a>
<b>Office of the Carinthian Provincial Government</b> <b>Department 10 – Animal Disease Prevention and Animal Health</b> <b>Subunit Veterinary Services</b> <b>(CARINTHIA)</b>	Kirchengasse 43 9020 Klagenfurt am Wörthersee	<a href="mailto:abt10.vet@ktn.gv.at"><u>abt10.vet@ktn.gv.at</u></a>
<b>Office of the Lower Austria Provincial Government</b> <b>Department LF5 – Veterinary Affairs and Food Control</b> <b>(LOWER AUSTRIA)</b>	Landhausplatz 1 Haus 12 3109 St. Pölten,	<a href="mailto:post.lf5@noel.gv.at"><u>post.lf5@noel.gv.at</u></a>
<b>Office of the Upper Austria Provincial Government</b> <b>Department Food Security and Veterinary Services</b> <b>(UPPER AUSTRIA)</b>	Bahnhofplatz 1 4021 Linz	<a href="mailto:esv.post@ooe.gv.at"><u>esv.post@ooe.gv.at</u></a>

<b>Office of the Salzburg Provincial Government</b> <b>Department 4 – Livelihood and Energy</b> <b>Subunit 4/03 – Regional Veterinary Office</b> <b>(SALZBURG)</b>	Fanny-v.-Lehnert-Straße 1 5020 Salzburg	<a href="mailto:veterinaerdirektion@salzburg.gv.at"><u>veterinaerdirektion@salzburg.gv.at</u></a>
<b>Office of the Styrian Provincial Government</b> <b>Department 8 – Health and Care;</b> <b>Subunit Veterinary Directorate and Veterinary Public Health</b> <b>(STYRIA)</b>	Friedrichgasse 9 8010 Graz	<a href="mailto:veterinaerwesen@stmk.gv.at"><u>veterinaerwesen@stmk.gv.at</u></a>
<b>Office of the Tyrolean Provincial Government</b> <b>Section Health and Social Affairs</b> <b>Regional Office for Veterinary Services</b>	Wilhelm-Greil-Straße 17, 6020 Innsbruck	<a href="mailto:veterinaerdirektion@tirol.gv.at"><u>veterinaerdirektion@tirol.gv.at</u></a>
<b>Office of the Vorarlberg Provincial Government</b> <b>Department Vb – Veterinary Services</b> <b>(VORARLBERG)</b>	Klostergasse 20 6900 Bregenz	<a href="mailto:veterinaer@vorarlberg.at"><u>veterinaer@vorarlberg.at</u></a>
<b>Office of the Vienna Provincial Government</b> <b>Market Office (MA) 60 – Veterinary Services &amp; Animal Welfare</b> <b>(VIENNA)</b>	Thomas Klestil Platz 4, 1030 Wien	<a href="mailto:post@ma60.wien.gv.at"><u>post@ma60.wien.gv.at</u></a>

As regard the use of ABP as organic fertilisers, the BAES is responsible for controls on placing on the market, while the official veterinarians of the DCA are responsible for on-farm controls regarding their use and application.

A national control plan for routine controls on ABP plants is prepared by the BMSGPK in co-operation with the PVS within the framework of the MANCP and is annually updated and amended according to the results and experiences of the previous year. The frequency of official controls is based on risk categorisation of ABP plants and results of earlier official controls are reported to the BMSGPK and included in the follow up of the MANCP. Since 2012, all official controls at ABP plants are carried out according to harmonised checklists and documented in the VIS database.

## 4.2 Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSE)

Regarding official controls related to TSE the CCA is the BMSGPK. Within the BMSGPK, Department III/B/10 is responsible for animal disease and epidemic-surveillance, eradication measures, notification system and national contingency plans, whereas Department III/B/12 is in charge of the organisation of the removal and control of Specified Risk Material (SRM). Official controls on the removal and collection of SRM in slaughterhouses and cutting plants are carried out by the official veterinarians of the DCA. The BML and the BAES are the competent authorities for total feed ban.

The responsibility for official controls is delegated within the system of indirect federal administration to the LH, the implementation of official controls is carried out by the PVS and official veterinarians of the DCA.

Official TSE samples are taken by official veterinarians, contracted official veterinarians (sampling on-farm and in slaughterhouses) or by official appointed veterinarians (sampling on-farm). Samples are sent to the State Institute for Veterinary Examinations in Klagenfurt or, if a disease is suspected, directly to the NRL for TSE: AGES Institute for Veterinary Disease Control Mödling (AGES IVET). Compliance with the requirement to test bovine animals for BSE is monitored by the PVS and the investigation centres using the AMA (Agricultural Market Austria) bovine database. The BMSGPK must be informed of any irregularities identified in the sampling procedures noted by the PVS or the investigation centres.

Data on the compulsory TSE tests are collected and collated by the NRL monthly and entered into the EU TSE-monitoring network and in the annual report in accordance with Art. 6 (4) of Regulation (EC) No 999/2001. The State Institute for Veterinary Examinations in Klagenfurt and the NRL must keep the information used for the reports, and in general all records concerning tests, for seven years and present them to the BMSGPK at any time on request.

The results on TSE monitoring are notified to and provided at the EU TSE database system.



# 5 Official control system for feeding stuffs and animal nutrition

Regulation (EU) 2017/625 (Official Control Regulation, OCR), Regulation (EC) No 183/2005 (on requirements for feed hygiene), Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 and the national Feeding stuff Act (FLG I No. 139/1999) provide the legal base for official controls on feeding stuffs.

The BML is the CCA in charge for official controls on feed of plant origin. It is responsible for legislation, general instructions to the BAES and the Provincial Government and policy decisions (the BML coordinates as CCA the tasks of the Provinces and BAES). Within the BML, Legal Department 2 is responsible for policy and legislation in respect to feeding stuffs. Within the BMSGPK, Department III/B/10 is responsible for import controls of feeding stuffs of animal origin (BIP are responsible for import controls of feeding stuffs of animal origin).

Monitoring the compliance with feed legislation with regard to the feeding of feeding stuff to farm animals, as well as the production, processing and storage of feeding stuffs on the farm itself lies in the responsibility of the LH within indirect federal administration. Official controls on farms are carried out by official veterinarians of the DCA. Unless there is a specific suspicion, following parameters are considered in official feed sampling carried out by the official veterinarians of the DCA: Inhibitor test, GMO, packaging material, botanical contamination, animal ingredients, Salmonella, microbiological contamination (microbial count), Dioxin and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), heavy metals, mycotoxins, not dioxin-like PCBs, other elements and ions (e.g. fluorine) and pesticides.

The BAES is the competent authority (in accordance with the OCR) for carrying out official controls in the course of (technical) production trade in feeding stuffs. The area of responsibility of the BAES include:

- authorisation and registration of feed establishments in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 183/2005;
- carrying out inspections at feed establishments (except farms) and feeding stuff sampling with regard to its placing on the market (including storage and production)

of raw materials and finished products and their analysis (including assessment of analysis results);

- import controls of feeding stuffs of non-animal origin;
- the implementation of complaints, the arrangement of measures (e.g. decontamination, retrieval of delivered goods);
- report to the administrative penal authority.

The BAES is responsible for approving plant based feed business operators, while the Provinces are responsible for the registration of farmers (feed business operators at the level of the primary production), based on the data entered into the Agricultural holding system.

*The lists of approved and registered feed business operators are continuously updated and are publicly available on the website of the BAES:*

<https://www.baes.gv.at/zulassung/futtermittel/>.

*For an illustrated overview of the official control system for feeding stuff please refer to Annex I Figure 8.*

*National Reference Laboratories for feedstuff are listed in Annex II.*

The AGES is the scientific and technical adviser. It co-ordinates all technical measures, carries out risk assessment, laboratory analyses and organises training courses.

## **5.1 Organisation of official controls on feeding stuff**

The general organisation of controls, responsibilities, procedures and reporting systems are defined in an Action Plan on feeding stuffs prepared by the BML. It lays down the procedures to be followed to carry out controls in a uniform manner and to enable an appropriate, rapid and efficient response in the occurrence of a risk. It also provides information and guidelines for the practical implementation of controls, and includes checklists. The Action Plan is made available to all control bodies and published on the internal site of the BAES.

Within the framework of the BML Action Plan, the BAES prepares each year a control plan for feeding stuffs based on risk assessment and a statistical analysis in conjunction with

the AGES DSR. Since 2007, a co-ordinated control programme for the Provinces is applied to ensure the risk-based sampling at farm level. Although AGES has no supervisory role over the Provinces, it organises training and co-operates with the Provinces in order to establish a risk-based plan for the controls on farms.

# 6 Official control system for veterinary medicines and residues

The Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/1646 on uniform practical arrangements for the performance of official controls as regards the use of pharmacologically active substances and the Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1644 with specific requirements for the performance of official controls on the use of pharmacologically active substances legally require the preparation of three national residue control plans:

- a national risk-based residue control plan for animal production in the Member States;
- a national randomised residue monitoring plan for animal production in the Member States;
- a national risk-based residue control plan for imports from third countries.

The regional distribution of farm animals, the size of animal populations, sex, age, species and production system, as well as the occurrence of certain veterinary residues on a regional basis, current developments and trends in the field of animal production and trade are taken into account in the preparation of these control plans. These three national veterinary residue control plans are submitted by the EU Member States to the European Commission for evaluation.

The BMSGPK is the CCA for official controls on veterinary medicines and residues. Within the BMSGPK, three Departments are responsible for residue controls:

- Department III/B/12 – Meat Hygiene and Animal by Products, Export Affairs;
- Department III/A/6 – Food Safety and Consumer Protection: Chemical and Technological Risk, Genetic Engineering;
- Department III/B/15 – Zoonosis, Veterinary Drug Use, International Coordination and MANCP

Department III/B/12 is responsible for drawing up the National Residue Control Plan (NRCP) for fresh meat, live animals and aquaculture products (NRCP-animals), while Department III/A/6 is responsible for drawing up the plan for milk, eggs and honey (NRCP-

food). The NRCP is drafted in co-operation with the AGES DSR carrying out the necessary risk assessment.

Monitoring the compliance with food legislation with regard to veterinary medicines and residues lies in the responsibility of the LH within indirect federal administration.

The competence for authorisation of veterinary medicinal products (VMPs) lies within the BASG and assessment within AGES - Austrian Medicines & Medical Devices Agency. A list of authorised VMPs is maintained on the BMSGPK website:

<https://www.basg.gv.at/konsumentinnen/wissenswertes-ueber-arzneimittel/arzneimittel/tierarzneimittel> .

## 6.1 Official controls on the marketing and use of VMPs

Controls of manufacturers, wholesalers and feed mills producing medicated feeding stuffs are in the responsibility of BASG. The inspections are carried out by staff employed in the Institute for Inspections, Medical Devices and Haemovigilance of AGES - Austrian Medicines & Medical Devices Agency (mostly as joint controls covering both human and veterinary medicines).

The national Veterinary Medicinal Products Act (FLG I No. 186/2023) is the legal base for the use of veterinary medicines on food-producing animals. The BMSGPK (Department III/B/15) is the responsible CCA for the further official controls as to monitoring the use of VMPs on farms. The LH and the PVS (within indirect administration) organise the monitoring on the use of VMPs, official controls on the use of medicated feedingstuffs at farm level are in the responsibility of the official veterinarians (DCA). A national target for inspections of VMPs usage on farm is set at 2 % of all farms per year. Also the attending veterinarians (check on veterinary practices and dispensaries) are subject to compliance checks with the provisions of the Veterinary Medicinal Products Act and regulations based thereon. Official controls on attending veterinarians are carried out once every 5 years. Except for cases of imminent danger, official controls are pre-announced.

The results of official controls on the use of veterinary medicinal products on farms are entered into the VIS database. A report on the official controls on marketing and use of VMPs is drafted once a year by the BMSGPK. The report includes the results of checks on veterinarians, farmers, public pharmacies, as well as on manufacturers and wholesalers.

## 6.2 Official controls on veterinary residues

The national LMSVG and the national Regulation on Veterinary Residues 2006 (FLG II No. 110/2006) form the legal base for official controls on veterinary residues within Austria.

As already mentioned, official controls on veterinary residues are carried out within indirect federal administration. The overall responsibility lies with the LH, while official controls are implemented by the PCA (PVS, PFI) or the DCA.

Following organisational units in the respective Provincial Government are responsible for the implementation of official control activities:

Table 6 Contact details

Authority	Address	Contact details
<b>Office of the Burgenland Provincial Government</b> <b>Department 10 – Health</b> <b>Subunit Veterinary Directorate and Animal Welfare</b> <b>(BURGENLAND)</b>	Europaplatz 1 7000 Eisenstadt	<a href="mailto:post.a10-veterinaer@bgld.gv.at"><u>post.a10-veterinaer@bgld.gv.at</u></a>
<b>Office of the Carinthian Provincial Government</b> <b>Department 10 – Animal Disease Prevention and Animal Health</b> <b>Subunit Veterinary Services</b> <b>(CARINTHIA)</b>	Kirchengasse 43 9020 Klagenfurt am Wörthersee	<a href="mailto:abt10.vet@ktn.gv.at"><u>abt10.vet@ktn.gv.at</u></a>
<b>Office of the Lower Austria Provincial Government</b> <b>Department LF5 – Veterinary Affairs and Food Control</b> <b>(LOWER AUSTRIA)</b>	Landhausplatz 1 Haus 12 3109 St. Pölten,	<a href="mailto:post.lf5@noel.gv.at"><u>post.lf5@noel.gv.at</u></a>
<b>Office of the Upper Austria Provincial Government</b> <b>Department Food Security and Veterinary Services</b> <b>(UPPER AUSTRIA)</b>	Bahnhofplatz 1 4021 Linz	<a href="mailto:esv.post@ooe.gv.at"><u>esv.post@ooe.gv.at</u></a>

<b>Office of the Salzburg Provincial Government</b> <b>Department 4 – Livelihood and Energy</b> <b>Subunit 4/03 – Regional Veterinary Office</b> <b>(SALZBURG)</b>	Fanny-v.-Lehnert-Straße 1 5020 Salzburg	<a href="mailto:veterinaerdirektion@salzburg.gv.at"><u>veterinaerdirektion@salzburg.gv.at</u></a>
<b>Office of the Styrian Provincial Government</b> <b>Department 8 – Health and Care;</b> <b>Subunit Veterinary Directorate and Veterinary Public Health</b> <b>(STYRIA)</b>	Friedrichgasse 9 8010 Graz	<a href="mailto:veterinaerwesen@stmk.gv.at"><u>veterinaerwesen@stmk.gv.at</u></a>
<b>Office of the Tyrolean Provincial Government</b> <b>Section Health and Social Affairs</b> <b>Regional Office for Veterinary Services</b>	Wilhelm-Greil-Straße 17, 6020 Innsbruck	<a href="mailto:veterinaerdirektion@tirol.gv.at"><u>veterinaerdirektion@tirol.gv.at</u></a>
<b>Office of the Vorarlberg Provincial Government</b> <b>Department Vb – Veterinary Services</b> <b>(VORARLBERG)</b>	Klostergasse 20 6900 Bregenz	<a href="mailto:veterinaer@vorarlberg.at"><u>veterinaer@vorarlberg.at</u></a>
<b>Office of the Vienna Provincial Government</b> <b>Market Office (MA) 59 – Market Service &amp; Food Safety</b> <b>Market Office (MA) 60 – Veterinary Services &amp; Animal Welfare</b> <b>(VIENNA)</b>	Thomas Klestil Platz 4, 1030 Wien	<a href="mailto:post@ma60.wien.gv.at"><u>post@ma60.wien.gv.at</u></a>

In the Provinces, responsibilities are shared between the PVS (live animals, fresh meat and aquaculture products) and the PFI (milk, eggs and honey). Based on the NRCP, the provincial authorities are responsible for drafting and executing more detailed provincial sampling plans in co-operation with the AGES – DSR.

Sampling for the NRCP-animals is carried out by official veterinarians of the DCA, authorised veterinarians (sampling on-farm and in slaughterhouses) or appointed veterinarians (sampling on-farm).

*For an illustrated overview of the official control system for VMP's and veterinary residues please refer to Annex I Figure 9.*

*National Reference Laboratories for veterinary residues are listed in Annex II.*

### **6.3 Measures in case of noncompliance**

In the case of serious infringements, such as confirmation of an irregular treatment, the LH orders a ban (closure, restriction etc.) of the concerned animal holding. Further measures are additional follow up official controls with focus on verifying the correct use of veterinary medicinal products incl. medicated feed, verification of the concerned veterinarian, additional sampling as part of the necessary RCA and the control of establishments which are economically related to the holding of origin. Primary products from animals of a locked establishment may only be placed on the market after laboratory analysis and absence of further reasons for objection. Where and whenever evidence of illegal use of forbidden substances is provided, the animal shall be killed and disposed of in compliance with Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009 and the National Animals Materials Act (FLG I No. 141/2003). Once the establishment's lock has been lifted, the establishment is subject to 12 months of supervision by official authorities. A similar approach shall be taken in the case of detection of substances which exceed the specified maximum levels.



# 7 Official control system for animal welfare

With its Department III/B/11 (animal welfare in general and animal welfare during transport, animal welfare at slaughter) the BMSGPK serves as the CCA for animal welfare on farms, at slaughter and during transport.

The national Animal Protection Act (FLG I No. 118/2004) provides for the appointment of an “animal protection ombudsman” in each Province, reporting to the Provincial Government. The duty of the public person is to represent the interests of animal protection and, in the context of administrative procedures and additionally to investigate complaints from the public.

Furthermore, the national Animal Protection Act establishes an Animal Protection Council, an Animal Welfare Commission and an Advisory Committee under the BMSGPK advising the FM in subjects of Animal welfare and protection

In addition to the national Animal Protection Act, animal welfare on farms is regulated by the First Regulation on Animal Holding (FLG II No. 485/2004). Animal welfare at slaughter is regulated by the the National Animal Welfare at Slaughter Regulation (FLG II No. 312/2015) based on the Animal Protection Act and the Council Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009 of 24 September 2009 on the protection of animals at the time of killing. Animal welfare during transport is regulated by the Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 of 22 December 2004 on the protection of animals during transport and related operations and the national Animal Transport Act (FLG I No. 54/).

## 7.1 Official controls on farms, during slaughter and transport

Art. 11 B-VG, FLG No. 1/1930, assigns the legislation process on animal welfare issues to the Federal Government, whereas legal implementation of animal welfare issues is assigned to the Provincial Government. The responsibility for the implementation of official control activities on animal welfare lies within the DCA (according to Art. 33 of the national Animal Protection Act). Official controls are carried out by local official

veterinarians of the DCA, animal transport inspectors (PVS), authorised veterinarians (animal welfare controls at slaughter) or in some Provinces by approved persons with defined professional qualification (according to the national Animal Welfare Control Regulation ((FLG II No. 492/2004)).

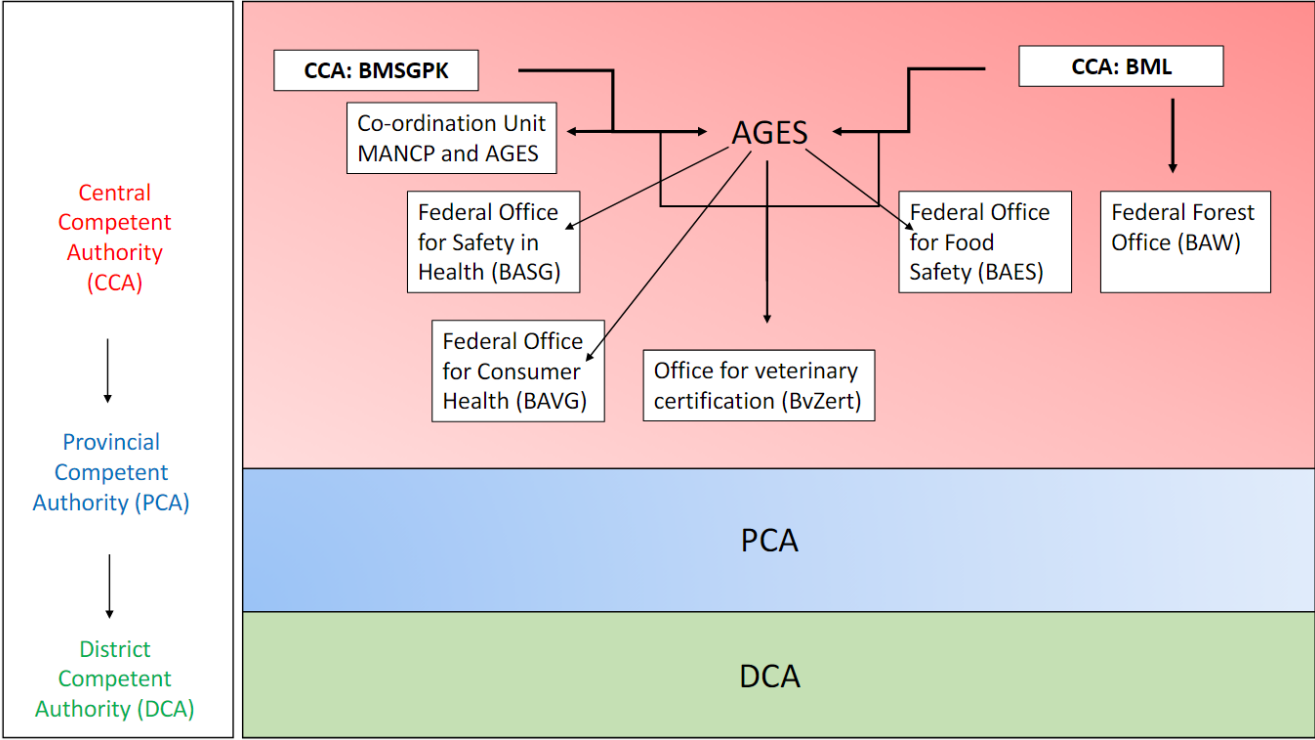
Two percent of all agricultural holdings must be inspected annually. Within this general requirement, official controls are planned and organised autonomously by each Province.

References to animal welfare requirements at slaughterhouses are included in the set of guidelines for official controls at slaughterhouses. These implementing guidelines (decrees) are published on the website of the BMSGPK. Training on animal welfare at slaughter and during transport is part of the training programme for new official veterinarians.

Official controls on animal transports include inspections of animals, documents and vehicles on the spot, at the place of departure in case of long (> 8h) distance transports and on their arrival at the place of destination. Most checks are carried out by official veterinarians – some of them may specifically be appointed as animal transport inspectors.

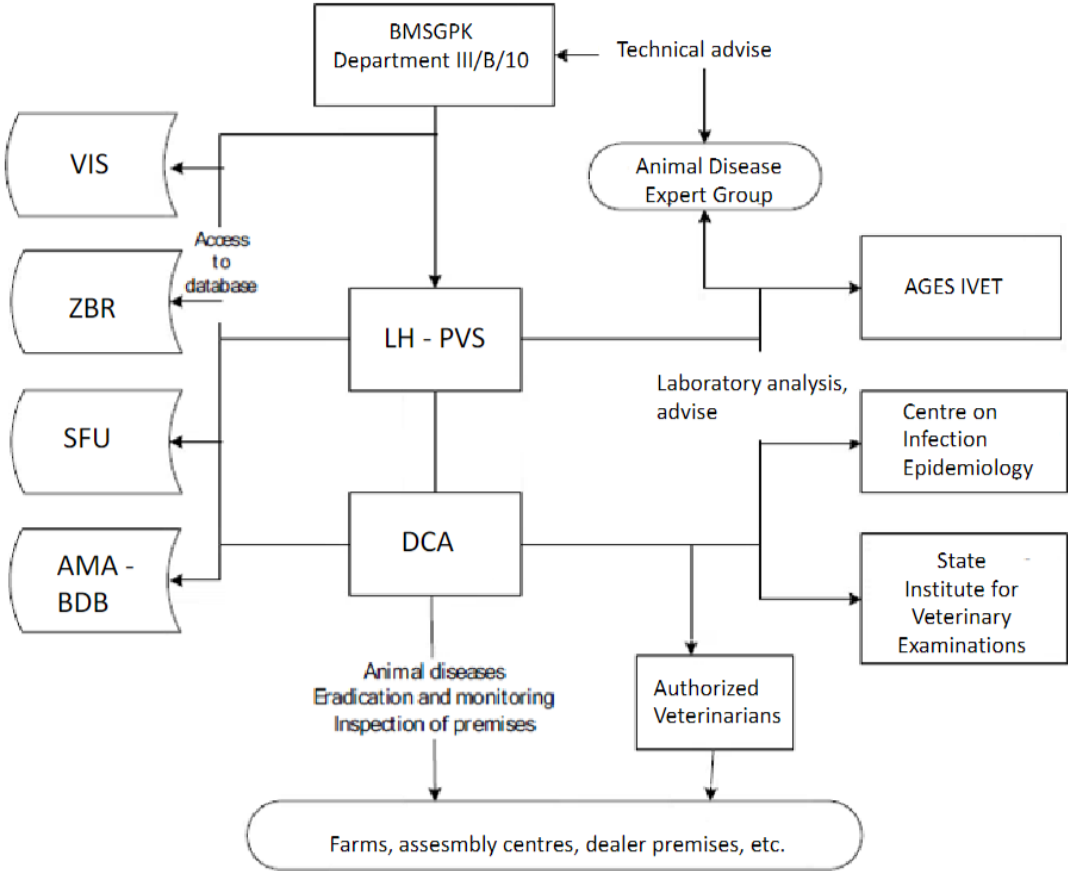
# Annex I – Figures

Figure 1 The distribution of competencies within the public health system



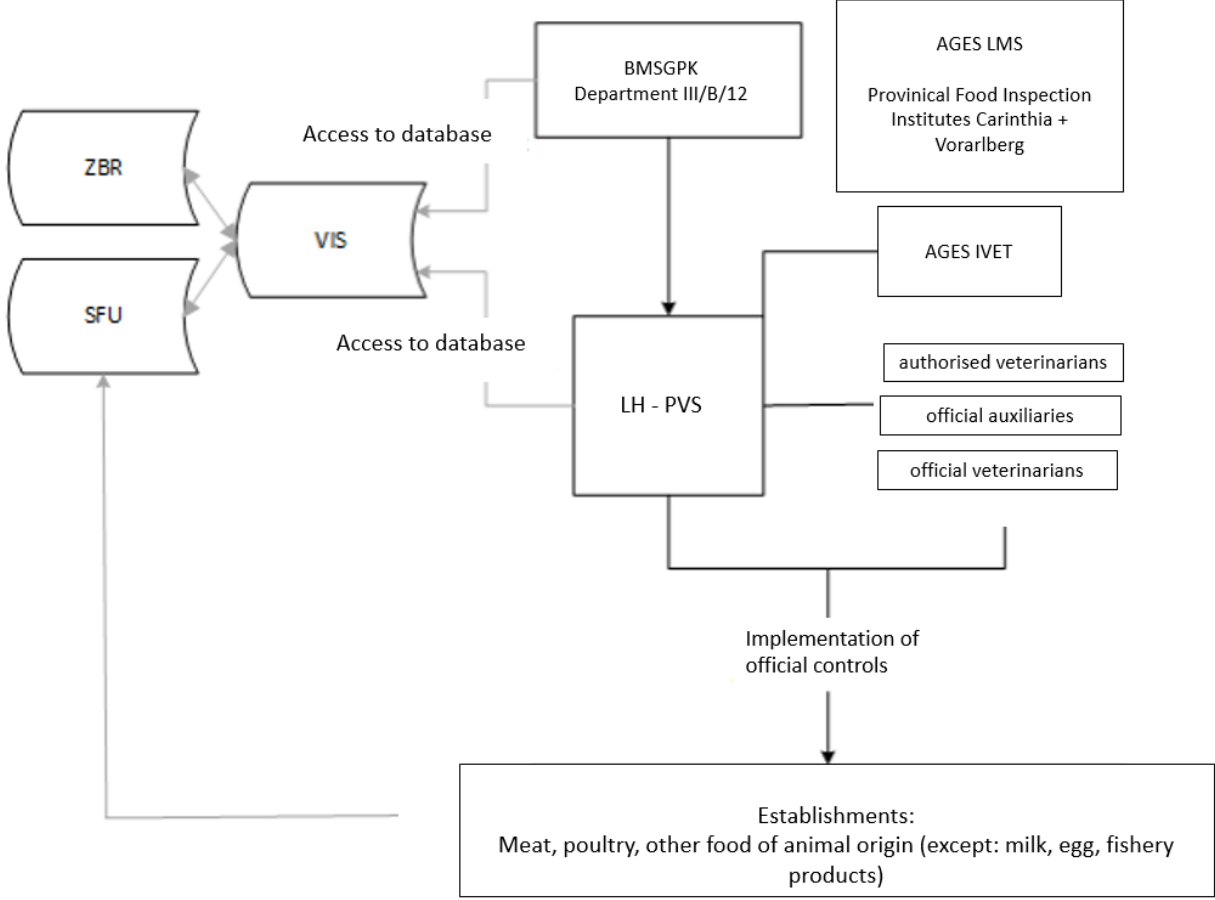
Source: Office for Veterinary Certification

Figure 2 Official control system for animal health



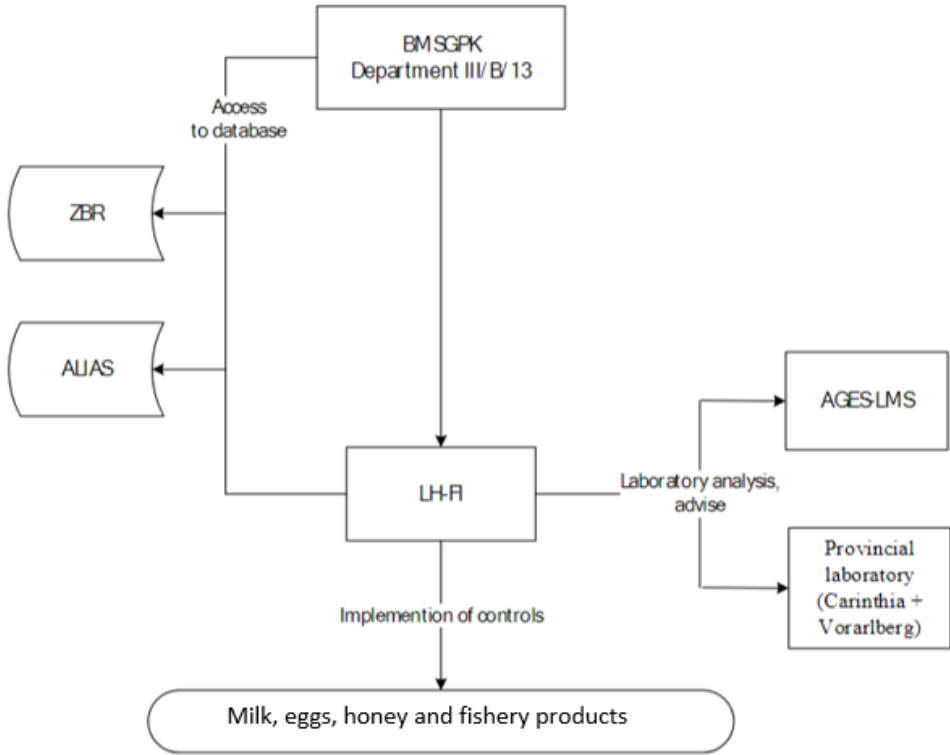
Source: DG Health and Food Safety; Country Profile - Organisation of Official Controls (2021-7150 July 2022)

Figure 3 Official control system for meat and poultry



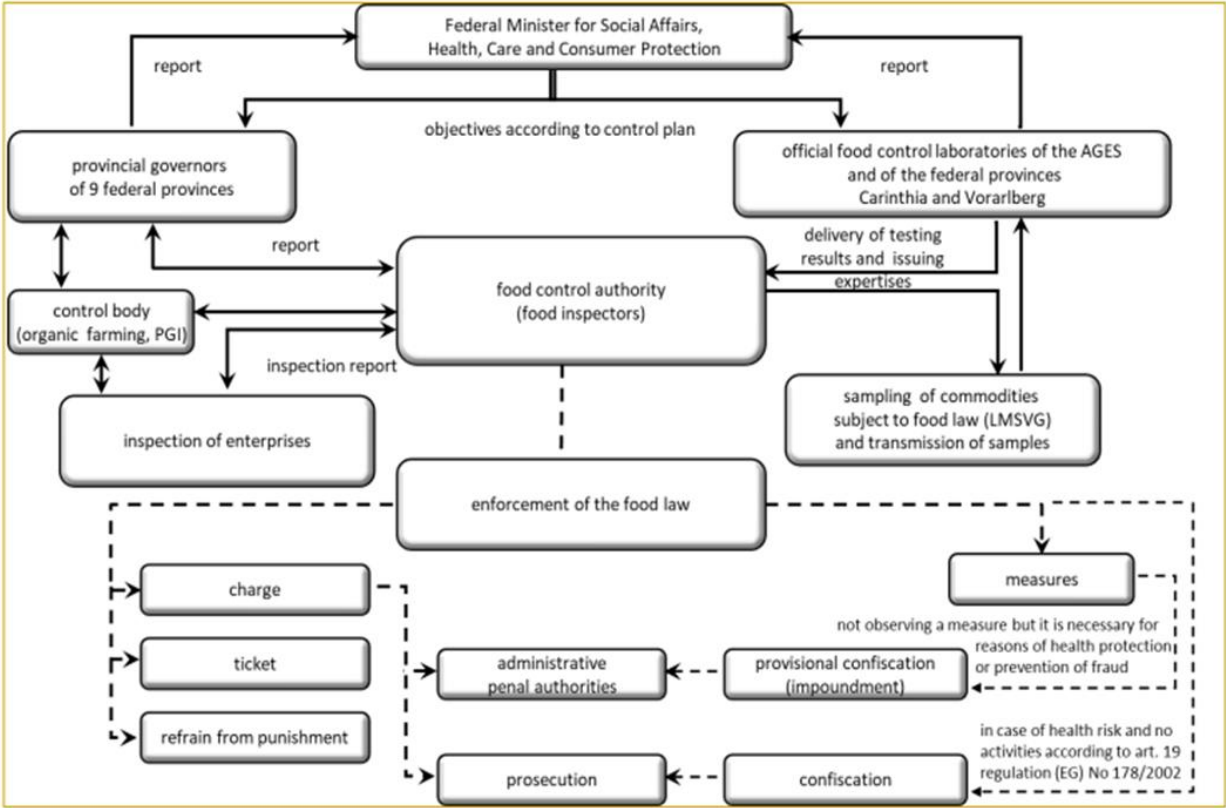
Source: DG Health and Food Safety; Country Profile - Organisation of Official Controls (2021-7150 July 2022)

Figure 4 Official control system for milk, eggs, honey and fishery products



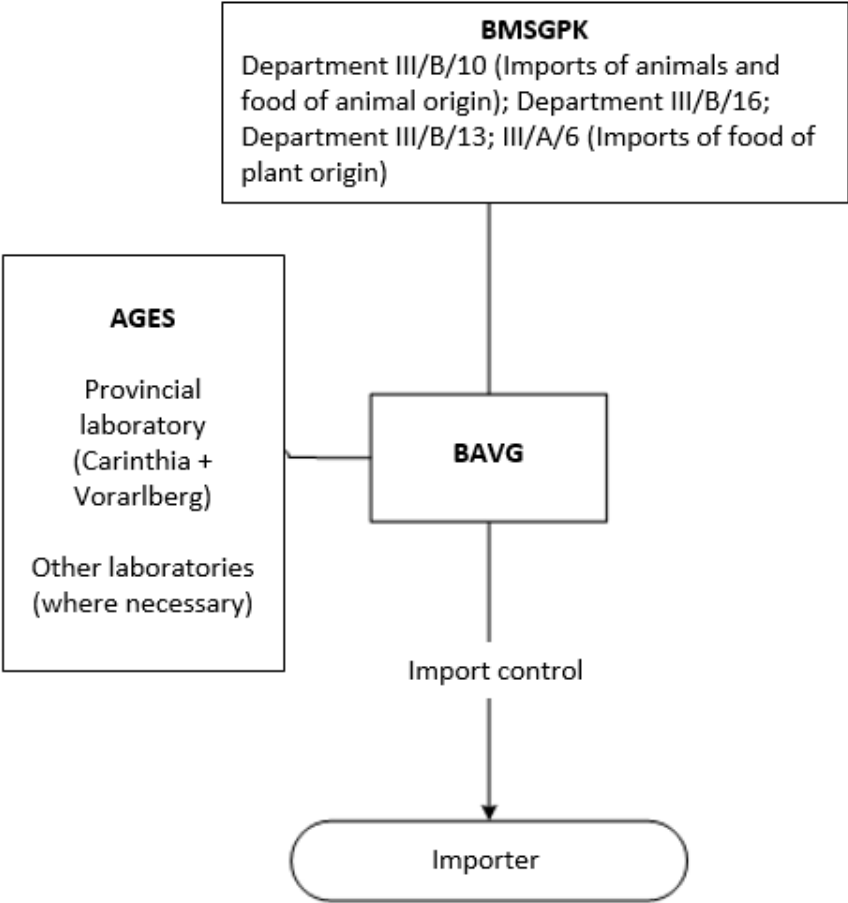
Source: DG Health and Food Safety; Country Profile - Organisation of Official Controls (2021-7150 July 2022)

Figure 5 Official control system for food and enforcement of food law



Source: Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection (BMSGPK) & AGES - Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety Ltd.; Food Safety Report 2022

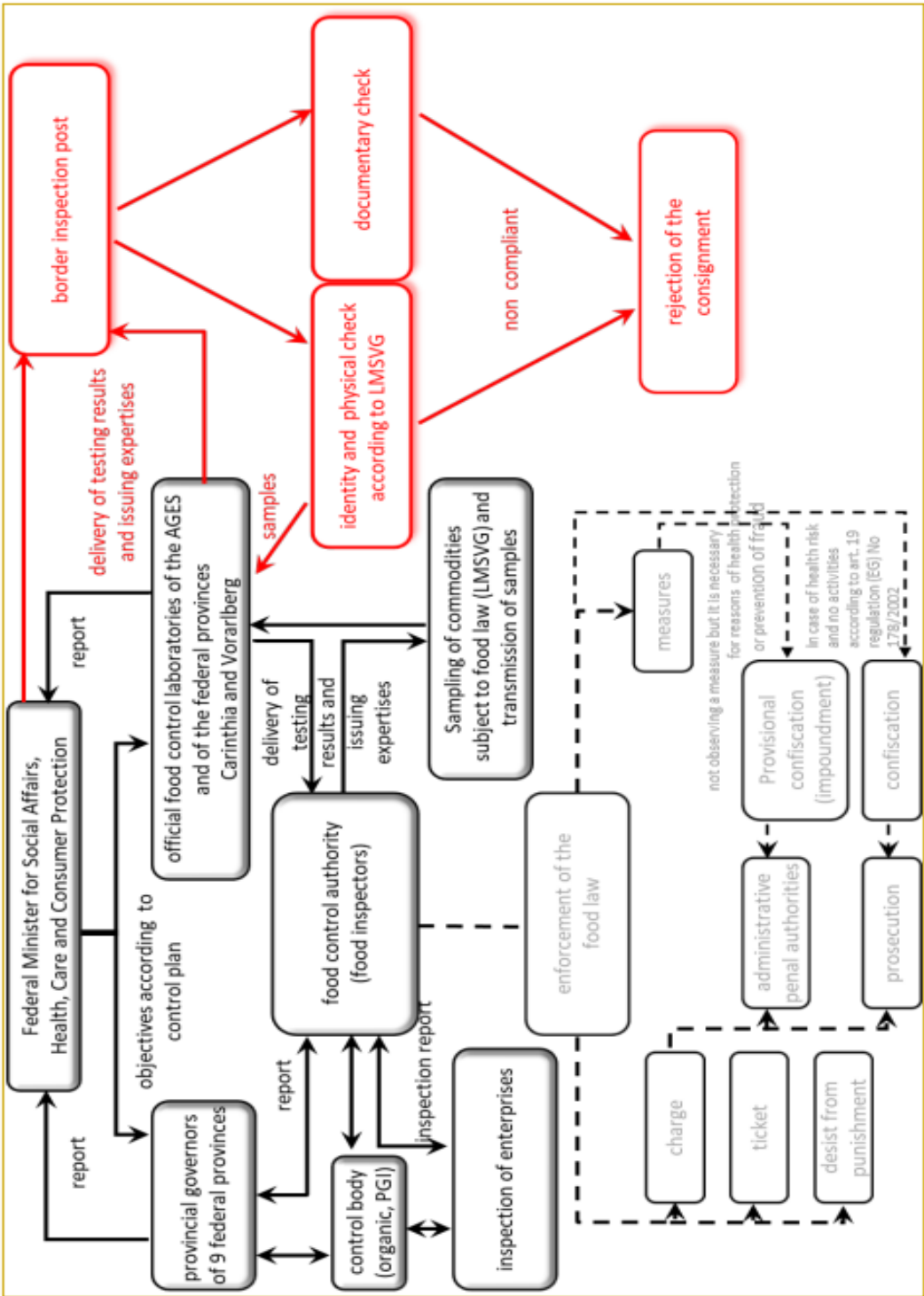
Figure 6 Official control system for imports of animals and food of animal origin



Source: DG Health and Food Safety; Country Profile - Organisation of Official Controls (2021-7150 July 2022)

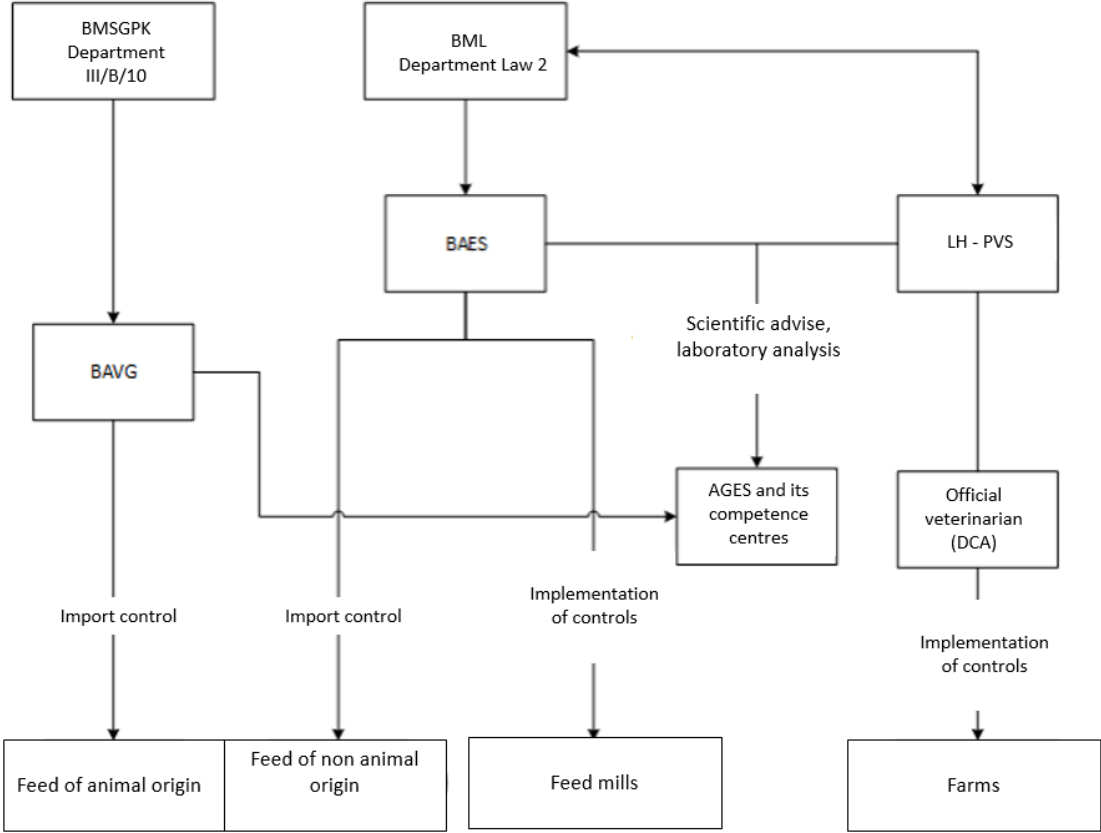


Figure 7 Austrian Border Control System (represented by BAVG officials at the BIP's) for goods subject to the LMSVG



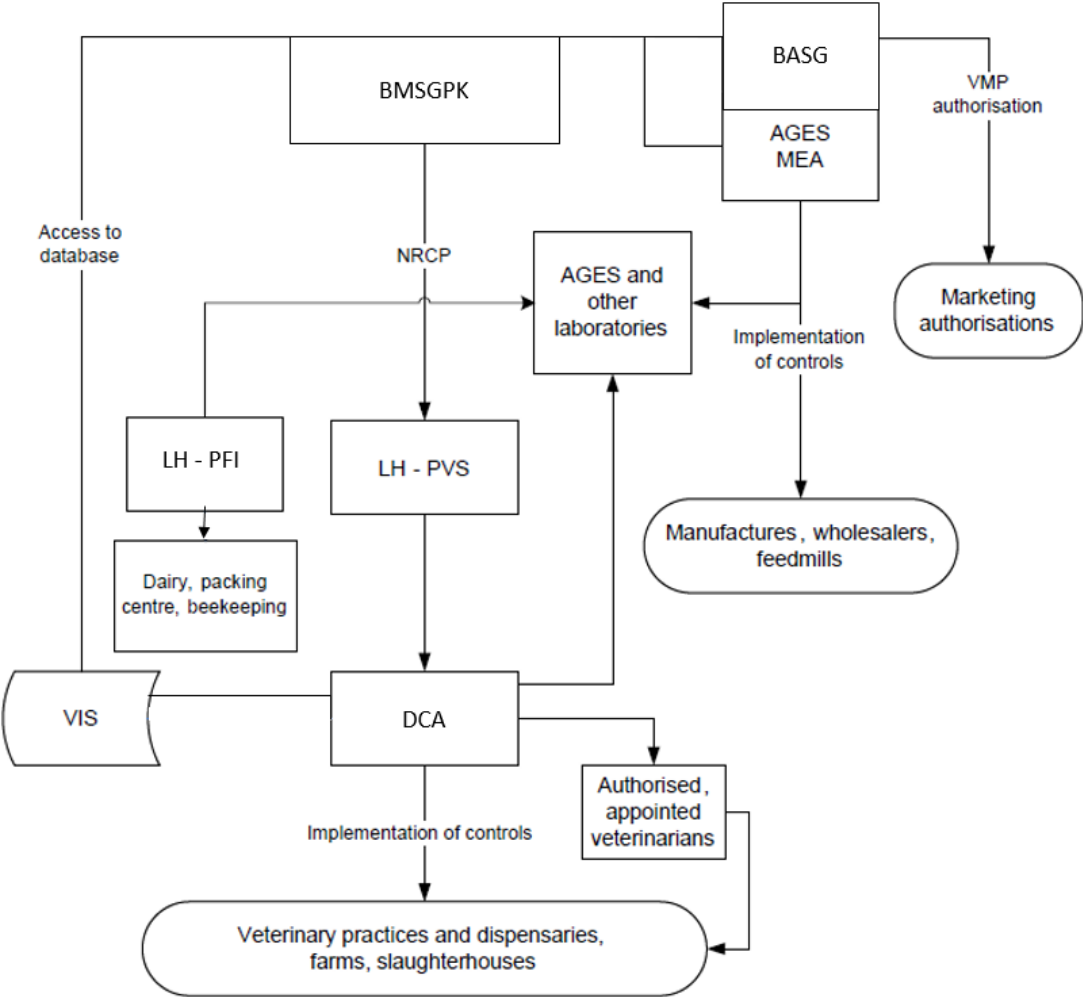
Source: Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection (BMSGPK) & AGES - Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety Ltd.; Food Safety Report 2022

Figure 8 Official control system for feeding stuff



Source: DG Health and Food Safety; Country Profile - Organisation of Official Controls (2021-7150 July 2022)

Figure 9 Official control system for veterinary medicinal products and residues



Source: DG Health and Food Safety; Country Profile - Organisation of Official Controls (2021-7150 July 2022)

# Annex II – National Reference Laboratories

## National Reference Laboratories for animal diseases

AGES Institute for Veterinary Disease Control Mödling (Robert Koch Gasse 17, 2340 Mödling):

- Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (BSE, Scrapie, CWD), Classical Swine Fever, Bovine Viral Diarrhea (BVD), Teschen Disease, Equine Encephalomyelitis incl. West Nile Virus (WNV), Infectious equine anemia, dourine, glanders, African horse sickness, Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis (IBR/IPV), foot-and-mouth disease, Swine Vesicular Diseases, Capripox (Lumpy skin Disease and Smallpox of Sheep and Goats), Infectious Bovine Pleuropneumonia (Lung Disease), anthrax, monitoring the effectiveness of rabies vaccination, rabies, brucellosis, African Swine Fever, Aujeszky's disease, avian influenza, Newcastle disease, psittacosis, Enzootic Bovine Leukosis, Vesicular Stomatitis, Bluetongue Disease, Bovine Tuberculosis, plague of small ruminants, Rift Valley Fever

AGES Institute for Veterinary Disease Control Innsbruck (Technikerstraße 70, 6020 Innsbruck):

- parasites in particular Trichinella, Echinococcus and Anisakis

AGES Institute for Veterinary Disease Control Innsbruck (Wieningerstraße 8, 4020 Linz):

- Paratuberculosis

University for Veterinary Medicine Vienna, University Clinic for Poultry and Fish Medicine (Veterinärplatz 1, 1210 Wien):

- all notifiable fish diseases

Institute for Food Safety, Veterinary Medicine and Environment – Veterinary Investigations (Kirchengasse 43, 9020 Klagenfurt):

- all notifiable crab diseases

AGES Department of Apiculture and Bee Protection (Spargelfeldstraße 191, 1220 Wien):

- all notifiable bee diseases

## National Reference Laboratories for foodstuff

According to Art. 100 of OCR, following laboratories are designated as NRLs for foodstuffs (ISO 17025 accredited):

AGES Institute for Medical Microbiology and Hygiene Graz, Centre of Foodborne Infectious Diseases (Beethovenstraße 6, 8010 Graz):

- *Salmonella*
- *Listeria monocytogenes*
- Coagulase positive *Staphylococci*, including *Staphylococcus aureus*
- *Escherichia coli*, including Verotoxigenic *E. coli* (VTEC)
- *Campylobacter*
- antimicrobial resistance

AGES Institute for Veterinary Disease Control Mödling (Robert Koch Gasse 17, 2340 Mödling):

- transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSEs)

AGES Institute for Veterinary Disease Control Innsbruck (Technikerstraße 70, 6020 Innsbruck):

- parasites in particular *Trichinella*, *Echinococcus* and *Anisakis*

AGES Institute for Food Safety Vienna (Spargelfeldstraße 191, 1220 Vienna):

- genetically modified organisms (GMOs)
- materials intended to come into contact with foodstuffs
- foodborne viruses

AGES Institute for Animal Nutrition and Feed (Spargelfeldstraße 191, 1220 Vienna):

- water content in poultry meat (according to Regulation (EC) No. 543/2008)

AGES Institute for Food Safety Innsbruck, Department for Pesticides and Food Analysis (Technikerstraße 70, 6020 Innsbruck):

- pesticides in cereals
- pesticides in food of animal origin and commodities with high fat content
- pesticides in fruit and vegetables, including commodities with high water and high acid content
- single pesticide residue methods

AGES Institute for Animal Nutrition and Feed (Wieningerstraße 8, 4020 Linz):

- metals and nitrogenous compounds in food
- mycotoxins and plant toxins in food
- processing contaminants

Environment Agency Austria (Spittelauer Lände 5, 1090 Vienna)

- halogenated persistent organic pollutants in food

German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (Max-Dohrn-Strasse 8-10, 10589 Berlin):

- marine biotoxins

## National Reference Laboratories for feedstuff

AGES Institute for Food Safety Innsbruck, Department for Pesticides and Food Analysis (Technikerstraße 70, 6020 Innsbruck):

- Pesticides

AGES Institute for Food Safety Vienna (Spargelfeldstraße 191, 1220 Vienna):

- genetically modified organisms (GMO's)
- residues of veterinary medicines and contaminants (Department for Veterinary Medicinal Products, Hormones and Contaminants)

AGES Institute for Animal Nutrition and Feed (Wieningerstraße 8, 4020 Linz):

- metals and nitrogenous compounds in feed
- mycotoxins and plant toxins in feed

AGES Institute for Animal Nutrition and Feed (Spargelfeldstraße 191, 1220 Vienna):

- additives for use in animal nutrition
- animal proteins

AGES Institute for Medical Microbiology and Hygiene Graz, Centre of Foodborne Infectious Diseases (Beethovenstraße 6, 8010 Graz):

- analysis and testing of zoonosis (Salmonella)

Environment Agency Austria (Spittelauer Lände 5, 1090 Vienna)

- halogenated persistent organic pollutants in feed

## National Reference Laboratories for veterinary residues

According to the OCR, following laboratories are designated as NRLs for the substance groups according to Annex I of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1644:

AGES Institute for Food Safety Vienna, Department for Veterinary Medicinal Products, Hormones and Contaminants (Spargelfeldstraße 191, 1220 Vienna):

- **GROUP A1** - Substances with hormonal and thyrostatic action and beta agonists the use of which is prohibited under Council Directive 96/22/EC:

A1a Stilbenes, stilbene derivatives, and their salts and esters

A1b Antithyroid agents

A1c Steroids

A1d Resorcylic acid lactones including zeranol

A1e Beta-agonists

- **GROUP A2** - Prohibited substances listed in Table 2 of the Annex to Regulation (EU) No 37/2010:

A2a Chloramphenicol

A2b Nitrofurans

A2c Dimetridazole, metronidazole, ronidazole and other nitroimidazoles

A2d Other Substances

- **GROUP A3** - Pharmacologically active substances, not listed in Table 1 of the Annex to Regulation (EU) No 37/2010 or substances not authorised for use in feed for food-producing animals in the Union according to Regulation (EU) No 1831/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council:

A3c Antimicrobial substances

A3d Coccidiostats, histomonostats and other antiparasitic agents

A3e Protein and peptide hormones

A3f Anti-inflammatory substances, sedatives and any other pharmacologically active substances

A3g Antiviral substances



- **GROUP B1** - Pharmacologically active substances listed in Table 1 of the Annex to Regulation (EU) No 37/2010:

B1a Antimicrobial substances

B1b Insecticides, fungicides, anthelmintics and other antiparasitic agents;

B1c Sedatives

B1d Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), corticosteroids and glucocorticoids

B1e Other pharmacologically active substances

- **GROUP B2** - Coccidiostats and Histomonostats authorised according to Union legislation, for which maximum levels and maximum residue limits are set under Union legislation

AGES Institute for Food Safety Innsbruck, Department for Pesticide and Food Analysis (Technikerstraße 70, 6020 Innsbruck):

- **GROUP A3** - Pharmacologically active substances, not listed in Table 1 of the Annex to Regulation (EU) No 37/2010 or substances not authorised for use in feed for food-producing animals in the Union according to Regulation (EU) No 1831/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council:

A3a Dyes

A3b Plant protection products as defined in Regulation (EU) No 1107/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council and biocides as defined in Regulation (EU) No 528/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council which may be used in animal husbandry of food-producing animals

- **GROUP B1** - Pharmacologically active substances listed in Table 1 of the Annex to Regulation (EU) No 37/2010

B1b Insecticides, fungicides, anthelmintics and other antiparasitic agents

According to the OCR, following laboratories are designated as NRLs for the contaminants in meat according to Annex I of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/931:

AGES Institute for Food Safety Innsbruck, Department for Pesticide and Food Analysis (Technikerstraße 70, 6020 Innsbruck):

- **GROUP** - Halogenated persistent organic pollutants
- **GROUP** - Other contaminants

AGES Institute for Food Safety Linz, Department for Contaminants (Wieningerstraße 8, 4020 Linz):

- **GROUP** - Contaminants

Erstellt am: 15. Januar 2025

## Abbreviations

<b>ABP</b>	Animal by products
<b>ADIS</b>	Animal Diseases Information System
<b>AGES</b>	Agency for Health and Food Safety
<b>AGES DSR</b>	AGES Data, Statistics and Risk Assessment
<b>AGES IVET</b>	AGES Business Area Animal Health
<b>AGES LMA</b>	AGES Business Area Food Safety
<b>AHL</b>	Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2016 on transmissible animal diseases and amending and repealing certain acts in the area of animal health ('Animal Health Law')
<b>AMA</b>	Agricultural Market Austria
<b>Art.</b>	Article
<b>AT</b>	Austria
<b>BAES</b>	Federal Office for Food Safety (Bundesamt für Ernährungssicherheit)
<b>BASG</b>	Federal Office for Safety in Health Care (Bundesamt für Sicherheit im Gesundheitswesen)
<b>BAVG</b>	Federal Office for Consumer Health (Bundesamt für Verbrauchergesundheit)
<b>BAW</b>	Federal Forest Office (Bundesamt für Wald)
<b>BDB</b>	Bovine database
<b>BIP</b>	Border Inspection Posts
<b>BMF</b>	Ministry of Finance (Bundesministerium für Finanzen)
<b>BML</b>	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management (Bundesministerium für Land- und Forstwirtschaft, Regionen und Wasserwirtschaft)
<b>BMSGPK</b>	Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection (Bundesministerium für Soziales, Gesundheit, Pflege und Konsumentenschutz)
<b>B-VG</b>	Federal Constitutional Law (Bundesverfassungsgesetz)
<b>BvZert</b>	Office for Veterinary Certification (Büro für veterinärbehördliche Zertifizierung)
<b>CCA</b>	Central Competent Authority
<b>CVO</b>	Chief Veterinary Officer
<b>DCA</b>	District Competent Authority

<b>EC</b>	European Commission
<b>EEA</b>	European Economic Area
<b>EUROPHYT</b>	Notification and Rapid Alert System for Plant Pests
<b>FBO</b>	Food Business Operator
<b>FC</b>	Focus campaigns
<b>FLG</b>	Federal Law Gazette
<b>FM</b>	Federal Minister
<b>g.g.A.</b>	Protected Geographical Indication (PGI - geschützte geographische Angabe)
<b>GESG</b>	Federal Health and Food Security Law, FLG I No. 63/2002 as amended (Gesundheits- und Ernährungssicherheitsgesetz)
<b>GGED</b>	Common Health Entry Document
<b>GMO</b>	Genetic modified organisms
<b>ICSMS</b>	Information and Communication System for Market Surveillance
<b>IMSOC</b>	Information Management System for Official Controls
<b>kvg</b>	Communication Platform Consumer Health (Kommunikationsplattform VerbraucherInnengesundheit)
<b>LH</b>	Provincial Governor
<b>LMSVG</b>	Federal Food Safety and Consumer Protection Act, FLG I No. 13/2006 as amended (Lebensmittelsicherheits- und Verbraucherschutzgesetz)
<b>MANCP</b>	Multiannual national control plan
<b>No.</b>	Number
<b>NRCP</b>	National Residue Control Plan
<b>NRL</b>	National reference laboratory
<b>OC</b>	Official Control
<b>OCR</b>	Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 March 2017 on official controls and other official activities performed to ensure the application of food and feed law, rules on animal health and welfare, plant health and plant protection products
<b>OV</b>	Official veterinarians
<b>ÖLMB</b>	Österreichisches Lebensmittelbuch, Codex Alimentarius Austriacus
<b>PCA</b>	Provincial Competent Authority

<b>PFI</b>	Provincial Food Inspectorates
<b>PGI</b>	Protected information of origin
<b>PPP</b>	Plant protection products
<b>PPS</b>	Plant Protection Services (Pflanzenschutzdienste)
<b>PVS</b>	Provincial Veterinary Services
<b>QMHB</b>	Quality management handbook
<b>RAPEX</b>	Rapid Alert System for Dangerous Non-Food Products
<b>RASFF</b>	Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed
<b>RCA</b>	Root Cause Analysis
<b>SCC or SPA</b>	Special control campaigns (Schwerpunktaktion)
<b>SFU</b>	Ante and post mortem inspection (Schlacht-tier- und Fleischuntersuchung)
<b>SIHP</b>	Samples from the in-house production
<b>SOP</b>	Standard Operation Procedure
<b>SRM</b>	Specified Risk Material
<b>STAT</b>	Federal Institute of Statistik Austria
<b>SVO</b>	State Veterinary Officer
<b>TMG</b>	Animals Materials Act, FLG I No. 141/2003 as amended (Tiermaterialiengesetz)
<b>TRACES</b>	Trade Control and Expert System
<b>TSE</b>	Transmissible Spongiforme Encephalopathies
<b>VEVO</b>	Veterinary Import Regulation 2022, FLG II No. 480/2022 as amended
<b>VIS</b>	Consumer Health Information System (Verbrauchergesundheitsinformationssystem)
<b>VMP</b>	Veterinary medicinal product
<b>VZK</b>	Full-time equivalent personnel (Vollzeitkräfteäquivalente)
<b>WOAH</b>	World Organisation for Animal Health
<b>ZBR</b>	Central Establishment Register containing establishments along the food chain (Zentrales Betriebsregister)

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